HAMPSHIRE MASTERS

newsletter





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Hampshire Swimming Masters

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South East Regions Short Course Championships

Pre-nationals prep begins again with the annual trip to Crawley's K2 Centre for the South East Regional Masters Championships…and for those labouring to achieve the steep Phase.1 qualifying times for October's Swim England event, one final shot, or for others where Phase.2 was always the goal, simply clock a time in an event never swum before and hope for the best! Top tier entry was no such issue for the superior Basingstoke Bluefins contingent, with Brendan Giltinane, Dory Pirozzi, Nick Skinner, Olly Espinasse, Olly Jeffreys, Sean Herdman-Grant, Sean O'Brien, and Spencer Turner providing copious amounts of fast swimming, topped by a fantastic European Record for Fleur in the 200 IM. To finish, Fleur was also presented with the Kenilworth Masters Top Swimmer penguin… for which I have no idea how one qualifies, but very much deserved! Not to be outdone, Jo Corben of South Downs Trojan snatched a consecutive European Record over the 100m Backstroke, I believe making it a clean stroke distance sweep over the 55-59yrs age division – joined by regular compatriots Emily Quick, Amy Amour, Sorrell Kenny, and Stephanie Baron. A sprinkling of wider County collectives from City of Southampton (James MacTavish, Tim O'Brien, Matthew Nash), Portsmouth Northsea (Gail Henry, Daniel Wass, Sam Redman, Richard Reed), and Regional titles going to relative newcomer Harry Davis of Winchester City right up to seasoned veteran Jenny Ball (Ryde SC).













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Arguably the pinnacle of the British Masters swimming calendar, Ponds Forge beckoned once again over the final, hour-slipping, full weekend of October – best skins suits (colour co-ordinated), slick goggles, and for some, a fair bit of social media posting all primed and prepared. With good reason it transpires, as an astonishing 73 records were broken over the three-day event : 11 World, 23 European, and 39 British bests all came tumbling, and many finding new homes across our County/Islands. Basingstoke Bluefins and South Downs Trojans as always heading the phalanx, relay titles dropping for the Bluefins impervious 200yrs+ quartet of Fleur Tuner/Spencer Turner/Sarah Hunt/Martin Bennell over the Mixed 4 x 50m FC, 4 x 200m FC Team and 4 x 100m Medley (w/Lizzie Coster) in World Bests, Fleur adding solo global record-breaking times across her individual 200m FC (50-54yrs) with Hunt and Bennell taking British Records over the 50m FC and 50 Breaststroke respectively. Jo Corben lowered her own British Record in the 100m Backstroke (55-59yrs) and David Millburn of Basingstoke Bluefins matched over the 50m Breaststroke (60-64yrs). Some outstanding personal and seasons bests from across the County, with nods to all the contingents from Southampton, Portsmouth Northsea, Hart, Winchester, the Isle of Wight outfits and or course, Armed Forces.

Swim England National Masters Championships



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European Masters Championships 2026

August saw the return of Continental Masters Championships, not in the French capital like our professional counterparts, but the striking cities of Bratislava and Samorin – a Slovakian double that saw a handful of County Masters make the central European trip for five days of competition. Congratulations to Sorrell Kenny of South Downs Trojan and Helen Andrews of Portsmouth Northsea … and possibly a few more I missed!

EUROPEAN AQUATICS
MASTERS CHAMPIONSHIPS 2026
ŠAMORÍN–BRATISLAVA–GRAZ





Berks and Bucks Masters Championships 2026

A perennially popular local Masters Meet…our friends of two County borders presented their annual event at Bracknell Leisure Centre over September. Potent teams from Basingstoke Bluefins and South Downs Trojan lead the medal charge, but a shout out to the Southampton duo of Tim O'Brien and Graham Potter (70-74yrs) for some splendid splash-and-dash racing over 50m distances, in addition to Hedge End Masters lead Alistair Garmendia (40-44yrs) battling to double Gold over 400m and 100m Butterfly.





Records and Websites

Two quick points...a reminder that if you have broken a County Record, please ensure that you declare it via the City of Southampton Masters email – csscmasters@gmail.com - together with your **Name, Club, Event and Venue**. I try to keep both Long and Short Course records up-to-date, but having looked through, am pretty sure several have gone, and with so many alternative competitions taking place it's not possible to track without your input! Remember, it does need to be a verified Masters Competition to make the claim…time trials and Age-Group events do **not** count.

Neatly to second point…our County website. A bit poorly of late I know, especially given issues with access and volunteers post COVID. I do have access to the web platform now, but in truth, the County requires a **new volunteer** to manage **all its disciplines online** (beyond social media)…please put yourself forward if you can help!



www.hampshireswimming.org



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Updates to Masters Competitions for 2027

South East Masters Short / Long Course Championships 2027:

- *SER Long Course Masters – K2 Centre, Crawley- 16th-17th January 27. Entries now open.*
- *SER Long Course 1500m / Relays – K2 Centre, Crawley – 15th March 27. Entries opening shortly.*

www.southeastswimming.org/masters

Isle of Wight Marlins Masters / Royal Navy Masters Meets 2027:

- *Isle of Wight Marlins Masters Meet - Newport LC – 6th February 27.*
- *Royal Navy Masters Meet – Millfield School – 20th-21st February 27.*

www.iowmarlinsswimclub.co.uk* and *www.swimming.org/masters

Hampshire Masters Championships 2027:

- *Day.1 (400m FC / IM, 800m FC) – 10th April 27, Basingstoke Aquadrome, Basingstoke.*
- *Day.2 (50m/100m/200m/Relays) – DATE CHANGE : 22nd May 27, Hart Leisure Centre.*

www.hampshireswimming.org

British Masters Championships 2027
11th-13th June 2027
Sunderland Aquatics Centre.
www.swimming.org/masters

Quick word of warning!

All information shared within the Hampshire Masters newsletter is best endeavours at time of publication further to working groups from **Hampshire**, **Swim England South East** and **British Swimming**. However, things are always subject to change…especially with regard to Masters and availability of training / competition pool time.

As before, please **CHECK WITH ORGANISERS** before committing to any entry of a meet.

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Useful links

Hampshire ASA.....www.hampshireswimming.org
Swim England South East.....www.southeastswimming.org
Swim England Masters Hub.....www.swimming.org/masters
British Swimming.....www.swimming.org
LEN (European Swimming).....www.1.len.eu
FINA (World Swimming).....www.fina.org

County Champions

2026.....South Downs Trojan
2025.....Basingstoke Bluefins
2024.....Basingstoke Bluefins
2023.....Basingstoke Bluefins
2022.....Basingstoke Bluefins
2021.....Basingstoke Bluefins
2020.....*Not held*
2019.....Basingstoke Bluefins
2018.....City of Southampton
2017.....Basingstoke Bluefins
2016.....Basingstoke Bluefins
2015.....Basingstoke Bluefins
2014.....Basingstoke Bluefins
2012.....Basingstoke Bluefins
2011.....Basingstoke Bluefins
2010.....Basingstoke Bluefins
2009.....Winchester Penguins
2008.....Hart SC
2007.....Winchester Penguins
2006.....Hart SC
2005.....Hart SC
2004.....Hart SC
2003.....Havant and Waterlooville
2002.....West Wight SC
2001 .....Havant and Waterlooville
2000.....Isle of Wight Masters

Not like you've got anywhere else to be on your birthday each year!



Got a good news story or article you think should feature in Hampshire Masters Newsletter? Let us know either by **Facebook** or **csscmasters@gmail.com**

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