

Georgie Pryor qualifies for the Olympic Selection Trials

HODDESDON swimmer and pupil of Herts and Essex School, Bishop's Stortford, Georgina Pryor achieved her goal this weekend qualifying for the British Gas Olympic Selection Trials to be held at the London Aquatic Centre in March.

Seven Hoddesdon Team members travelled to Corby East Midlands International pool on Saturday 28th and Sunday 29th January to compete in the Central Zonal Meet. This is the second year for the ASA Zonal Meets. On the same weekend the ASA organise a North, South and Central Zonal Meet. The Central Zone consists of the ASA East Region, ASA East Midlands Region and the ASA West Midlands Region and the swimmers have the opportunity to compete against each other as individuals. Georgina Pryor competed in five events over the weekend 200 Backstroke, 400 Individual Medley on the Saturday, 100 Backstroke, 100 Butterfly and 100 Freestyle on the Sunday. On the Saturday evening Georgie also travelled back to Borehamwood, Hertfordshire to compete in the Herts Major League round 2 gala for the Hoddesdon Team where she won her 100 butterfly in a short course time of 1.05.00. This performance showed Georgie was on form.

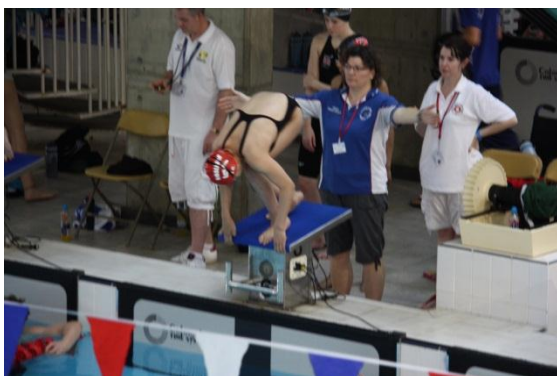


The 200 backstroke 2.36.95 placed Georgie 33rd in the 14yrs and under, 400 Individual Medley 5.39.97 finishing 36th. Day two was the 100 backstroke 1.47.89 matching her pb then it was the 100 Butterfly. Georgie swam a Long Course personal best time of 1.06.92 which was a National Qualifying time but 0.37 secs outside the Olympic Trial qualifying time. Excited that Georgie had achieved her first NQT we were confident the Olympic Time Trial qualifying time would be achieved next week at Sheffield. Then we found out Georgie was ranked 4th and had reached the final. In the final Georgie achieved 3rd place and therefore a bronze medal, improved her time further to 1.06.15 achieving the Olympic Time Trial qualifying time as well as improving her National Qualifying Time. The last session Georgie achieved a further pb of 1.03.71 in the 100 Freestyle finishing in 34th place.

Head Coach Janet Warrington said “the hard work and determination has paid off. We can go to Sheffield next week and the pressure is off. It is so exciting to know we are going to the London Aquatic Centre to compete at the Olympic Selection Trials alongside the very best swimmers in Great Britain.

Georgina Fisher, Grace Harvey, Kane Hagley-King, Chris Smith, Kaitlyn Walsh and Hayley Warrington also took part at the Zonal Meet each performing strongly. Georgina Fisher qualified for the 50 Freestyle and swam close to her personal best in a time of 29.75 placing her 20th in the 14yrs and under. She then rushed off to compete in a netball tournament during the Saturday afternoon and then travelled to Borehamwood to compete in the Herts Major League gala where she was awarded the girls swimmer of the gala.

Grace Harvey swimming under the Multi-Classification Disability Swimming achieved a personal best in her 50 Freestyle 42.91 and was on her personal best times for the 400 Freestyle 6.58.26, 100 Backstroke 1.47.89 and 100 Freestyle 1.33.18.



Kane Hagley-King achieved a personal best in the 50 Freestyle 26.67 finishing in 20th place in the 15yrs and over. Kane also swam strongly in the Herts Majors and was awarded the boys swimmer of the gala.

Chris Smith, who has been recovering from an injury, swam a personal best in the 50 Freestyle 27.74 and close to his pb's in the 200 Breaststroke 2.52.46 and 100 Breaststroke 1.16.05. Kaitlyn Walsh swam a Long Course pb in the 100 Freestyle 1.05.86 and Hayley Warrington swam a pb in the 50 freestyle 28.98 finishing 13th and close to her pb in the 100 Breaststroke 1.22.09 finishing 16th both girls swimming in the 14yrs and under. All three swimmers also took part in the Herts Major League gala.

Janet Warrington told the *Mercury* “The commitment and professional attitude from the Hoddesdon Team swimmers at the moment is fantastic. The team spirit at the club is brilliant and as a result there are some excellent performances and achievements from the members. 2012 is proving to be a very exciting and we are only one month into the year.”