

SWIMMING

League victory gives Otters national place

ROGER Guttridge

roger.guttridge@btopenworld.com

FERNDOWN Otters are heading for another national semi-final after dramatically regaining their Southern Junior League title in Bristol's Horfield pool.

They led the final almost from the start to end up 19 points ahead of Swindon's combined SX3 squad and 38 clear of defending champions Bournemouth Dolphins, who were third.

It was Ferndown's ninth title in a 21-year spell during which they have come second eight times.

It also extended Dorset's recent domination of the league, which was won by Tornadoes of South Dorset in 2005, Otters themselves in 2006 and Dolphins in the last two years.

Ferndown will now represent the league in the national semi-final in October.

Junior team coach Emma Hirst said: "This was a fantastic achievement after coming second to Bournemouth in the last two years.

"The atmosphere was electric and all our swimmers raised their performances against tough opposition."

Dolphins' assistant coach Sam Woodward said: "We were disappointed not to win and it came as a shock after our success at the regional age groups.

"But we were beaten by two better teams on the day and we know what we have to work on to win it next year, which I will make a personal goal."

Alan Wong led the scoring for



PARADISE REGAINED: Coach Emma Hirst (back left) with the Ferndown Otters team who won their first Southern Junior League title since 2006

Ferndown, winning the 50m backstroke and butterfly in his own 11yrs age group before stepping up to win the 12yrs backstroke.

Other individual winners were 12-year-olds Todd Price and Lucy Kirkham in the boys' and girls' 12yrs 50m freestyle, Harriet Higgins in the 11yrs 50m breaststroke, Alex Price in the 10yrs 50m butterfly and Lucy Brain in the 9yrs 25m butterfly.

In the relays Ferndown won all four 12yrs event, the boys' 9yrs freestyle and a thrilling cannon, which brought supporters to their feet as Todd Price snatched victory in the closing metres.

Bournemouth's 10 and 11-year-old boys provided most of their wins at Bristol including their four relay victories.

Individual winners included

10-year-olds Tom Kingham in the 50m butterfly and freestyle and Bradley Currie in the 50m backstroke and 11-year-olds Jamie Holmes in the breaststroke and Ryan McCormack in the freestyle.

Rachel Hawkins won the 12yrs butterfly and there were good second places from 11-year-old newcomer Kiana Hooshand in the breaststroke (43.61) and Beth Folland in the 11yrs 50m butterfly.

■ National qualifiers Peter Griffiths and Izzy Frampton, both 12, provided three of their club's 16 wins as Christchurch and New Milton Seagulls claimed second place in the second-tier final at Swindon.

Griffiths won the 12yrs 50m butterfly in a club record time of 33.27 and the backstroke in 34.67,

while Frampton won the girls' butterfly in 34.19.

The 9yrs age group saw wins from Jasmin Oliver House and Jake Carr in the 25m freestyle (18.75 and 18.47), Polly Allen in the backstroke (21.74) and Guy Ripper in the butterfly (23.83).

Other winners were 50m freestylers Joe Quigley (12/u 32.01), Ben Wickens (11/u 34.04) and Joe Frampton (10yrs 36.99).

Relay wins came in the girls' 10yrs medley, boys 9yrs and 12/u freestyle and medley and the mixed cannon.

■ Two wins from 11-year-old Jacob Lambourne helped Poole to third place in their final at Bath.

He won the 11yrs 50m butterfly and freestyle in 37.47 and 34.31.

Ten-year-olds Kiran Olenicz and Alisha McKirdy won the boys' and girls' 10yrs 50m backstroke in 39.44 and 42.62, while in the same age group Hayley Goddard won the girls' 50m freestyle (37.94).

Relay wins came from the 10yrs freestyle team of Olenicz, Alex Bourne, Joseph Miles and Harrison Moore and the cannon team of Jessica Richens, McKirdy, Emily Clarke, Georgia Kemp, Harrison Kemp, Olenicz, Lambourne and Daniel Monk.

Results – at Horfield, Bristol: 1 Ferndown Otters 222, 2 Swindon SX3 213, 3 Bournemouth Dolphins 184, 4 Yeovil 161, 5 Southwold 134, 6 Weston-super-Mare 123.

At Swindon: Result: 1 Swindon SX3 B 239, 2 Seagulls 223, 3 Bristol North 175, 4 Weymouth 157, 5 Warminster 104, 6 Melksham 94.

At Bath: 1 Chard 216, 2 Bradford-on-Avon 214, 3 Poole 183, 4 Bristol Henleaze 144, 5 Newport 136, 6 Frome 130.

