

Yeovil swimmers win medals at regionals

OVER the last three weekends, senior members from Yeovil District Swimming Club have been competing at the South West ASA Regional Championships.

The Youth Championships took place first at Plymouth's Life Centre, with ten swimmers from the club aged 15 years and upwards achieving the qualifying times to compete against the regions fastest swimmers.

Jacob Bailey, Francis Balch, Aaron Bartlett, Jessica Carroll, Fay Graham, Elisha Hawkins, Phoebe Kelman-Johns, Jasmine Moore, Jake Mowbray and Harriet Watts raced in a variety of events from 50m sprints to 1500m free-style.

Many of the swimmers gained places in the finals for their events with medals awarded to: Carroll who recently competed in the British Championships in Sheffield (50m breaststroke gold and 100m

breaststroke bronze), Harriet Watts (100m backstroke gold, 50m and 200m backstroke bronze) and Jasmine Moore (50m butterfly bronze).

The next two weekends saw the slightly youngerswimmers compete at Hengrove Leisure Centre in Bristol and Millfield School in Street.

The Age Group Championships are for young athletes aged 11-15-years and YDSC entered six qualifiers: Anya Evans, Jack Mitchell, Isabella Moore, Georgie Payne, Connor Perrin and May Purbrick. All swimmers managed to achieve personal best times, even under the pressure of racing in a high level competition.

Head coach Rebecca Richards and assistant head coach Aaron Rickhuss, both successful athletes in their own right, train young swimmers in pools in Yeovil and Sherborne seven days a week alongside the club's volunteer coaches. They are always on

the lookout for up-and-coming talent to add to their team. If you are interested in joining then apply for an assessment at ydsc.co.uk.

■ Four gifted YDSC swimmers are celebrating being selected by Swim England for their Beacon Talent Programme.

Based on their recent performances at both national and regional competitions over the last twelve months, Aaron Bartlett, Jessica Carroll, Jasmine Moore and Harriet Watts will receive extra training sessions in Bristol in the 50m pool.

The Beacon Programmes are designed to develop and nurture the most talented young swimmers in England, supported by investment from Sport England. The programme provides access to quality pool and dry-land training facilities as well as education and sports science support, delivered by a high-level coaching team.