

## SWIMMING

# England titles for Scott and Hughes

**ROGER** Guttridge

roger.guttridge@bopenworld.com

**FERNDOWN** Otters-coached Nicole Scott and Fran Hughes have become England schools champions as Dorset swimmers achieved their best-ever set of results at the England Schools Swimming Association finals.

Two others from the area, Ferndown's Craig Freeman and Bournemouth Dolphins' Chris Campbell, came close to making it four wins for Dorset in Manchester.

In all, no less than nine Dorset swimmers made individual finals while a 10th, Ferndown's Cathy Close, missed out on the top eight by one place and half-a-second.

Wimborne's Queen Elizabeth's School alone provided three of the finalists.

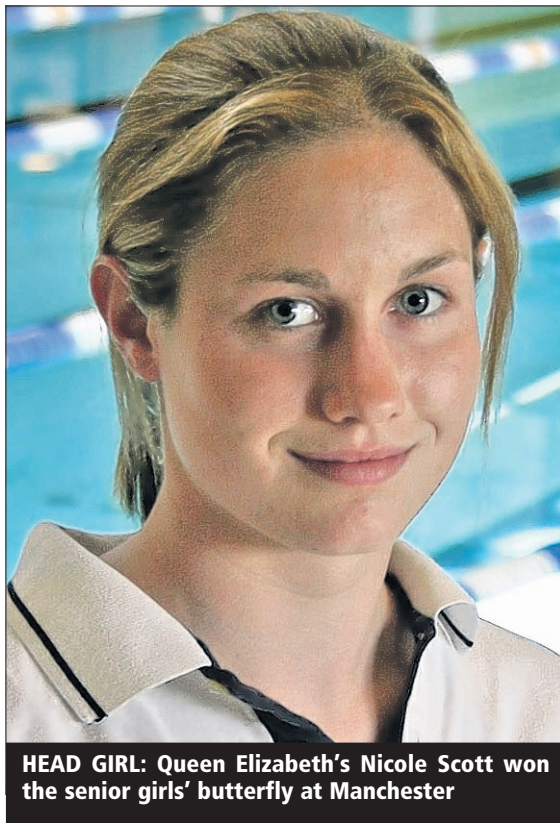
Scott and Hughes, two of the winners in Dorset's promotion-winning performance in the national inter-county competition at Sheffield a week earlier, were again in the form of their lives.

Scott, 16, silver medallist in the intermediate girls' 100m butterfly last year, went one better as she stepped up to the senior competition.

The QE sixth-former lopped almost a second off her personal best as she recorded a sparkling short course time of 1:03.33 – her first time under 64 seconds.

Runner-up Jade Barclay from Millfield clocked 1:04.25.

Scott, who will now be invited for the second year running to represent England schools in next year's international against the other home nations, said: "I'm really pleased as this is my first national title and I won it with a very good time. I've been training hard and obviously doing something right."



**HEAD GIRL:** Queen Elizabeth's Nicole Scott won the senior girls' butterfly at Manchester

Scott and fellow Otter Emily Freeman also made up 50 per cent of the Division 12 regional team that came third in the senior girls' medley and freestyle relays.

Fran Hughes, 13, finished 1.4 seconds ahead of nearest rival Lucy Spence from Sheffield to win the junior girls' 100m breaststroke in an impressive time of 1:14.87, an improvement of 0.22sec on her heat swim.

Craig Freeman missed a gold medal by 0.08sec as he took silver in the junior boys' 100m freestyle in 56.41.

It took a competition record to prevent Chris Campbell from securing yet another

national title in Manchester.

Fourth places went to Ferndown's Lydia McManus in the intermediate girls' 100m butterfly in 1:05.92 and Rebecca Cottrell, from Dorchester, in the same age group's 100m breaststroke (1:14.71).

Emily Freeman was sixth in the senior 100m freestyle (59.39), fellow Otter Zoe Watson eighth in the junior 100m freestyle (1:02.99) and Bournemouth Dolphins' Martin Littlefair eighth in the junior boys' 100m breaststroke (1:18.81, heat 1:18.00).

Cathy Close came ninth in the intermediate girls' 100m backstroke (1:09.07).



**TOP OF THE CLASS:** Parkstone Grammar School's Fran Hughes won the junior 100m breaststroke

## THE OLD ONE-TWO!

NINE-year-olds Peter Griffiths and Peter Lawson provided a one-two for Christchurch and New Milton Seagulls at the Rushmoor Royals Open Meet in the 50m army pool at Aldershot.

Griffiths finished 19 seconds ahead for his gold in the 9yrs 400m individual medley (7:04.02) with Lawson taking the silver in 7:23.87.

Griffiths also claimed two bronze medals, placing third in the 200m freestyle in 2:47.83 and 200m medley (3:20.96).

