

EU Swim Newsletter



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This edition of the EU Swim Newsletter presents some of the highlights of the 3rd EU Swimming Invitational, which was held in Slupsk Poland on the 18th – 19th of October.

This year's competition brought together nearly 360 swimmers from 9 countries: Belgium, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Israel, the Netherlands, Poland, the Republic of Moldova, the United Kingdom and the United States.

A wide variety of ages and levels were represented at the competition, including former European champion Beata Kaminska, who turned in two excellent performances in the 100 and 200 meter breaststroke.

The opening ceremony reflected the energy and enthusiasm of the weekend, with a parade of countries, the playing of the Polish and European anthems, and capped by a speech from the mayor of Slupsk.

The two days of competition saw many record-breaking performances, personal bests, and regional or national qualifications.

Many thanks go to host club Skalar Slupsk, the Pomeranian Swimming Federation, the Representation for the European Commission in Poland, the Slupsk Sports and Recreation Centre, and the city of Slupsk for a tremendously successful organization!

The location of the 2009 edition has yet to be determined. Wherever it will be, I hope to see you all there!

*Julia Galan
Coordinator, EU Swimming Invitational*

3rd EU Swimming Invitational: Competition Highlights

The most unique aspect of the EU Swimming Invitational is that it takes place in a different city or country each year. This allows swimmers, coaches, and parents to travel to a new land, experience a different culture and see different sights each year. Swimmers of all ages and levels have the opportunity to participate in an international competition, and meet fellow athletes from around the world in a familiar setting.

Each year, the host club and city adds something new to the competition, something unique. Each year the participants, whether newcomers or old-timers, bring their enthusiasm, energy and spirit of friendship and festivity to the competition.

This year's competition in Slupsk was no exception. From the opening ceremony to the Sunday night disco in town, the international spirit of openness and understanding prevailed. The swimming atmosphere was equally superb, leading to many personal achievements from all of the clubs. Here are some of the teams' reports that were sent to me:

Tynemouth Swimming Club (Great Britain)

Hailing from Great Britain, each of the Tynemouth swimmers representing their club and their country achieved personal bests.

Greg Stephenson (16) broke a club record in the 50 free with a time of 26.41

Many regional qualification times were also achieved by the Tynemouth swimmers.

Utrecht Swimming (Netherlands)

The Dutch swimming team placed third overall in the club rankings for the competition.

Malissa Van der Horst broke two meet records for the women's 15-16 year category in the 100 back (1:06.57) and the 200 back (2:25.48).

Ilse Van Hoorn broke the meet record for the women's 17+ category in the 200 freestyle (2:14.93).

Utrecht's women's relay team broke the 4x50 meter freestyle relay record with a time of 1:53.98

Club Laguna (Hungary)

The swimmers from Hungary turned in some excellent performances.

Karina Szolnoki dominated the women's 10 and under age group, breaking two meet records in the 50 breaststroke (42.29) and the 100 IM (1:20.79).

Flora Lavotha broke the women's 13-14 meet record in the 100 butterfly with a time of 1:07.11

Ozskar Lavotha broke the men's 11-12 meet record in the 200 freestyle with a time of 2:18.55. «

Focus: Jarek Madej, Skalar Slupsk

The 3rd edition of the EU Swimming Invitational brought over 360 swimmers from 9 countries to the Sports and Recreation Centre in Slupsk, Poland on the 18th-19th of October. The success of the competition was unquestionable. The tireless efforts of the organizing team, Skalar Slupsk, the city of Slupsk and the Pomeranian and Polish Swimming Federations – who had worked in direct partnership with me since last year – combined to make this an event of ambience, festivity, and fierce competition.

Leading the organizational team was the president of Skalar Slupsk, Mr. Jarek Madej. Mr. Madej has been the direct contact between the EU Swimming Invitational and Slupsk. His passion for swimming, for Poland, and for Europe was visibly present in his meticulously well-planned coordination of the events of the weekend. From sponsors to programs, Mr. Madej ensured that all of the elements were in place for a great weekend.



Many thanks to Mr. Jarek Madej for a superb organization! «

The First Peak of the Season

Pol Feyaerts
Secretary, Coach
Aarschotse Zwemclub Schoonhoven, Aarschot (Belgium)



A new swimming season has begun and the competitions have been succeeding each other at a fast pace. Amongst others were scheduled the Ascot Swimming Cup, the EU Swimming Invitational in Poland and the long-distance Provincial Championships. Judging by their performances, AZS's swimmers had not been idle during summer break. They started their season with some rock-solid, super-fast swimming.

On October 11-12, AZS organized the final swimming meeting of the Superprestige Flanders, called the Ascot Swimming Cup. Although the competition was held early in the season, 10 provincial records were broken. Louis Croenen also broke two Belgian Youth records. As for AZS, Mirthe Goris broke two provincial records, clearly demonstrating that her transfer to the School for Elite Athletes was going well. Several swimmers also won some handsome pocket money as they had totaled high scores for having competed in the 400m free style, 100m freestyle, 100m breaststroke and 100m IM.

After the competition, the overall scores were calculated for the Superprestige Cup, a 5-meeting competition yielding 7000 euros in prize money.

The AZS swimmers were very present in the overall ranking: Joni Ceusters finished second, only a few points from the number one spot. Philippe Claes finaled in the top 10 with some strong swimming at the last meeting. He won the 50m freestyle and set a new AZS record. Daan Pex was ranked 5th overall, winning 200 euros. The AZS girls were equally visible in the rankings. Mirthe Goris (2nd) and Rebecca (5th) also gained their share of the prize money.

On October 17, an AZS delegation composed of 10 swimmers flew to Poland for the EU Swimming Invitational. Despite strong competition, our swimmers excelled throughout the event. Every AZS swimmer succeeded in qualifying for the afternoon's finals, yielding 4 gold, 9 silver and 4 bronze medals. Considering the level of competition they were facing, the AZS trainer was more than satisfied with these results.

On November 1-2, the long-distance Provincial Championships took place. Four swimmers gave it their best shot in the 800m free style, thirty-two lengths at maximum heart rate!

Although not his best event, Joni Ceusters added another provincial title in this 800m freestyle and out-touched his fellow competitors with a time of 10:27.37, half a minute ahead of the runner-up.

Sander Wouters also performed well in this distance, with a time of 9:50.34, finishing 7th overall. The die-hard long-distance swimmers Sven Dewilde and Thomas Verachttert aimed for the podium, preferably the number one spot. Sven Dewilde just missed the podium three seconds behind the number 1 spot. Thomas Verachttert also won a silver medal with a time well under 9 minutes.

With such a successful start to the season, AZS's next target will be the Provincial Championships at the beginning of January. «

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