



ESSEX COUNTY AMATEUR SWIMMING ASSOCIATION

Affiliated to ASA East/ASA London Region

Masters

November 2008

INTERCOUNTIES MASTERS TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS 2008 THE OFFICIAL REPORT

Intercounties Team Event Essex November 2008

Essex was hoping to retain the Essex centenary Trophy, presented by the county to East region to celebrate 100 golden years of Essex swimming in 2007. The event in only its Third year was held at Thetford, Norfolk at the Breckland Leisure centre and the county team was hoping to win the title for the third successive season. Essex suffered some unfortunate withdrawals from this years championships resulting in 11 changes and a relatively small squad 12 swimmers down on the previous two years. However, the event started brightly for the defending champions as Jill Complin and Stan Clarke both from Romford, dominated their Butterfly events in the 65+ age group. However, it was 10 events later that Essex would pick up their next win through Adrian Fenner. The Waltham Forest rocket stormed to a fine win in the 24 year age group edging out Suffolk's James Lawton by 3/100ths of a second in a time of 26.55 seconds. All the events being swum over a 50m distance in a short course pool.

In the first of the relays Essex were winners of the 260 years + women's freestyle event, just edging out Suffolk, Essex had to then settle for two second place finishes. At the quarter way mark, Essex were just behind Suffolk, whilst the surprise team of the day was Hertfordshire, leading the way with a powerful squad comprising mostly from a strong St Albans team and age group (18-24years) swimmers from Hatfield University.

The Breaststroke events were to cost Essex dearly with a depleted line up due to missing swimmers. Stan Clarke swam in two age groups swimming down in the 55+ events, whilst swimming in his own 65+ event. Swimming up is allowed under ASA rules but means swimmers are often overused and exposed to duress. Stanley Clarke is an exception, as the 70 year old former Olympian swam two events in very close succession (one race between them!) to record a second and third place for the county, with Jill Complin winning her age group again, Hannah Ueckermann (Witham) stepped up to the mark to record victory in the women's 45+ age group, before Katie Higgon from Harwich gained a first place in the 18+ age group. James Heathcote, Colchester and Keith Oddy, Romford, picked up a second and third respectively to give Essex a much needed boost with excellent placings. In the Medley relays Essex could only pick up one second place and two thirds and at the halfway stage Essex were trailing again to both Suffolk and Hertfordshire.

Essex needed a solid performance in the Freestyle events and picked up first places from Jill Complin and Alyson Fordham, Harlow Town. Derek Gore, Chelmsford, Ivan Myall, Chelmsford, Mark Osterritter, Halstead and Kristian Whitmarsh, Basildon, all picked up second places however, before Jenny Swallow Halstead and Ben Preston, Rochford came home with third places. In the relays that followed Essex gained three second places but at the end of the third session, Essex now trailed Suffolk the new leaders by a massive 40 points and trailed Hertfordshire also.

The backstroke events were always going to be strong for the Essex squad and Essex totally dominated the last session of individual events, gaining seven first places from twelve events. Winners were Tony Pepper (Romford) leading by example as team captain, Val Standage, Colchester, Ivan Myall, Chelmsford, Alyson Fordham, Harlow, Mark Osterritter, Halstead, Jade Perry, Rochford and Adrian Fenner, Waltham Forest. With second places from Martin Fenner, Romford, Jenny Swallow, Halstead and Craig Champion, Chelmsford, with a third place from Catherine Lumley, Witham Dolphins, Essex gained a huge points haul and it came down to the relays to determine Essex overall position on the day.

However, it was not to be as the final 5 relay events could only yield Essex two seconds and two third places.

The final points tally had Essex trail Suffolk by a mere 11 points, edging out Hertfordshire by a margin of just 4 points! Here are the final results:

Suffolk	236
Essex	225
Hertfordshire	221
Norfolk	192
Cambridgeshire	122

Congratulations go to a fine Suffolk team as Essex had to be content with the runners up trophy... We'll be back!

The Full Essex Team and Age Group swam

Jill Complin	65+	Romford
Stan Clarke	65+	Romford
Diane Hunt	55+	Colchester
Raymond Moore	45+	Thurrock
Alyson Fordham	45+	Harlow
Steve Ham	45+	Rochford
Paul Norris	35+	Leyton
Adrian Fenner	18+	Waltham Forest
Ben Preston	18+	Rochford
Ivan Myall	55+	Chelmsford
Marilyn Youngman	55+	Romford
Keith Oddy	45+	Romford
Hannah Ueckermann	45+	Witham
Julie Sanders	35+	Romford
James Heathcote	35+	Colchester
Sally Wood	25+	Romford
Ross Wisby	18+	Thurrock
Katie Higgon	18+	Harwich
Derek Gore	65+	Chelmsford
Nick Hunt	45+	Chelmsford
Craig Campion	25+	Chelmsford
Thomas Enright	45+	Romford
Mark Osterritter	35+	Halstead
Kathy Weiss	25+	Thurrock
Kristian Whitmarsh	25+	Basildon & District
Catherine Lumley	18+	Witham
Jenny Swallow	35+	Halstead
Martin Fenner	45+	Romford
Tony Pepper	65+	Romford
Jade Perry	25+	Rochford
Barbara Boxhall	45+	Romford
Gary Wraight	25+	Romford
Val Standage	65+	Colchester
Craig Campion	25+	Chelmsford

Best regards to all with thanks for all your continued support
 Paul Hayes
 Essex County Team Manager