His freestyle time also qualified him for his first South Western age group championships.

## Willy's world record tally for year reaches 22

**BOURNEMOUTH'S** sprightliest 90-year-old, Willy van Rysel, delivered six of the best at the ASA national masters championships in Sheffield to bring her world record tally for the year to 22.

Britain's oldest female competitor said she felt "on top of the world" after setting six world records for the 90-94 years age group.

She now holds 17 of the 18 available world records for the freestyle and backstroke events which make up her programme – nine in the 25m pool and eight long-course.

Swimming every event on her favourite backstroke, van Rysel opened her account by slashing

almost three minutes off the previous short course record in the 1,500m freestyle, held by Maxine Merlino of the USA.

Her time of 41min 20.62sec would tax many people half her age especially if they were swimming backstroke.

Next day she broke three of her own world records – in the 50m freestyle (1:05.20), 400m freestyle (10:29.76) and 200m backstroke (5:02.82). The 400m time was a 10-second improvement.

In her last two events on day three of the championships, van Rysel reduced her 800m freestyle world record by 22 seconds to 21:16.76 and her 50m backstroke record to 1:05.70.

"It was a marvellous weekend. I felt terrific in my swimming," she said. "Every time I went on the rostrum, people applauded. It was overwhelming and I shall never forget it."

Hamworthy-based Royal Marine chef Nic Vaughan, swimming for the Royal Navy, won the 40-44yrs 50m and 100m butterfly in 27.42 and 1:02.75.

He was also fifth in the 50m and 100m freestyle in 25.64 and 57.06.

Poole's Keith Tyler won three silver medals in the 25-29 age group and broke two of his own Dorset senior records that he had set as a junior 16 years ago.

His county records came in the

50m and 100m backstroke (27.55 and 59.40). He was also second in the 100m individual medley (1:01.49).

Jean Howard-Jones won a medal of each colour, taking gold in the 60-64yrs 100m medley (1:37.49), silver in the 100m freestyle (1:18.79) and bronze in the 50m freestyle (34.55).

Howard-Jones, swimming for the Spencer Swim Team, also contributed to a world record with their women's 240yrs medley relay team.

Seagulls' Charlotte Roberts and coach Barry Alldrick won a bronze medal each – Roberts in the 19-24yrs 1500m freestyle (2:42.43), Alldrick in the 25-29yrs 200m butterfly (2:29.51).

## RUGBY

## Draw delights Lions' coach

**JAMES** Morton

james.morton@bournemouthcho.co.uk

**BOURNEMOUTH** coach David Dunn admits he is delighted with his side's draw in round two of the EDF Energy Intermediate Cup.

Lions will host their South West Two East rivals Henley Wanderers at Chapel Gate on Saturday, November 18.

The two clubs met in the second league game of the season in Berkshire with Bournemouth running out comfortable 22-5 winners.

And with some of the South West One giants entering the competition for the first time, Dunn is pleased to have avoided them.

He said: "We're very pleased with the draw.

"It could have been a lot worse as teams such as Cleve and Mounts Bay have come in and made it stiffer.

"We have played a number of away games already this season so to be drawn at home is good."

Henley struggled to overcome Taunton 23-21 in their first round clash on Saturday, while Lions brushed aside Brixham 38-13.

Dunn added: "The draw keeps our hopes very much alive and we don't want any dead Saturdays.

"We've got the strength in depth to mix and match so it's not a problem for us."

In the Senior Vase, Wimborne's reward for their fine 22-10 victory over Newbury Stags is a home tie with Bristol Harlequins, currently fourth in Western Counties North.

North Dorset earn a welcome home clash with another Western Counties North outfit, Thornbury, after their trip to Broadmoor Staff in the previous round.

### Cup draws – EDF Energy Intermediate Cup, South West, Second Round:

Bournemouth v Henley, Bracknell v Salisbury, High Wycombe v Maidenhead, Mounts Bay v St Marys Old Boys, Newton Abbot v Cleve, Reading Abbey v Frome, Weston-Super-Mare v Camborne.

**EDF Energy Senior Vase, South West, Third Round:** (selected ties) North Dorset v Thornbury, Wimborne v Bristol Harlequins.

## BOWLS

## Sekjer secures final end win

**MARTYN** Sekjer, whose self-imposed exile from the sport ended only recently, showed he had lost none of his expertise by securing a dramatic Liberty Trophy victory for Hampshire against Berkshire.

The East Dorset bowler, who turned his back on the game for 18 months, scored two shots on the final end of the match against fellow international Robert Newman at Reading to send Hampshire through 124-122.

On the penultimate end Richard Shelley had kept a cool head to land a three which levelled the scores. Victory skip Shelley (32-9) was one of Hampshire's two winning rinks, the other being East Dorset's Adam Tidby (29-15).

Hampshire, now face Essex on November 19 at Victory.