

## Inter County Masters at Newmarket 18<sup>th</sup> November 2012

Despite the event clashing with the Team Luton open meet, and losing three swimmers at the last moment through illness, the Bedfordshire Masters team fielded a depleted team, but managed to fill all of the 68 events.

It is always going to be hard to compete against the strong counties of Essex and Hertfordshire, even with a full team, but everyone swam well, and eventually finished in fourth place out of the five counties represented. Cambridgeshire could not get a team together.

### Final Points

|               |     |
|---------------|-----|
| Essex         | 258 |
| Norfolk       | 233 |
| Hertfordshire | 225 |
| Bedfordshire  | 160 |
| Suffolk       | 139 |

Bedfordshire managed seven individual wins, and three relay first places. The individual wins came from Graham Powell (Team Luton) in the 55 + over Backstroke, Dave Cartledge (Modernians) 45 + over Butterfly, Rebecca Warner (Modernians) 18 + over Butterfly, Marcel Scholten (Modernians) 45 + over Breaststroke and Freestyle, Charlotte Ovenden (Modernians) 18 + over Breaststroke and Sarah Pearse (South Beds) 25 + over Breaststroke.

The relay wins came in the Mens 180 + Medley relay, with the team of Howard Gell (South Beds) and the Modernians trio of Dave Cartledge, Marcel Scholten, and summer channel swimmer Ian Stoughton.

The other two relay wins both came in the 220 + Mixed teams, in the Medley event, Graham Powell (Team Luton) was joined by three from South Beds, Peter Iles, Jackie Maycock, and Christine Ayers, and in the Freestyle event, Graham was replaced by South Beds swimmer Chris Marshall.

When all of the results from the seven districts were collated, Bedfordshire finished in 16<sup>th</sup> place out of the 28 Counties that participated this year, a drop of two places from last year.

Bedfordshire swimmers who finished in a top six position nationally were, Charlotte Ovenden 2<sup>nd</sup> 18-24 50m Breaststroke, Sarah Pearse 6<sup>th</sup> 25-34 50m Breaststroke, Marcel Scholten 4<sup>th</sup> 45-54 50m Breaststroke, and Graham Powell 3<sup>rd</sup> 55-64 50m Backstroke.

John Bellis