

Ulster Swim Success

Forest Feast sponsored Banbridge ASC swimmers have had a busy few weeks competing in some of Ulster's most prestigious open swimming events.

The Ulster Minor Schools Championships took place in Bangor Leisure Centre over two weekends in September and October with the youngest swimmers aged 9-11 competing first. Swimmers can compete in a maximum of two individual events and up to two team relays with qualification for the Irish Schools Swimming Championships in Dublin in December the main objective.

Banbridge ASC swimmers found themselves competing against each other as they represented their respective schools with outstanding success. Bethany Wilson-Parry was the youngest competitor from Banbridge, in the 9 and under age group, who achieved a very credible fourth place in 50M Butterfly and 50M Freestyle. In 10 and under Elli Robinson swam well to secure 4th in Butterfly and 5th in Freestyle and also competing in the same section was Olivia Knox with 6th in Breaststroke and 8th in Freestyle. In 11 and under Jodi Doyle had an outstanding swim to secure the silver medal in 50M Breaststroke and just missed out on the medals in 100M Individual Medley (IM) with fourth place. Poppy Robinson was also in the medals with third place and a bronze in 50M Butterfly and fourth in Backcrawl. Jane Kilpatrick secured 7th places in both 50M Breaststroke and 100M IM and Caolan Quinn was 10th in 50M Freestyle.

10th October saw older club swimmers in Age Groups 12-13 competing under the same format. Jenny Wilson representing Banbridge High School took 2nd place and the Silver Medal in 50M Backcrawl and 6th in 100M IM. Esmée Hall competing in the same age group, for Victoria College Belfast, took first place and Ulster Schools Championship Gold medal in the 100M IM and Bronze in the 50M Breaststroke and then went on to win two further gold medals in the Medley and Freestyle Team Relays. The afternoon session saw Megan McKenna for Banbridge Academy and Robert Lyttle for RBAI in action. Megan had a fantastic swim in 50M Butterfly and just lost out on a medal in 4th place with 6th in 50M Freestyle. Robert Lyttle was 5th in both 50M Breaststroke and 50M Freestyle and secured a silver medal in the Medley Team Relay.

3rd-4th October all swimmers were back in Banbridge ASC colours competing over longer distances at the Swim Ulster Cook Graded Gala at Castlereagh. Swimmers competed over two days in distances of 100, 200 and 400M, again the medals were plentiful with Banbridge swimmers winning a total of ten gold medals, 8 silvers and 2 bronze with all swimmers competing securing top 10 places. Megan McKenna, Esmée Hall, Poppy Robinson, Jane Kilpatrick, Elli Robinson, Olivia Knox, Emer Doyle, Georgia Davies and Heather Wilson competed successfully for the girls and Jordan Davies, Patrick Morgan, Graham Stevenson, Robert Lyttle and Patrick McNiff represented Banbridge ASC boys.

The coming months have a packed schedule of events for Banbridge Swimmers with the next PTL Gala away to Lurgan 17th October, followed by the second Swim Ulster Graded Gala in Larne 23rd-25th October. For further information and results in open competition visit our website www.banbridgeasc.co.uk.