

ASA National & British Championships July 2009

Carnegie Swimming Club had a successful trip to the ASA National Age Group, Youth and British Championships held at Ponds Forge the International Sports Centre, Sheffield. The event attracted the best British swimmers and a number of over-seas teams.

In the Age Group Championships three 13 year old boys took part. Mark Szaranek was in great form and returned with 1 gold, 4 silvers and a bronze from his nine events. The gold came in the 100m butterfly where he smashed his own Scottish record to win in 58.95 seconds. His first ever swim under the one minute barrier. Mark also lowered the Scottish 200m butterfly record by almost 6 seconds but missed out on gold by 2 hundredths of a second. The other silver medals were in the 200m and 400m freestyle and 200m Individual Medley events which were also Scottish Age Group records. The bronze came in the 400m Individual Medley and he finished 4th in the 100m freestyle both were Scottish records. He was placed 5th in the 100m backstroke final. His team-mates Lewis Kirby (200m backstroke) and Craig Bowman (100m butterfly) had excellent swims in their respective events.

The second week of the championships was for the Youth and Senior athletes. Ailsa Hershaw (16) performed very well recording new personal best swims in her 100m freestyle and 100m backstroke events. She was also very happy with her swim in the 200m backstroke event. This was a good finish to the season for the Scottish Champion.

Blaine Small (16) also had a good week in one of her last swims before she heads south to Kelly College. She made the semi-final of the 100m butterfly recording her best ever time en route and went one step further in reaching her first ever 'British' final in the 200m butterfly where she finished 8th overall. Blaine also recorded personal best swims in her 100m and 200m freestyle events.

Eloise Barber (17) made the final of the 50m butterfly event at these championships and followed that up with good swims at the British Grand Prix held in Leeds the following week where she made the B final of the 100 Individual Medley, 200 Individual Medley and 50m Butterfly. Eloise has had an excellent year which has been rewarded by her selection on the World Class Development Programme by British Swimming. Eloise has also accepted her place at the British Swimming Intensive Training Centre at Stirling University where she will also study in the new term.

Craig Rodgie continued his great form this season at the ASA Championships competing in the multi-disability events. Fresh from his trip to the Czech Republic with Great Britain, Craig was in superb form in all his events with personal bests galore and Scottish Records in his S14 class (swimmers with a learning disability). Craig was 5th overall in the 100m freestyle in a big personal best of 58.99. Craig picked up silver in the 100m butterfly in a great time of 1.03.03 and was 7th in the 50m freestyle and the 100m backstroke. Craig achieved his objective for the week which was to confirm his place in the British Team for the European Champs in Reykjavik later this year.

Photos of Mark, courtesy of the GB Swimstars web site.



