

Midlands and Southwest Open Water Regional Championships
Cotswolds Water Park

Saturday 2nd July 2022

The water at Cotswold Water Park on Saturday was calm but the competition was fierce as three regions come together to race at the Open Water Regional Championships. Ellesmere Swimming Academy had four determined swimmers entered, all with one goal, to qualify for Nationals.

The events entered were the 3k and 5k – with each lap of the course being a 1k distance.

Emily Wynne entered the 3k event competing in the 14 years age group. She had a good start and kept up with a strong pace which resulted her swimming in the leading packs. Emily ended the race in a time of 43.14 minutes coming 3rd in the East Midland region. With this excellent swim she qualified for Nationals.

Finlay Stephenson had a fantastic 3k swim, he held his own during the race. Completing the swim in 42.59 this resulted him coming 1st in the East Midland region for his 14 years age group. This time also meant qualification for the Nationals.

Millie Wells entered the 3k event and was competing in the 15 years age category. From the buzzer, Mille lead the race in what ended up being a very smart, tactical swim. With a final surge, Mille finished with a time of 40.16 to take the win for the West Midlands Region, again this meant automatic qualification for the Nationals.

Archie Neaves entered the 5k race in the 17/18 years age category, and as one of the youngest in this age bracket this was always going to be a tough day in the office. Starting the race well and using his extensive knowledge in the event, he sat in the front pack for most of the swim. 500m from home, Archie made his move finishing the race in a time of 1.03.34 and take home a thoroughly deserved 1st in the East Midlands region, again achieving National qualification.

A very well done to those who swum. Next stop for these Academy athletes... National Champs!