

North District Open Water Swimming Team at the French Cup Final

The North District's open water swimming team have recently returned from competing in the final event of the French Cup series which took place over two days (21st & 22nd September) at Lac du Causse near Brive in Central France.

The team of seven swimmers plus two staff flew from Edinburgh to Beauvais near Paris followed by a long road trip to reach the site before having a short training session in the lake on the day before the competition started to familiarise themselves with the 1.25 km circuit.



All team members competed in the 5 km and 10 km events with four also combining in a 4 x 1500 m relay. The first event was the 5 km which was raced over 4 circuits of the course. All swimmers competed well with Emily Riach placing 6th overall in the field of 56 in the women's race and 2nd within the 20-24 age band. In the same race, Kelly McIntosh was 11th overall finishing first among masters (25+) swimmers.

In the equivalent men's race, Fraser Tetlow was involved in blanket finish for third place overall with four swimmers touching the finish banner within 0.6 of a second of each other. He just missed out finishing in 6th overall but with the consolation of 2nd place in the 18-19 year age band. Oscar Chirnside was able to swim with the leading pack for most of the race and finished in 8th position overall out of the same size field as the women's race of 56. The younger members of the team, Fergus Reid, Aiden Anderson and Austin MacPherson, competing in the 14-15 year age band, all finished in credible positions of 4th, 6th and 12th respectively within that group.

Later in the day, the team of Fraser, Oscar, Emily and Kelly competed in the mixed 4 x 1500 relay against 15 other teams. Starting with our two male swimmers, the team led from the start and were still in front close to the finish before being overtaken with only 25 metres to go by a fast finishing French team who pushed them into the silver medal position.



The second day saw the team members tackling the Olympic distance of 10 km involving 8 circuits of the course and planned feeding stops. Again, the team performed well with Aiden, Fraser and Kelly all finishing first within their age-bands; 14-15, 18-19 and 25+ respectively. Emily was second in her 20-24 year category which was also second overall giving the team their top overall position in an individual event.

This draws to a close the open water season for 2024 and the team members will concentrate on pool events before returning for the 2025 open water season.



North District team (L-R); Fraser Tetlow, Aiden Anderson, Fergus Reid, Oscar Chirnside, Austin MacPherson, Emily Riach and Kelly McIntosh