

DASC at NER Senior/Junior Championships 2008 **1, 2 November at Freeman's Quay Leisure Centre, Durham**

Four swimmers from DASC made qualifying times for this year's short course North-East Region Senior/Junior Championships and competed against the best swimmers of any age from the whole of the North-East of England. These were held at the brand-new Freeman's Quay pool in Durham, which had been opened at the end of September by HRH The Princess Royal.

Chloe Coates did well to make finals in 50m and 100m Breaststroke, finishing 7th in both and improving on her previous best in the 100m event. She also competed in 200m Breaststroke, 50 and 100m Freestyle and 200m IM.

Helena Teague swam in five events, clocking up two good Personal Bests in the Sunday morning session on both 400m IM and 400m Freestyle, finishing 20th and 23rd respectively.

Iain Rossington and Tom Short both competed in the 50m Freestyle. Iain came within 0.1 of a second of his previous best time. Tom was disappointed with his swim, being hampered by a problem with his goggles, which will hopefully not occur again in a race, but still swam his second ever fastest time in this event.

Head Coach, Fiona Miller, said, 'Despite this meet being early in the season, the swimmers swam well. If swimmers are making PB's during the heaviest part of the season there should be better results to follow later in the season.'

For future reference for galas in this new pool I noted that

- There were some teething problems with the PA system, there was not much room on poolside for the swimmers to sit and the swim down pool was very small.
- The electronic timing system worked well and the scoreboard was very clear.
- The spectator accommodation was close to the poolside and gave a good view of the swimming, but is not large.
- There is parking close to the pool and not too expensive even for a longish stay. Alternatively there is a Park and Ride system operating in Durham City.
- There is no café in the pool, only a vending machine or two, but the city centre is not far away.

Jane Teague