

GB Masters

Manchester (Long Course)

19th – 21st June 2008

Club Performance:

4 swimmers

Colin Knowles, Andrew Fawcett, Mike Battersby, Heidy Arnot

20 individual swims

4 Welsh Records

Individual Performance:

Colin Knowles – 2 Bronze

Mike Battersby – 1 Bronze, 2 Welsh records

Heidy Arnot – 2 Gold, 1 Silver, 2 Welsh records

Andrew Fawcett – 1 Silver, 3 Bronze

Gala details:

By Andrew Fawcett

Cardiff Masters sent a small (but perfectly formed) group of swimmers to the GB Masters in Manchester in June 2008. All came away with medals in what was a very competitive meet.

Star of the show was Heidy Arnot who claimed two gold medals, in the very competitive Group D 50m freestyle and 100m backstroke. She also won a silver in the 50m backstroke, which with 714 decathlon points for that alone, is arguably her best event. She only missed her hat-trick of golds by 0.12 secs, and her time in that event would have also won her a silver in either Group B or Group C, which is phenomenal. She achieved Welsh records in [50 FR and the 50 BK]. In the Decathlon she is now 44th with 3985 points, after only 7 events.

Michael Battersby swam an excellent programme in the highly competitive Group F, gaining bronze in the 50m breaststroke, and narrowly missing out on a medal in both 200m and 400m I-M. However he had the consolation of gaining Welsh records in [both IM events], His I-Ms also moved him to 4519 points and 41st place in the Decathlon competition.

Colin Knowles won bronze in both 50m and 100m breaststroke events in Group K, and narrowly missed out in the 200m. He also swam well in both 50m and 100m freestyle. As this is his last year in Group K, that is a fine achievement, and next year will be easier for him.

Meanwhile Andrew Fawcett benefited from moving up to Group J by gaining bronze in both 100m and 200m fly, as well as 200m I-M. The superb breakfasts in his hotel hampered him somewhat in the 400m events, both of which were held at 9 a.m. So he

finished well down the field in the freestyle, although the decathlon points gained moved him to 3810 and 79th. However there were at his age few foolish enough to swim the 400 I-M, so he was able to achieve an uncontested silver in that event.

As there were only relays for 4 men, 4 women, or 2 of each, our intrepid band of 3 and 1 were unable to contest any relays, although they would have surely won the 230+ mixed unbalanced medley should such an event have been available. However we hope that next year we will see at least one additional swimmer (of either sex), which would allow a wider participation.

Mike Battersby	200	BR	03:06.73	6th	
Mike Battersby	100	BR	01:24.76	8th	
Mike Battersby	50	BR	00:36.57	3rd	
Mike Battersby	400	IM	06:19.36	4th	Welsh record
Mike Battersby	200	IM	02:53.40	4th	Welsh record
Mike Battersby	400	FR	05:38.27	7th	
Colin Knowles	200	BR	05:05.15	4th	
Colin Knowles	100	BR	02:17.81	3rd	
Colin Knowles	50	BR	00:59.91	3rd	
Colin Knowles	50	FR	00:53.2	5th	
Colin Knowles	100	FR	02:16.9	5th	
Andrew Fawcett	100	Fly	01:39.5	3rd	
Andrew Fawcett	200	Fly	04:00.1	3rd	
Andrew Fawcett	200	IM	03:41.7	3rd	
Andrew Fawcett	400	IM	08:28.7	2nd	
Andrew Fawcett	400	FR	07:26.3	5th	
Andrew Fawcett	50	BK	00:48.6	5th	
Heidy Arnot	100	BK	01:15.4	1st	
Heidy Arnot	50	FR	00:30.9	1st	Welsh record
Heidy Arnot	50	BK	00:34.0	2nd	Welsh record