Taking place over 3 weekends across January and February, six Okehampton Otters swimmers recently competed at the Devon County Championships held at Plymouth Life Centre. Swimmers must achieve ‘faster than times’ in the previous year to enter, making it a fast meet with opportunity for some of our most experienced swimmers to prove themselves at a County level. Otters’ swimmers achieved 43 qualifying in 2023, the highest number we have had since the club restarted after Covid.

Supported by Head Coach, Matthew Henry, and a valued group of volunteer Team Managers, Otters’ swimmers competed in a total of 28 events at 50m, 100m, 200m and 400m distances. They competed in all 4 strokes as well as Individual Medleys, reflecting the breadth of talent the club has to offer.

Arabella Boxall-Leggett, Abi Graves, Annie Marrison, Franscisco Martins, Fin Molyneux, and Ben Webster, achieved 24 Personal Bests between them, shaving a huge total of 1:39.15 off their combined times. After impressive swims in the heats, Otters qualified for 12 ‘finals’ places. Ben, Francisco, and Fin all went on to win medals: Fin took Gold in the 50m and 100m breast, Francisco won Silver in his first ever County meet in the 100m breast, and there was a Bronze for Ben in the 100m back. Sadly, Ben had to miss the final weekend of the competition as he was unwell but both he, Fin, and Annie Marrison achieved Regional Times which secure them a spot in the South West Regional Championships later in the year.

Coach Matt said “*After 3 long weekends at the Devon County Championships this year, it has been great to see such amazing progress from the Otters’ swimmers. Managing to make many finals and winning 4 medals out did my expectations for this year. Looking forward to getting back into the training to prepare for the next one*”.

Second club swimmers Jessica Brazier and Alex Daw also swam at the Counties, with Alex taking Gold in the 200m breast and Silver in the 100m breast.

Up the coast, Exeter and Okehampton Masters swimmer Kerry Friend competed at the Marlins Master Swim meet on the Isle of Wight. Swimming in a new age category for the first time, Kerry had a brilliant weekend, achieving 3 PBs in 50m free, 800m free, and 100 IM. She came home with a very impressive four bronze medals and two golds.

A big well done to all our swimmers and thank you to all those who supported.