

European Junior Swimming Championships Report

Romania

July 5 - 10th 2022

Following the successful qualification for the event back in April, Swimming Academy athletes Andrew Bertoli (City of Leicester) and George Smith (Leamington Spa) represented Great Britain at the European Junior Swimming Championships taking place at the Otopeni Olympic Swimming Complex, Bucharest, Romania.

Day 1 Heats

First up, Andrew in his favoured 200 Butterfly event. Entering the event in 24th position, his heat swim saw a tactically well swum race with Andrew taking nearly a second off his entry time, finishing in 2:02.52. This time saw Andrew qualify as the fastest Briton for the semi-finals later that evening in 12th place.

Day 1 Finals

Following the strong heat swim earlier that day, Andrew took to the block in the first of the two semi-final swims. Although Andrew swam another sub entry time, he finished just outside the top 8 needed to move onto the final.

Day 2 Heats

This was George's turn to brush off the cobwebs in his first heat swim of this year's Championships, diving into the 200 I.M with an entry time of 2:04.24, George swam a heat swim shaving 1/10th of a second off his entry time finishing in 2:04.11, this time was enough to see George qualify for the semi-finals in 4th place later that day.

Day 2 finals

In the first of the two semi-finals for the 200 I.M, George entered the pool showing the field what he was made of, touching down the first length in first, George held his own on the Backstroke, coming through on the Breaststroke and finishing strong on the Freestyle saw George take another second off his personal best, finishing in a time of 2:02.93, gaining a place in the European Junior final.

Day 3 Heats

This saw George in his second event at the competition, the 200 Breaststroke. Entering the event on paper ranked 9th, his target was the final! Following the fantastic heat swim which saw George take over a second off his personal best in a time of 2:14.90, George advanced to the semi-finals later that day in pole position.

Day 3 Finals

The busy schedule for George meant this session he had to compete in the 200 I.M final and the 200 Breaststroke semi-final. First up the 200 I.M final, jumping into the pool with a strong Butterfly leg, George lost a little ground on the Backstroke, but gained a lot of time on the Breaststroke splitting the fastest leg in the pool, then being touched out at the finish in a time of 2:03.78 in 6th place. George had to remain composed as 39 minutes later was the 200 Breaststroke semi-final, but this is George and composure is his middle name, he swam another lifetime best reaching the final in a time of 2:14.86.

Day 4 Finals

George's last stop in the 200 Breaststroke was the final. Starting the race well, George let the field set the pace, turning at the halfway mark in 5th position George was perfectly positioned for his obligatory strong second half. He came back on the 2nd 100 in an astonishing 1:09.15, finishing the race in Bronze 3rd position in a time of 2:13.79, taking over two seconds off his original entry time.

Day 6 Heats

The last day of competition saw Andrew swim the 400 Freestyle. A strong 2nd 200 from Andrew saw an exciting finish to the heat, touching just outside his personal best as the third fastest Briton at the competition in a time of 4:03.40.

A fantastic championship from both athletes, and our congratulations to George Smith on his Bronze Medal in the 200 Breaststroke at the European Junior Swimming Championships.

The Ellesmere College Swimming Academy Coaching Team