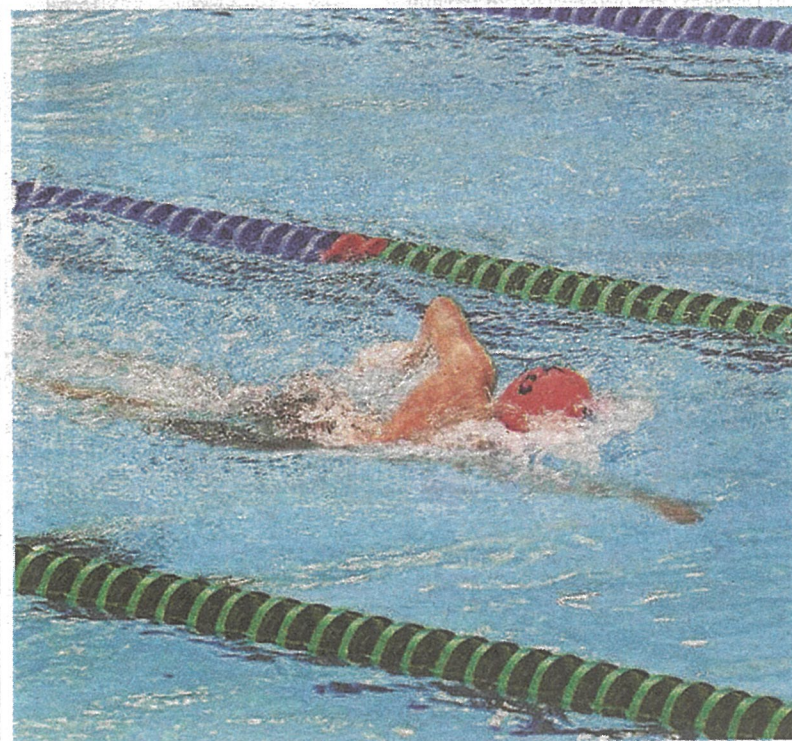




Yeovil & District Swimming Club's coaching team at the Spring Fling, from left, Emma Stacey, Paul Perry, Ben Card, Mark Ovens and head coach Ian Angell



Yeovil & District Swimming Club's swimmers at Sandwell Aquatics Club's Spring into Regionals



Jackson Green swimming to gold in the 400m freestyle

## Dickson stays strong to earn rain-affected draw

SOMERSET batter Sean Dickson scored an unbeaten 77 as his side drew with Hampshire in the Rothsay County Championship.

Hampshire continued their unbeaten start and Somerset their winless opening at the Utilita Bowl.

Dickson, Tom Abell and the weather quelled any chances of a final day route to a positive result in either direction – with a total of 175 overs, or around five sessions, lost in the match.

Dickson ended up unbeaten on 77, and Abell 27, after a 56-run partnership which had wiped out Hampshire's lead and taken Somerset away from any danger of losing.

Ben Brown's side took 13 points from the match, to Somerset's 11, to display a healthy 43 points from their opening three rounds and remain within touching distance of the Division One pacemakers.

Somerset head coach Jason Kerr said: "Overall we are pleased. We have played some really good cricket, especially the character after being six down overnight on the first day and then bowling them out on the third day to give us the opportunity to potentially win the game."

"We succumbed to the weather today but it was good to see Dickson, Abell and Lammonby take their opportunity in a pressurised situation. Unfortunately the weather won."

"Dickson has played brilliantly over the last two days. We know it is incredibly challenging opening the batting. He and Archie go through two quality bowlers, it is difficult, and looking at the context of the game it was worth more than the runs on the board."

"You are always disappointed

because you want to win every game you play, but I am not disappointed with the cricket we are playing. Hopefully within the next four games of this block we can get a couple of wins."

**SOMERSET Women** have announced that Olivia Barnes, Jess Hazell and Erin Vukusic will each spend time on loan, dual-registered with other counties over the coming weeks. Left-arm spinner Barnes will join Kent, wicket-keeper/batter Hazell links up with Gloucestershire, whilst right-arm seamer Vukusic will represent Glamorgan. Barnes and Hazell will be available for selection up until May 15, whilst Vukusic is initially available to Glamorgan for this weekend's fixture only. All three remain available for Somerset.

