

## JUNIOR WORLD RECORD FOR LEO AND ST IVES BAY SC!

November 2017

St Ives Bay swimmer St Ives Bay swimmer Leo Pellow (15) entered the North Cornwall Dragons Open Meet at Bodmin hoping to achieve qualifying times to secure selection for the Down Syndrome GB Team which will be travelling to the Down Syndrome World Championships in Nova Scotia, Canada in July 2018. His main aim was to take advantage of the rare opportunity for boys to compete in an 800 Freestyle event, gain a qualifying time and hopefully set a Junior (Under 17 on the day) World Record along the way.

The 'A' class qualifying time set for the Worlds is 15:28.68 however, fresh from winning the European Championships in Paris recently, Team GB Selectors were looking for faster times than those specified for entering the Championships and Leo needed to go below 14:30.00. Maintaining a near constant pace throughout, he touched the wall in a fantastic 13:20.65!

With all the paperwork signed off, his time will now be sent to the GB Team Managers and then the Down Syndrome International Swimming Organisation for ratification. Hopefully, within a couple of weeks Leo will receive a certificate to make him the official Junior Short Course World Record Holder. He is now looking for a long course competition offering boys an opportunity to swim the 800 Free so he can challenge for that record as well (currently 23.08.40 and held by an American swimmer).

Leo would like to thank the swimmers in his heat for making it a great race and helping him set the new record, also the other swimmers in the competition from all clubs who are always so friendly towards him.

He and his family would also like to thank the event organisers, officials and the referee who were so supportive of his record attempt and ensured that 3 standby manual timers were covering his time just in case there was an issue with the electronic timing.

Thanks also to his great coaches past and present who have all helped him get this far on what is hopefully the start of an even bigger journey.