

## Age Group Championships 2009

The Essex County Age Group Championships concluded over the weekend 28/29 March 2009 at Blackshots Pool, Grays, with presentations being made by this year's President, Mrs Alex Morgan.

After leading the top club points since Block A, it was no surprise that **Thurrock Swimming Club** were the winners of the **Albert Turner Trophy**, finishing the competition with 1762 points, over 400 points ahead of second placed contenders, Romford Town. Thurrock's points score represents 18.41% of the total achievable points - a very creditable score bearing in mind that 31 clubs entered this year's Championships. Of these 31 clubs, 29 ended up in the points table, including First Strokes Stanway which was making its debut appearance.

Thurrock have now won the trophy five times in the last six years and the County congratulates everyone at Thurrock Swimming Club for this achievement.

The winner of the **Captains Trophy** for the top BAGCAT performance, regardless of age and gender, went to **Elena Sheridan of Romford Town**. On the way to achieving this, Elena achieved five Event Best Times - in the 50m, 100m and 200m Butterfly and the 200m and 400m Individual Medley.

The Top Girl/Boy awards were as follows:

### BAGCAT age groups:

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Club</b>	<b>Points</b>
Boys 9 years	Spencer Prior	Colchester	1316
Girls 9 years	Holly Hildrew	Thurrock	1679
Boys 10 years	George Epsly	Thurrock	1738
Girls 10 years	Amrita Robertson	Bo Waltham F	2186
Boys 11 years	Salaam Motin	Thurrock	1661
Girls 11 years	Eliza Duffy	Chelmsford	3333
Boys 12 years	Luke Durban	Braintree	2794
Girls 12 years	Kathryn Pearse	Phoenix Bas	3374
Boys 13 years	Sean Houlihan	Romford Town	3372
Girls 13 years	Elena Sheridan	Romford Town	3808
Boys 14 years	Harry Payne	Bo Southend	3342

### Youth age groups:

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Club</b>	<b>Points</b>
Girls 14 years	Harriette Davis	Romford Town	134
Boys 15 years	Ivan Georgiev	London Bo Redbridge	132
Girls 15 years	Kelsey Richards	London Bo Redbridge	141
Boys 16 years	Christopher Inch	London Bo Redbridge	176
Girls 16 years	Georgina Hunt	Thurrock	178
Boys 17+ years	Daniel Stepton	Romford Town	141
Girls 17+ years	Verity Goodey	Southend	157

Whilst the winners of the Top Boy/Girl awards could have predicted quite early on, there were a couple which were dependent on the final swim of that age group in Session 16.

In the Boys 11 years age group Aidan Robinson of Basildon had been leading the points all season, to be pipped at the final post by Salaam Motin of Thurrock following Salaam's

great swim in the 200m Backstroke which gave a massive boost to his form stroke points to take him to the top of the leader board in that age group.

In the Girls 14 years age group Emily Cole of London Borough of Redbridge and Harriette Davis of Romford Town closed Session 15 in equal first place with 122 points each. However, Harriette's win in the 200m Individual Medley assured her of the Top Girl position in this age group. The close race between Harriette and Emily can further be demonstrated by their sharing equal first place in the 100m Individual Medley in a previous Block.

The 2009 Championships produced 50 Event Best Times from 25 swimmers including five each from Elena Sheridan and George Epsly, four from Sophie Drake and three each from Harry Payne, Sean Houlihan and Kieran Gore.

There were also two Short Course County Records, one of which was a new Mens Short Course County Record set by Matthew Smith of Hornchurch in the 50m Breaststroke in a time of 29.47, stealing Jonathan Howkins' ten year old record. The other County Record went to Sophie Drake of Canvey Island who also stole a ten year old record –the Womens 100m Backstroke record previously held by Clare Carter. Sophie's new record is 1:02.16.

Congratulations to Sophie and Matthew and all swimmers who achieved Event Best Times.

This year we were able to use three pools for the four weekends – Blackshots, Braintree and Waltham Forest – and it hoped that as more suitable competition pools become available we will be able to spread our Championships across the County.

Finally, thanks to everyone involved in the smooth running and success of this year's Championships: swimmers, parents, coaches, officials, volunteers and members of the ECASA Swimming Committee.

Jan Eddy  
1 April 2009