

SWIMMING

Young guns head to the Olympic pool

After a hugely successful start to the 2017 Essex County Championships last month, Dunmow Atlantis swimmers headed to the London Aquatic Centre at the weekend for Block B.

The early start and stunning venue in Stratford did nothing to wobble nerves, and it was over to the youngest swimmers to make their Olympic pool debut in the 9-10 year relays.

The girls' 200m medley team of Zara Clarkson, Georgia Richardson, Neve Winnington and Emily Hastings set the tone with a time of three minutes 10.98 seconds, 10 seconds off their entry time.

The team, this time, also including Rebecca Hayward, then put in a creditable performance in the girls' 200m freestyle.

Not to be outdone, the boys' freestyle team of Oliver Smith, Oscar Hastings, Jack Rayner and Harrison Cox stormed to seventh overall out of 20 relay teams.

Back in action later that afternoon, the fantastic four once again found themselves recipients of finalists' pendants.

The day's 50m sprint races saw over 1,300 swimmers from all over Essex compete.

Some exceptional performances from DASC only added to their already long list of county successes.

These included a further 67 PB's, 17 first times, four new and 17 improved east region qualifying times.

Sunday afternoon saw three Dunmow swimmers compete in the boys' 1,500m freestyle.

Super swims from the intrepid trio meant each earned a top 10 place in their age group.

Aidan Clarkson was fourth, Kyle Panton sixth and Matt McLaughlin ninth.

The squad's total medal haul for the two days included four gold, five silver and four bronzes, plus 34 point-scoring finishes which took the squad to 336 points and ninth position overall with Block C still to come next weekend.

Visit www.dunmowatlantis.co.uk for further information about the club.