

# Stourbridge Swimming Club

Welcome to a review of 2024 at Stourbridge Swimming Club.





# County Championships

The start of 2024 saw the club participate in the 2024 Worcester County Championships, with over 70 swimmers taking part and 55 finals between them. We took home 6 gold, 8 silver, and 8 bronze! And an entry into the Shropshire County Championships, too. What an amazing way to start the year! Superb performances by all.



## Malaga Swim Camp

This year, we were fortunate enough to take some of our older swimmers to Malaga Swim camp in February. This was an invaluable opportunity to take their half term to focus on their swimming, with 2 swim sessions and a land training each day (as well as a sneaky day off!). The swimmers were a credit to the club with their attitude and behaviour. It was an amazing bonding experience and I would like to thank all the parents who took the time to help support and team manage as well.







# League Galas



During this period, the Swim Gainz League began. This is a league for our younger swimmers and those who have not achieved regional times. This allows more of our swimmers to begin their journey into competitive swimming and start applying all their skills. If any swimmer taking part in the League swims faster than the entry time, they are given a speeding ticket, and their points are not counted. The club likes to see speeding tickets as it means the swimmers are doing well and are gaining a new personal best time. We were lucky enough to reach the A team final this year and the improvement they made from round to round meant we saw lots of speeding tickets for our swimmers. Big shout out to our parents, who received the trophy for best-supported team.

The months of February, March and April saw us take part in the Worcester Winter League and came fourth overall just outside the medals. This league is for our older swimmers, and it is wonderful to see how they progress from their first galas into this league.

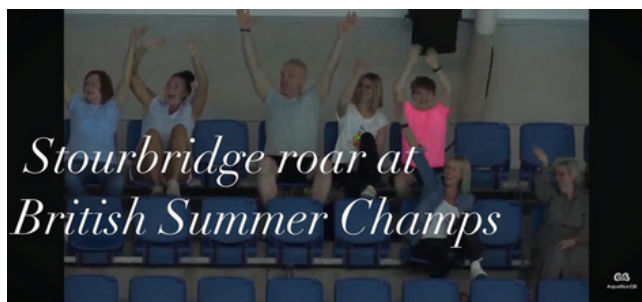
We then came to the Nuneaton Junior League where we had returned to Division 1 following reaching the finals last year. This gave a new challenge for our swimmers, who swam their hearts out to show why they deserved to be there. The support between our junior swimmers was lovely to see, even with their hoarse voices at the end. This support between teammates is what we encourage and hope to see at every gala we attend. Through this, we have remained in Division 1 and look forward to seeing how we can keep moving forward next year.

The club took part in the County Relay Gala in June which saw some fantastic results and well done to the teams for all the hard work, with swimmers from our youngest competitive age, all the way up to the masters (and we won't share their ages).

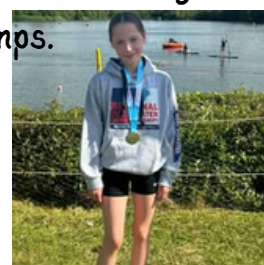
# British Championships

The next major event on the calendar was the British Championships where one of our swimmers, Olivia Robins, who trains with the City of Birmingham, outshone everyone by winning her age group by a clear margin. I felt privileged to watch her win her event. Olivia has been a member of the club ever since she started swimming, and it is great to see her progressing and showing everyone what she is capable of. Not only did she win her age group, but also reached a number of finals as well.

Olivia began competing with the club at the age of 8 and her first ever events were in Club Championships where she was one of 12 swimmers, and I have said to her I was going to mention that out of the 12 she was twelfth. Out of those 12, she is the only one competing at such a high level which just shows what dedication can do for you. Well done Liv and thank you for all your support to the club swimming for us whenever asked and being so supportive. This just shows that no matter what level you start at, with dedication you can improve and achieve.



Also, at the British Championships one of our older swimmers James Froggatt did us proud. James started swimming with the club at the age of 4 in our group 1. He did his first competition at the age of 8. At 11, he trained with both Stourbridge and the City of Birmingham. He also is a loyal member of the club and swims for us whenever he is able. He even came along to our club championships and supported us with some timekeeping. This year James qualified for the British Champs, English Nationals, and Olympic trials. This year he won the 800 meters 18 plus age group at British Champs.



We also had some swimmers swimming at both English and Welsh Nationals. Lucy and Niamh Humphreys swimming at English and Cerys Brook at Welsh. Cerys reaching one of the finals. These are another 3 of our loyal swimmers who turn out for the club whenever requested. Then the same weekend as the Nationals, we had the Open Water National Championships at Rother Valley where Cerys Brook, Nia Brook, and Niamh Humphreys all qualified I went to watch don't know how they can swim that distance out in a lake, rather than me.



# Autumn Success

Club Championships started in September which were successful with many swimmers achieving personal bests, county times, and culminating in our very successful presentation evening. September also saw the County Development Meet where several of our swimmers achieved many personal best times. October saw the start of the Arena League which will be completed this Saturday thanks and well done to all. We are still awaiting the final results. This last month saw the Winter Nationals taking place and yet again both Olivia and James reached finals, well done. Also, whilst we are waiting for it to be ratified but we think James has gained a County record in the 800 Free to be added to the history books.



## Open Meets

Both our open meets, Crystal Open and Stormforce have been well supported so big thanks to all clubs taking part, it's great to have good feedback to help us move these events from strength to strength. And although it can be tough, when you don't quite reach that time you were hoping for, each race is a chance to reflect and move forward next time. Although we had many more successes adding to our county qualifiers ready for next year.







# Thank You!

Great big thanks to our great band of volunteers who undertake many roles within the club without whom we could not operate. You have helped support many of our endeavours over the year, allowing our swimmers the chances they would not otherwise have.

Thank you to the Social committee, who have been fundraising and gaining sponsorship over the year to help fund equipment to support the swimmers further. Through their hard work, we have been able to gain 8 backstroke ledges, parachutes and play equipment for our learn-to-swim groups. We have also entered into stronger starts, so keep collecting those blue tokens, to put towards an underwater camera. These are all greatly appreciated and I would like to thank you for all your hard work in your fundraising.

A big thank you to all our coaches this year, your knowledge and expertise have given our swimmers the skills to achieve.

And finally, a big thank you to all the parents and swimmers who have supported us throughout the year. That smile at the end of the race, after the hard work put into every session is the best thing to see.



## Final Thoughts

We had some sad news during the year one of our Life Members Alan Bartlett unfortunately passed away, he was a loyal member of the club and very helpful to me if I needed any advice or information.

Finally, to end the year on a success, another of our Life Members Bernard Simkins has been awarded the Harold Fern Trophy this is a prestigious award given by Swim England to someone who has contributed much to British Swimming well deserved Bernard, and congratulations from us all.





Thank you for all the ways you  
support the club.

Hears to another successful 2025!

Ann Pollard