

DASC Press release Evening Chronicle Grassroots Jan'18

The 2017 - 2018 season has got off to a great start for Derwentside ASC as they start their 30th Anniversary celebrations.

The success started in October with 3 of the clubs swimmers representing the Northumberland & Durham team at the National County Team Championships in Sheffield. Dan Morley, Aaron Beckford & Lewis Maxwell all had great swims with excellent times and a fantastic team effort helped the N&D team to a 5th place finish overall.

The Regional Age group championships at the end of October was a great meet for the younger members of the club with a PB rate of 84%. The club came away with 2 Golds, 3 Silvers & 4 Bronze medals. Swimmer of the meet was Thomas Maskell who took home an array of medals!

November took the club to Sheffield for the Senior & Junior Regional Championships which was a tough meet early in the season but the club did exceptional with 7 golds & 12 silver medals.

11th & 12th November saw Joel O'Halleron & Dani Gilbert representing their Universities at BUCS - British University Championships at Sheffield. Joel swam for Northumbria Uni and finished 3rd in the 200 breaststroke and 4th in the 100. Dani swam for Durham Uni and finished 2nd in the B final in the 50 breaststroke.

A week later and a number of swimmers from the club were part of a team representing Park View School in Chester-Le-Street who qualified for the English Schools Swimming Association National finals at the London Aquatic Centre. Morgan Swirles, Thomas Adamson, Lewis Maxwell, Joshua Savage & Thomas Maskell were part of Junior and Intermediate swimming teams from the school who competed in both Freestyle & Medley relays at the Olympic pool - not only improving on their entry times but making the finals and finishing as the top state school!

December started with the club's Christmas Cracker gala at Stanley which was held on the club's actual 30th birthday - a very successful meet with lots of visiting clubs and some great racing across all ages!

The rest of the December the club were on tour - starting off in Edinburgh with the Scottish National Short Course Championships. The club had swimmers qualify across all 3 days of competition. Those competing at their 1st Scottish nationals had a great championship. Lewis Maxwell, Annabel McCrory & Jenna Dougal all did themselves and their club proud improving their times in some great races and just missing out on senior finals. The Senior swimmers also had a great meet with Dan Morley, Oliver O'Halleron & Sophie Murray all making finals.

The same weekend the club was represented at the National Para-swimming championships in Manchester by Matthew Gibson who competed at his last event with the club before moving on to Masters. Matthew smashed his entry times swimming lifetime bests to go out on a high!

A few days later the club was back at Sheffield for the Swim England Winter Championships. 6 from the club qualified to compete at the qualifying event for Commonwealth Games selection. Aaron Beckford, Oliver & Joel O'Halleron, Rachael Wilson & Dani Gilbert all competed in a tough championship with both Joel & Rachael reaching finals. Coach Paul Woodley said afterwards.

"What a fantastic 2 weeks of racing. we have had some really impressive swims and results. A great first cycle of the 2017/18 season, now its time to enjoy Christmas!"

The club held their 30th Anniversary Celebration Party at Stanley Masonic Hall on 29th December - a chance to relax and recognise the swimmer's achievements from their Club Championships held in November as well as looking back over the last 12 months and awarding their top male & female swimmers of the year. Top female was awarded to 14-year-old Annabel McCrory - the 3rd McCrory sister to receive the award at the club. The top male was awarded to 16-year-old Daniel Morley.

2018 starts off with Derwentside working in partnership with other local clubs. They host their gala alongside Peterlee ASC on 6th & 7th January at the Louisa Centre followed by the Burns meet at Ponds Forge in Sheffield on 27th & 28th January in collaboration with Chester-le-Street ASC.

The club has other 30th celebrations planned for 2018 - a year they hope will continue to be as successful as the season has seen so far!