Alex Smith, ECB Reporters Network supported by Rothsay

## Swimmers impress during busy spell

**SWIMMING YEOVIL & District** Swimming Club has enjoyed a busy few weeks, with swimmers of all ages and abilities competing at various meets across the South West and beyond.

Following on from the Somerset County Championships, where several of the more experienced swimmers reached finals and won medals, March saw swimmers competing at various levels every weekend.

A large contingent travelled to Wales in Round Three of the Cotswold Swimming Series, whilst coach Emma Stacey took some of the younger swimmers to Chard on the same weekend – giving many of them their first experience of competition.

The following week, a group of nearly 30 YDSC swimmers took to the water in Dorchester to compete in the Poole Swimming Club Regional Qualifier. There were some fantastic performances, with plenty of personal bests and over 50 medals won. Eliza Randall (10) and William Martin (11) were both taking part in their first open meet and each achieved five personal bests. Eliza also gained a county qualifying time in the 50m backstroke.

Five swimmers competed in the Chelsea & Westminster SC Level 1 meet at Millfield Pool in Street the next week, and came away with three bronze medals against strong competition. Jackson Green finished third in 1,500m freestyle, Rebecca Tomkins in 100m breaststroke and Dexter Scott in 50m breaststroke.

Further afield at the Sandwell

Aquatics Club Spring into Regionals Open Meet, saw 13 YDSC swimmers compete at the venue which hosted the 2022 Commonwealth Games swimming and diving events. The YDSC swimmers gave it their all, delivering 58 personal bests, three medals and countless moments of resolve and resilience.

For many, this was their first experience racing in a 50m pool and they rose to the challenge brilliantly – learning, adapting and giving their absolute best.

One of the highlights of the year for many clubs is YDSC's Spring Fling which takes place every year at Millfield, which provides the perfect stage for the short-course level 3 meet for swimmers of all ages and abilities.

Taking place just before the regional window cut-off, the meet also gives swimmers one of the last chances to qualify for the English Regional Championships. The ever-popular meet, held at the end of March, featured tough competition from 30 clubs across the region.

YDSC swimmers delivered outstanding performances and showed incredible determination in the pool, winning an impressive 37 medals – including ten golds. There was another standout performance from Jackson who secured medals in six of the seven events he competed in, including gold in 400m, 200m and 50m freestyle.

Roisin Lafferty (9), Aidan Koheal-lee (12), Coco Bowen (15) and Ellen Byrne (17) also won gold medals. Amelia Knaggs (10) was competing

in her first open meet and achieved personal bests in all three of her events, while Olivia Swain (12) achieved an impressive seven personal bests from seven events. Thanks were given to everyone involved in making the weekend a success.

Head coach Ian Angell said: "At Yeovil we have such a wide range of swimmers, from those just beginning their competitive journey through to older swimmers who are getting ready to move on to university."

"We have had a busy month of catering for every level of swimmer, from some of our younger swimmers competing for the first time alongside those seeking regional or even national qualifying times."

"What is great to see is that whatever the level, everyone comes together, cheering each other on, celebrating the wins and commiserating the losses. It really is one big family."

YDSC always welcomes new swimmers and is open to those who have reached stage 5/6 and above. Get in touch with the club to arrange a free trial where you will be assessed to ensure you are assigned to the correct squad for your age and ability.

The club also has a Masters squad for adults looking to participate in coached sessions and is always on the look-out for additional qualified swim coaches. To find out more visit [www.ydsc.co.uk](http://www.ydsc.co.uk) or, to arrange a free trial, email [membership.ydsc@gmail.com](mailto:membership.ydsc@gmail.com).

## Time Trial Series underway again

**CYCLING YEOVIL** Cycling Club's Tuesday Evening Time Trial (TT) Series began on April 8 with near perfect conditions and with a fantastic turnout of local riders, traditionally known as Testers.

This opening five-mile TT, held on the B3151 running through RNAS Yeovilton, was the first of Yeovil CC's

'come and try it' events. These events are free to enter and open to all riders, whether a member of Yeovil CC or other Cycling Time Trials affiliated club, or not.

The fastest rider to cover the five-mile distance against the clock was Chris Booth of the Army Cycling Union in a time of 10mins 46secs.

The fastest Yeovil CC rider of the evening was Ben Warman, finishing second in 11:08.

The Tuesday evening TT's continue each week, weather permitting, until the end of September. Full details can be found at [www.yeovilcc.com](http://www.yeovilcc.com), with regular updates on the club's Facebook page.