

NEWS FROM BEIJING



As you know, our support for the Loughborough University Swimming Team is intended to put them in the best possible position to win medals at the 2012 Olympic Games in London. However, we are delighted with the silver medal won by David Davies in the 10km Open Water Swim and the outstanding efforts from the entire team, resulting in many British Records being broken in Beijing. Below are some of the highlights from the events over the past week.



Liam Tancock (left) set a new British Record of 53.39 when finishing 6th in the 100m backstroke final.

Tancock, the world record holder for 50m backstroke, utilised his incredible natural speed over the first half of the race, turning first in 25.11 and touching half a second ahead of his nearest rivals. However, he was unable to sustain this lead as the rest of the field closed him down over the closing stages. He touched the wall in a new British record but finished a frustrating 0.2 seconds from a podium placing.

Tancock said "I gave it my all but couldn't hold on at the end. I'm pleased to record a lifetime best, but disappointed not to win a medal"

Caitlin McClatchey (right) raced to a new University record of 1:56.97 in the heats of the 200m freestyle and went on to capitalise on this with a 3rd place finish in the semi final. The end result was 6th place for Caitlin in the final.



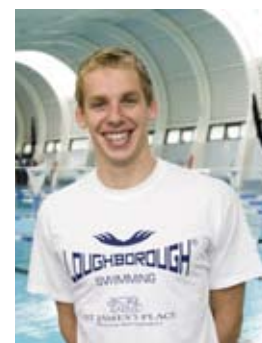
Ross Davenport (below) combined with Simon Burnett, Ben Hockin and Adam Brown to form an outstanding 4 x 100m freestyle relay. The team, rank outsiders, put in a blistering heat to set a new British Record of 3:13.69 (Burnett 48.20, Brown 48.43, Hockin 48.55, Davenport 48.51) and qualified for the final.



In the final they raised their game even more to set another British Record of 3:12.87 (Burnett 48.34, Brown 47.75, Hockin 48.50, Davenport 48.28) a time which would have taken Gold in Athens 2004.

Ross also combined with fellow Loughborough swimmer David Carry, Robbie Renwick (Aberdeen) and Andy Hunter (Stirling) to create a formidable quartet in the Men's 4 x 200m freestyle relay.

David Carry (right) led off the heats with a British Record of 1:46.47, whilst Andy Hunter (1:46.88), Ross Davenport (1:47.15) and Robbie Renwick (1:47.39) maintained the good work to qualify as 4th fastest for the final in a new British Team team record of 7:07.89.



A delighted Carry said "What a British record! I knew the teams was swimming well but that was impressive."

In the final Carry faced the mighty Michael Phelps (USA) on the lead off leg and put in a strong 1:46.78. With the Americans well clear of the field, it became a race for silver and bronze. Hunter improved on his heat time with 1:46.73 whilst Renwick put in a blistering swim of 1:46.16. Davenport anchored the team with an impressive 1:46.25. Their time of 7:05.92 took another 2 seconds off the British Team record and placed them 6th.



Lizzie Simmonds (left) set a new British Record of 2:08.66 to qualify for the semi finals of the Women's 200m backstroke. Lizzie qualified for the final and secured a 6th place finish and set a new British Record of 2:08.51.

A delighted Lizzie said "My plan was to get out fast and have a good race. It hurt a lot on the back end but that was to be expected. I can't be more delighted, I made the Olympic final, set a new British record and I'm one of the youngest in the final. The future is looking bright"

Lizzie also swam to a lifetime best and new University Record of 1:00.53 in the heats of the 100m backstroke; she went on to better this with a 1:00.39 in the semi final to finish 10th overall.

James Goddard and **Liam Tancock** placed 6th & 8th in the final of the 200m individual medley. Goddard said "It was a hard race. I can't be too disappointed as it was the fastest race in history and I was pleased to make the Olympic final. Not many people will be able to tell their children they have been in an Olympic final where Phelps made history."

Kate Haywood (right) was part of the Medley relay which set a new British and European Record to qualify as second fastest for the final. Kate, a breaststroke specialist, combined with Gemma Spofforth, Jemma Lowe and Fran Halsall to set new figures of 3:59.14. In the final, the team ended up with 4th place, a fantastic race and so close to walking away with a medal.



Liam Tancock led off the men's medley team which set a new British Record and qualified as 5th fastest for the final. In the final itself the guys finished in a credible 6th place, a great effort.

Loughborough's distance freestyle specialist, **David Davies (left)**, just missed out on recording a personal best time by 0.16 in the heats of the men's 1500m freestyle. Davies qualified for what was the fastest final in the history of the event, finishing in 6th place.



Underterred, he was back in the water for what was only his 3rd ever 10km open water swim, putting in a great performance to clinch the silver medal in a time of 1 hr 59 mins 53.4 secs, missing out on gold by just 1.5 seconds! Davies gave it everything and needed treatment after the race saying "I was delirious, but the stretcher at the end was a bit mad. I just wanted to lie down and have a sleep." To watch the closing stages of the race and the BBC interview with David, please [click here](#).

All in all, the entire Loughborough team had a great games and have set numerous records during their time in Beijing. Motivated by their success and that of team GB colleague and double gold medalist Rebecca Adlington, all the focus will be turning to 2012. The dreams of what can be achieved are already beginning and all at St. James's Place congratulate the team on their accomplishments in Beijing.

