

CAMBRIDGE, MA – Worcester Area Masters (WAM) competed at the 2013 New England LMSC SCY Championships March 22-24. The meet, held at Harvard University, played host to 850 Masters swimmers, 24 of whom competed for WAM. The WAM Rams almost completely rewrote the team record books en route to a third place finish in the Medium Workout Group category with 1731.5 points.

Ben Hammond was the team's top scorer with 128 points, good for 29th overall. Hammond was victorious in the 50- and 100-yard breaststroke, in addition to finishing second in the 200-yard breaststroke and third in the 50-yard backstroke and 200-yard freestyle.

Chelsea Bueter scored 114 points for WAM, ranking 36th among the women at the meet. She placed first in the 25-29 year old 400-yard individual medley and 200-yard breaststroke, winning both in dominant fashion. Bueter also picked up second in the 200-yard butterfly and 200-yard individual medley and third in the 200-yard backstroke.

Plutarco Castellanos, swimming in his first short course yards meet ever, made the podium in three events by taking first in the 100-yard butterfly, second in the 50-yard butterfly, and third in the 200-yard individual medley. Claudia Castellanos had the top time in the 100-yard butterfly, 100-yard freestyle, and 100- and 200-yard individual medleys, and she finished second in the 50-yard butterfly.

Coach Alana Aubin swept the 18-24 age group butterfly events, winning the 50-, 100-, and 200-yard races. She also touched first in the 100-yard freestyle and second in the 200-yard freestyle. Fellow coach Alford Green swam similar events and placed fourth in the 200-yard butterfly, fifth in the 50-yard butterfly, and seventh in the 100-yard butterfly and freestyle.

WAM President Dave Oates showed his prowess in the sprints by hitting the wall first in the 100-yard butterfly and 200-yard freestyle, as well as second in the 100-yard freestyle and 100-yard individual medley. Gail Holland had a strong 112 point showing with second place finishes in the 200-yard backstroke and 200-yard individual medley, third 100-yard backstroke and 400-yard individual medley, and fourth in the 200-yard butterfly.

CJ Dickson swam well in the backstrokes, winning the 200-yard backstroke and taking second in the 100-backstroke. Dickson contributed third place in the 200-yard individual medley and sixth in the longest race, the 1650-yard freestyle. Mary Pasquale demonstrated versatility by placing fourth in the 1650-yard freestyle and 100-yard butterfly and fifth in the 100-yard individual medley.

Ted McGahie raced to fifth place in the 100-yard backstroke, 200-yard individual medley, sixth in the 100-yard individual medley, and seventh in the 200-yard backstroke. McGahie made the meet a family affair by bringing his son and daughter as well. Brian McGahie scored 56 points to his father's 56.5 by grabbing sixth in 100-yard backstroke, seventh in the 200-yard backstroke and breaststroke, and eighth in the 500-yard freestyle. Kaitlin McGahie made her debut in Masters swimming a strong one, turning in fourth place showings in the 50-yard butterfly, 100-yard freestyle, 50-yard breaststroke, 200-yard breaststroke, and 200-yard individual medley.

Kerrie Noone had several strong performances with a third place finish in the 400-yard individual medley, fifth in the 100- and 200-yard backstrokes, and sixth in the 200-yard individual medley. Brian Brochu joined in the fun with sixth place in the 100-yard backstroke, seventh in the 50-yard butterfly, and ninth in the 100-yard butterfly.

Spencer Coffin, fresh off the conclusion of his college swimming career at WPI, swam to third place finishes in the 200-yard butterfly and 200-yard freestyle and fourth place in the 200-yard individual medley. Ryan Mahoney made his post-collegiate return to swimming with a fifth place showing in the 100-yard breaststroke, sixth in the 50-yard breaststroke, and seventh in the 200-yard freestyle.

Alex Beeman took home fourth in 200-yard backstroke, fifth in 500-yard freestyle, and eighth 100-yard backstroke. Eva Skorupka grabbed silver in the 200-yard backstroke and sixth in the 100-yard individual medley.

Chris Reidy swam only one event, the 50-yard breaststroke, but garnered third place and fourteen points for his effort. Paul Arsenaault scored four points by taking thirteenth in the 100-yard backstroke. He also took an impressive 10 seconds off his previous best time in the 500-yard freestyle, placing twentieth. Paul O'Leary swam to fourteenth in the 50-yard breaststroke and twentieth in the ever popular 100-yard individual medley.

Craig Mitchell and Jon Gay participated in their first swim meet ever. Mitchell grabbed the twelfth spot in the 500-yard freestyle and 25th in the 50-yard freestyle, while Gay took thirteenth and 28th, respectively.

The WAMmies also put together several strong relays, highlighted by a dramatic victory in the 18+ 200-yard freestyle relay. The team of Aubin, K McGahie, Coffin, and Green came from behind to win thanks to an impressive anchor leg from Green. The 25+ 400-yard freestyle team of Bueter, C Castellanos, Mahoney, and P Castellanos secured gold as well.

The 45+ relay of T McGahie, Oates, Dickson, and Pasquale took silver in the 400-yard freestyle relay, and the 200-yard medley relay of Skorupka, K McGahie, Bueter, and Aubin placed second in the 18+ age group.

All four of WAM's 35+ relays placed third. The team of Holland, Noone, Brochu, and Hammond competed in the mixed 400-yard freestyle relay. Holland and Noone teamed up with C Castellanos and Pasquale to earn bronze in the women's 200-yard medley relay. The foursome of Brochu, Oates, T McGahie, and P Castellanos got the third spot in the men's 200-yard freestyle relay and men's 200 medley relay.

WAM's next confirmed meet is the 2013 New England LMSC LCM Championships, which will be held in June.