

## Rugby Artistic Swimming create a splash at the National Age Group Championships!

At this two-day national event in April, Rugby's young artistic swimmers achieved further medal success and performed well, competing at the highest level against national GB swimmers!

This competition pulled in twenty-two clubs across the UK over two days, with five events in each of two age groups at Gloucester GL1 swimming pool.

Day 1 kicked off with the individual figures across both age groups. A very fired up Keva Ennis won a silver medal in the Under 10 category and in the 13-15 section there were also some strong individual performances.

On this first day, all the competitors and supporters were treated to a live showcase from the GB Tech Duet, Tech Solo and Tech Team. It was an exciting and inspiring opportunity for our young athletes from the Rugby area to watch swimmers of the highest standard, and then to meet and obtain signatures from Kate Shortman and Izzy Thorpe, our Team GB Olympians.

In the 13-15 age group Tilly John and India Townsend, against extremely tough competition were placed eighth with a great combined score. Kitty Tyers and Lola Hewitt took home bronze in the twelve and under duets after a great technical performance finishing Day 1 on a high for the club.

Day 2 kicked off with Mixed Duets; Keva Ennis and Aaron Lee of Rugby winning silver with a solid performance. Lola Hewitt delivered a beautiful solo in Under 12's with the second highest score for her routine and came sixth overall. Rugby were very visible on poolside and their support for their teammates was palpable as they watched every second of their teammate's performances.

The final events of the day were the Free Team routines. In the 13-15 age group Rugby swam a superb routine, missing a medal by only 0.7 points! The twelve and under team did exceptionally well securing a bronze medal for a smooth and confident swim.

At the end of the weekend Rugby were congratulated for their behaviour towards others, their fun poolside support, and their interactions with each other, by organisers and even the press!

Head Coach Hannah Secher enthused '...a really great competition for all involved, with the first National Qualification for 5 of our swimmers. A close and exciting competition, with Rugby showing that they continue to be competitive across the age groups on a national level.

Anyone feeling inspired to try artistic swimming in Rugby can contact Head Coach Hannah Secher at rugbysynchro.headcoach@gmail.com.