Tasty success for Marine chef Nic

ROYAL Marines chef Nic Vaughan cooked up a European record to mark his arrival in a new age group at the British Masters Championships in Cardiff.

Hamworthy-based Vaughan, who swims for both Ferndown Otters and Combined Services, clipped 0.1sec off German Kai Ditzel's European record with a winning long-course time of 1:00.52 in the 45-49yrs 100m butterfly.

He also set a British record in the 50m butterfly (27.03) and missed a second GB record by 0.08sec in the 50m freestyle (25.28).

Bronze in the 100m freestyle (55.85) and three relay medals

with the Combined Services team took his tally for the weekend to five golds, a silver and a bronze.

Poole's Jean Howard-Jones contributed to one world and one European record as a member of the Spencer team's relay squad.

She left Cardiff with seven golds after winning the 65-69yrs 50m, 100m and 200m freestyle and 50m butterfly and three relays.

Bournemouth Dolphins swimmer Margaret Rouse won gold in the 60-64yrs 400m and 800m freestyle (6:17.87 and 12:53.54), silver in the 1500m (24:29.33) and bronze in the 200m freestyle (3:03.87).

Poole's Rachel Vallins won relay gold and silver medals with the British Police team plus individual silver and bronze in the 25-29yrs 50m and 100m backstroke (34.21 and 1:14.97). She was sixth in the 50m freestyle (29.71).

Rachael Potter (Poole) slashed 23 seconds off her previous best to claim silver in the 25-29yrs 1500m freestyle (20:30.13).

She also took silver in the 800m freestyle (10:47.37) and bronze in the 400m free (5:09.27).

Cathy Hartle (Ferndown) won bronze in the 50-54yrs 1500m freestyle (22:20.73) and came fourth in the 800m freestyle (11:43.92) and sixth in the 400m freestyle (5:38.60).

ATHLETICS

Star trio steer Dorset to gold

NIGEL Harding

sport@bournemouthcho.co.uk

ANDREW Elkins, Alex Cox and Melissa Courtney were among the stars as Dorset scooped eight gold medals at the South West Schools' Championships.

Elkins threw a championship best 62.67m in Exeter to take the intermediate hammer title, with county B string Alistair Tuck adding bronze with 44.51m. Cox cleared 1.84m to bag high jump gold and was also third in the discus (40.34m).

Both Cox and Elkins will be bidding for further English Schools' gold next month, having won as juniors in 2007.

Courtney was a gutsy winner over South West cross-country champion Floren Scrafton. After making all the intermediate 1500m pace in a blustery wind, the Poole AC ace battled back when the race seemed lost. She stopped the clock at 4:33.3 to deny the Avon girl by just two tenths of a second.

Jack Partridge won the 1500m steeplechase in 4:32.0. Alex Lee added the intermediate 400m hurdles title in 56.4s and was second over the 100m hurdles in 13.8s. Simon Davies (56.7s, 14.0s) chased him home in both finals. Competing for Somerset, Bournemouth AC's James Lelliott was an impressive 7.07m long jump winner.

Among the junior boys there were wins for Jack Snook (pole vault, 2.90m) and Gavin Newbury (triple jump, 11.71m). Benedict Westhenry won the 1500m in 4:23.6, with Ben Mogg the second B string in 4:31.1.

Natalie Whisken missed junior gold by just three centimeters with her 34.13m javelin throw, while Adam Carpenter was second only on countback as he cleared 4.00m in the inter pole vault.

In the inter boys 3000m, Frank Bailey (9:09.5) edged silver from Adam Sloan by one tenth of a second. Charlotte Sykes was second (33.33m) and Amelia Willcock third in the inter girls hammer (30.70m), while Katie James pole vaulted 2.70m for pole vault silver and Megan Fry clocked 12.3s for second in the 80m hurdles.

William Evans (80m hurdles, 12.5s), Nicholas Hunt (discus, 37.55m), T Searight (javelin, 41.90m), Grace Howie (1500m, 4:45.2) and Megan Cornelius-Jones (discus, 29.39m) all achieved junior silver.

Among the senior girls, there was silver for 400m hurdler Maddy Vaughan-Johncey (66.2s) and Jemma Tewkesbury (39.31m javelin).

Other medal honours, silver: Megan Tuck (hammer 34.97m).

Bronze: Megan Tuck (discus 35.83m). Kathryn Lewer (800m, 2:26.1) and Becky Neal 2000m (steeplechase 6:18.6), Abigail Jones (3000m, 11:04.0), Almaz Gaere (high jump, 1.56m) and Abby Sandford (shot, 9.29m), Holly Butt (13.0s, 100m) and Lizzie Harris (800m, 2:22.3).