

## **Masters Intercounties Championships 2006**

The Annual Masters Inter-counties Championship took place over the weekend of 18th and 19th November. Twenty-seven counties took part in the competition this year. Due to the number of counties taking part, the counties compete at several pools throughout the country. The results from each venue are amalgamated to produce a consolidated result.

Cheshire swam at Harrogate along with Yorkshire, Cumbria and Northumberland & Durham. Unfortunately Lancashire which normally competes along side these counties at Harrogate didn't send a team this year.

The event consists of 50 metre sprints for ladies and gents on all four strokes: frontcrawl, back stroke, breast stroke and butterfly in six age groups - up to 24, 25+, 35+, 45+, 55+, 65+. This makes a total of 48 individual swims. In addition to the individual swims there are 20 relay swims.

Cheshire stalwarts Brenda and Tom Walker got Cheshire off to a good start recording 5<sup>th</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place respectively in the 50 m breaststroke. Further good breaststroke results followed with Jeff Rimmer and Frances Buggy both recording 3<sup>rd</sup> place and Russell Crabtree securing 5th place.

The individual events then moved on to butterfly. In the first butterfly race, the men's 65+, Cheshire recorded their first first place of the competition when Neil McKinnon smashed the British Record in 32.01 seconds beating the second place swimmer by more than one and half seconds. Further successful swims followed with Jill Jones taking 3<sup>rd</sup> place, Chris Malpass taking 4<sup>th</sup> and Brenda Walker, Jeff Rimmer and Russell Crabtree all securing 5th place.

The next individual event was the back stroke, again Brenda Walker set the standard clocking a 3<sup>rd</sup> place, quickly followed by Chris Malpass also taking 3<sup>rd</sup> place and John Foskett with a 5<sup>th</sup> place.

The final individual event was the 50 m free, Neil McKinnon again took first place, beating the next swimmer by more than a second, Jill Jones and Brenda Walker added to the tally with a 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> respectively.

Interspersed between the individual races for each stroke the relay races took places, Cheshire had some solid swims but couldn't quite get in the top 3 in any race. All the relays were well placed with one fifth, 3 sixth and 2 seventh place finishes.

In the final count, Cheshire finished 6<sup>th</sup> overall, which is the highest position ever attained. This level of result is achieved by good swims from the other swimmers in the squad who have not been mentioned individually as well as those mentioned. Cheshire took a squad of 26 swimmers in total. The swimmers came from Halton, Sandbach, Ellesmere Port, Hazel Grove, Macclesfield, Trafford and Chester clubs.

The complete results can be found on the ASA website. The overall county results were

1	Sussex	1554.5
2	Warwickshire	1553
3	Hampshire	1492
4	Yorkshire	1440
5	Devon	1383.5
6	Cheshire	1196.5
7	Surrey	1156
8	N & Durham	1139

9	Dorset	1082.5
10	Gloucestershire	1063.5
11	Kent	1050.5
12	Essex	958.5
13	Middlesex	957
14	Berks & South Bucks	955
15	Derbyshire	935
16	Norfolk	892.5
17	Wiltshire	864
18	Staffordshire	850
19	Hertfordshire	814
20	Suffolk	705.5
21	Somerset	631
22	Cambridgeshire	618
23	Bedfordshire	490
24	Worcester	479
25	Cumbria	432
26	Shropshire	338
27	Cornwall	255.5