

MARLBOROUGH PENGUINS SWIMMING CLUB NEWSLETTER: FEB 2024



Welcome to our February 2024 Newsletter, with a celebration of our Young Volunteers and a summary of our successes at the Wiltshire County Championships.

If you have any queries, please email (secretary@marlboroughpenguins.com). For all club information, don't forget that the website and Facebook account (Marlborough Penguins) are up and running.

SWIM ENGLAND SOUTH-WEST REGION YOUNG VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Congratulations to Bria Knight, Olivia Mercer, Jack Haley and Fran Hutton who were all finalists for the SESW Young Volunteer of the Year Award! We were delighted that four members of our Club were selected as finalists for this award, really emphasising the impact they have made and the importance of Volunteers to the Club. Erica (Chair) had the pleasure of accompanying Liv, Bria and their parents to the award ceremony at the beginning of January to see them being awarded their certificates by Jill Beard, the incoming SW Regional President for this year.



Bria & Olivia



Wiltshire County Finalists with Jill Beard and Mel Sweetman
(Wiltshire County President)

Many of you will know Bria, Liv, Jack and Fran from our Learn to Swim and Coaching programs where they have progressed from poolside helpers to qualified teachers / coaches, teaching many of the swimmers we have within the Club today. Please congratulate them when you next see them!

ADULT VOLUNTEER TEACHERS & COACHES – WE NEED YOU!

MARLBOROUGH PENGUINS

VOLUNTEER POOLSIDE HELP

- Successful & friendly volunteer led Club
- Looking for enthusiastic volunteers to help develop our next generation of swimmers
- Learn new skills whilst working within a fun and professional team.
- No experience needed; all training provided!

Please contact secretary@marlboroughpenguins.com for further information

We are very fortunate to have a strong team of volunteers across our teaching and coaching programs, however, we need to start filling the pipeline and planning for successors to some of our key roles.

Adult teachers and coaches are essential to enable us to run the sessions we have today and support attendance at Open Meets. We are always reluctant to cancel sessions or not offer opportunities to compete, but we can only avoid this with a full team of volunteers.

We don't expect you to be qualified initially, or even a swimmer, but if you are keen to support the Club whilst learning new skills within a fun and professional team, we would love to hear from you! All training will be paid for by the Club and we will provide mentorship throughout.

If you are interested or have any questions, please speak to Dom (Head Coach) or any of the coaches or teachers on poolside or contact Jo Jones (Secretary@marlboroughpenguins.com).

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★★ WILTSHIRE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS 2024 ★★



Wiltshire County Age Group Championship Qualifiers 2024



Wiltshire County Youth Championship Qualifiers 2024

Every year, Wiltshire County Swimming host their Championship competition, bringing together the best swimmers in Wiltshire to compete against each other. Swimmers qualify for the event by attending licensed competitions and meeting the qualifying times. This year, 16 swimmers qualified for the age group competitions (13 and under) and 22 swimmers qualified for the youth championships! This is a fantastic achievement especially as qualifying times were made significantly harder this year.

The competition was held across 3 weekends and our swimmers were amazing.... many achieving big personal bests during their races, and an incredible 30 medals (11 Gold, 10 Silver and 9 Bronze) and 7 Championship awards being awarded to Penguins! **Congratulations to everyone that qualified and took part!**

A special mention for Florence Barkholt and Giacomo Fatica. Flo dominated the 14-year age group event and Junior Championships; winning multiple medals and Championship awards. Whilst Giacomo swam some very impressive PBs, a fantastic achievement at his standard and very deserving of his gold medals.

Head Coach, Dom Keogh said; "We're really happy for the swimmers, coaches and support teams at Penguins. It's great to see the efforts of the swimmers' achieve such amazing results at the Wiltshire County Championships and we are looking forward to the Regional Championships and future seasons"

Elsie Briers	2 x 3
Sophie Freeman	1 x 2 1 x 3
Alex Shuttleworth	1 x 3
Paige Wilson	1 x 2 1 x 3
Florence Barkholt	6 x 1 3 x 2
Giacomo Fatica	5 x 1
Tom Freeman	1 x 3
Bria Knight	1 x 3
Eliza Mahon	1 x 2 2 x 3
Olivia Mercer	2 x 2 1 x 3
Luke Skordis	1 x 3



Penguins Mascot Pablo supporting the team!

Thank you to all our coaches, team managers, volunteers, officials and parents who supervised swimmers, officiated during sessions, took on the jobs assigned to us by the County Organizers' and supported their swimmers. Without you our swimmers wouldn't be able to take part in these events. And a special thanks goes to our swimmers who not only did a fantastic job representing the Club in the water but were recognized by the organisers' for how polite they were to the officials and volunteers that run the event – thank you Penguins!

SE South-West Young Volunteer Program 2024

Congratulations to Tom Freeman and Tom Hodgson who have been selected to take part in the South-West Region Young Volunteer program. Tom and Tom regularly volunteer at LTS and our Coaching sessions. We look forward to seeing them complete the program this year!



SAVE THE DATE: CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS 2024

WHEN: June 29th & 30th 2024
WHERE: Marlborough College