

County Blocks Saturday 22nd & 23rd March 2014

9 swimmers qualified for the last Saturday of the County Blocks achieving 12 medals between them. The first event of the morning saw Todd and Frazer Montague, Sam Jenkins and Ceris and Nia Westlake in the 200m freestyle. Todd finished in an excellent 4th place with a 3 sec PB, Frazer took the 8th position in the 15 and under age group with a 4 sec PB and Sam improved his time by 2 sec, Nia and Ceris looked strong and finished in 3rd and 5th places overall.

Next saw Hannah Kibble, our youngest competitor at 10 years old compete in the 200m backstroke; she finished in a marvellous 5th position with a great 9 sec PB. Nia, Ceris and Sam also swam in the 100m butterfly in the morning taking 2nd, 6th and 10th places respectively.

Hannah started off the afternoon session with a well executed race in the 200m breaststroke achieving 5th place and a 2 sec PB. Luke Mills joined the boys Frazer, Todd and Sam in the 100m backstroke finishing in 10th, 4th, 5th and 8th places, Luke, Frazer and Sam improving their times. For the girls, in the 100m backstroke, Nia achieved 3rd place with a season's best time and Gabby Stephens and Nya Levy took 5 and 3 sec off finishing in 10th and 17th position. The final race of the day saw Hannah Kibble back on the podium finishing this year's Counties off in style winning the superb gold in the 100m freestyle with a 3 sec PB

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Although Cinderford is a small Club with limited pool time, the swimmers always achieve beyond expectations and they stepped up again when it came to this year's County Relays with most of the teams coming in the top 8 in the County. With many swimmers at the lower end of the relay age groups, most will be able to swim in the same category next year!

Cinderford fielded 9 teams; the 13/14 year old girls were first to the starting blocks with Nya Levy, Maddie Worgan and Sarah Boundy swimming in the medley and freestyle relays. With 3 of the girls apart from Maddie still aged 13 and in the largest age group in the morning session the girls missed out on a place in the finals. The 15/16 year old girls' category saw four determined 15 year olds competing, Casey Davis, Jess Bayliss and Chloe and Rebecca Howard won through to the finals in both freestyle and medley relays and took 8th place in both.

The 11/12 year olds Gabby Stephens, Lauren Kennedy, Emma Clarke and Harriet Kearsey all competing in their first County relays, acquitted themselves well but never quite made the finals. The 9/10 year old girls' team of Tamzin Latham, Zea Levy, Hannah Kibble and Becca Kennedy, also in their first County relays, impressed in both the freestyle and medley relays finishing in 5th and 6th places in the finals to collect well deserved medals

Nya Levy and Maddie Worgan (aged 13 and 14) also swam up in the Open 4 x 100m medley relay with Ceris and Nia Westlake; they came 9th in the heat and just missing out in a place in the final. Ceris and Nia were then joined by Rebecca Howard and Casey Davis in the Open 4 x 100m freestyle relay finishing in a creditable 10th place

It was then the turn of the boys and in the 13/14 year old medley relay: Sam Jenkins, Luke Mills, Andrew Cole and Jamie Leighton qualified for the final and in a keenly fought race they finished in 8th place; they also came 9th in the heats' of the freestyle relay. The 15/16 year old boys' team like the girls team consisted of all 15 year olds: Chris Owston, Morgan Peck, Frazer Montague and Mitch Savage, in the finals they came an excellent 5th in the freestyle and 6th in the medley relays

The final event was the mixed Open 4 x 50m freestyle and medley relays, Nia and Ceris were joined by Jake Parker and Todd Montague and qualifying for the finals in both finished in 7th and 8th places respectively with much team camaraderie and fine individual swims