

## Warwickshire's Day One



A squad of 60 Leamington Spa swimmers clocked up an impressive 78 long course personal bests on the first day of the Warwickshire County Championships held on Saturday 3 March at Coventry.

The first medal of the day came from the thrilling men's 400m freestyle relay with Jonty Cartwright, James Wardle, Stuart Parker and Peter Clark gaining a bronze in 3:47.49 in a very close finish narrowly

missing the silver by 3 tenths of a second. The following race saw another bronze from the girls 16/U 200 medley relay with Sarah Brades, Maddie Spalding, Sarah Smith and Hannah Greenshield, in a time of 2:10.31.

The start of the second session saw the women's 400 freestyle team of Justine Clark, Mel Mcwhirter, Maddie Spalding and Hannah Greenshield matching the success of the men's team and securing the bronze in 4:17.92.

Individual successes came from the 15 and over category with Maddie Spalding, 15, making the 50m backstroke final together with team mate Sarah Brades, 15. Spalding later went on to take a superb silver medal in the 200 breaststroke in 2:50.18. Ellen Stone, 15, came third in the age group with 2:53.55.

Further achievements came from Harry Manship, 12, with silver in the 50 free in 29.05 and Sophie Woodland, 10, receiving bronze in the 100 butterfly in a time of 1:41.07.

Congratulations to Jonty Cartwright, 17, who made the 100 fly final as well as the 50 free final along with Peter Clark, 15. Also to Sarah Chapman, 12, who secured her Welsh National time in the 100 fly in 1:22.59. Chapman will now compete with team mate Amy Pettigrew, 13, in Swansea next month.

There were notable swims from Sophie Vale, 14, with a great time of 1:12.84 in the 100 fly and Georgia Kidd, 12, in the 200m Free, 2:28.09. Jade Pickett, 11, had a great start to the championships with significant improvements in the 200m freestyle and 200 breaststroke events. Praise goes to Megan McDonald who swam her debut 1500m freestyle race, a gruelling 30 lengths, of the 50m pool, in a time of 20:44.21. Leamington returns to Coventry on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> for day two of the Championships.