

BSB MASTERS Activities November 2018 - November 2019

In November 2018 the Inter-County event was hosted by Surrey at Haslemere. BSB came second locally and fifth nationally of 28 competing districts with 1365 points. Local winners were Hampshire with 1423 points, so it was quite a close encounter. 6 districts in SER came in the top 12 nationally, evidence of high calibre competition. Kirsty Johnson (50bk) from Bracknell was our sole overall winner although we had many second places.

Later in the month the Barnet 1500 (SC) drew only 3 competitors from BSB but one of those, Glen Hall (Reading), retained his title from the previous year in almost the same time. Whilst this was going on Russell Simpson (Amersham) was flying the BSB flag in The Pan Pacific MASTERS Games at the Gold Coast, Australia, competing i.a. in a unique 400m breaststroke (!) event.

16 of our swimmers took part in the SER MASTERS (LC) at Crawley in January 2019, gaining a total of 18 Gold medals. This year the competition was dominated by the Spencer club with 36 Gold medals, closely followed by Kent Weald on 33 Golds. Amanda Heath (Maidenhead) and Guy Emerson (Amersham) swimming with 2 others in Spencer Swim Team posted the world's 6th fastest time ever of 5min 26.28 secs in winning the 4 x 100m mixed medley relay (240-279 years).

Bracknell MASTERS meet again included the 'no hat/no goggles' fly relay in memory of the late much respected Mike Daniell. There were no disqualifications! It was good to see Dave Milburn (Newbury) back in winning form after injury.

Only two swimmers Bridget Bewick and Holly Moore attended the inaugural SSE 1500 (LC) in April at Crawley but both struck Gold. Our competitors (especially the Inter-County team manager) covered more miles than usual in this period, attending events at Edinburgh, Norwich, Swansea and Guernsey. Bracknell swimmers were outnumbering Wycombe, probably as they are preparing for their 'Silver' anniversary event in March 2020.

There were 18 entries in the British MASTERS (LC) at Swansea in June, where Gregory du Tertre (Wycombe) made a clean sweep on breaststroke. Other winners were Jack Endersby (Reading) with 2 Golds, Amanda Heath and Guy Emerson with one each. Amanda and Guy achieved 3 and 4 more Golds respectively in relays. In July Maidenhead Marlins held their second Summer MASTERS event, which was not over subscribed but did unfortunately seem to impact on our County MASTERS event held later in the year in the same pool.

We had 8 competitors at the World Championships in Korea. At the same time a couple were competing in the European MASTERS Games in Turin, which included a swim section.

The County Open MASTERS took place in September for the last time at Maidenhead Magnet Centre. This year there were 150 swimmers from 47 clubs - 29 persons alone from Wycombe District, but alas only 2 from Maidenhead itself.

Not to be outdone Bracknell fielded a good number at the SSE (SC) at Guildford but it was Amanda Heath who swept the board with 8 individual Golds followed by Charlie Messenger (Wycombe) with 4. On the same day Amy Vaal (Bracknell) pocketed 3 Golds in the SW Regional MASTERS at Weston-super-Mare.

The National MASTERS (SC) in Sheffield in October saw good numbers from Bracknell and Wycombe (ca 40) but it was again Amanda Heath who was dominant - this time with a mere 4 Gold medals but 2 were GB records. Fittingly, in almost the final event, Wycombe team captain and all-round action woman Pip Williams took Gold on 50 Breast with a life-time best swim.

Although in principle it was this year the turn of BSB to host the Inter-County MASTERS event, sadly we were unable to negotiate appropriate pool time and it is therefore being held at Horsham (Sussex) instead. Hopefully we shall have more co-operation next year!

Events for 2020 - Bracknell MASTERS Saturday 7th March (Silver Anniversary)
County Open MASTERS Sunday 13th September (tbc)
SE Inter-County MASTERS Saturday 7th or Sunday 8th November (tbc)

Bob Odell - MASTERS Sec
8.11.2019