Age Groups Report, Senior squad,

The Senior squad only had two individual competitors in the recent age group championships, but both performed incredibly! Every swim was a PB and Coutney Wallace made big jumps forward in all the events she participated in, moving well up the rankings for all her events, just reward for her new found enthusiasm for the sport and the hard work that has gone with it. The other individual competitor was Robbie Dougan who wowed everyone with his performances, annihilating all his PB's and qualifying for Irish age groups Division 1 in every event he swam, a huge achievement given he didn't have any times last year. The big swim of the weekend for him was the 200 BRS where he finished an incredibly close 2nd having taken off an almost unprecedented 30 seconds in the space of a year, Robbie also won a bronze medal in the 200 Butterfly having not even been in the fastest heat moving up 5 places from his entry time with an 11 second PB. Robbie has worked hard all year, showing incredible dedication, commitment and enthusiasm to learn and earnt all the success he has enjoyed. A lot of respect also has to go to the 13 and under relay teams who all performed incredibly to get a 4th in the Medley and 5th in the Free relays all Jonathan, Daniel, Matthew and Robbie all swam out of their skins to earn the results especially in a relay where they were disadvantaged heavily by age, giving away almost 4 years to the opposition, a year each on average, massive result against the odds, and as we found out at Christmas, when age is on their side they are one of the best relays in the province!

All in all an incredible weekend, not just for the Senior squad, but the Age Group squad were incredible as well, putting Templemore heavily on the map in Ulster swimming, huge thanks to all the swimmers and especially the volunteers who gave their precious time to help the gala run smoothly, just don't leave a microphone around when Peter Fergusons about! Did a great job as announcer in a role he'd little experience of and took to it like a duck (or his son Conor) to water!

Mark Craig