



Name: Matthew Ferguson  
 Date of Birth: 15/08/2001  
 Date Joined WSC: September 2005  
 Degree: Aerospace Engineering

### My Time at Woking Swimming Club:

At 4 years old, I started out in Associates 1, barely able to swim an entire length without putting my feet on the floor. My earliest memories of actually being in a real session are burying my head underwater and blowing bubbles... much to the annoyance of the coach. I then progressed through the ranks, finding myself in various strangely named squads such as seals, dolphins, barracudas and finally piranhas. I came into the top squad at 12 years old, at the point where the head coaches transitioned from John and Karen to Vince and Louise. I went to my first nationals the following year, swimming in the 100 back and 50 back. I remember being so nervous for my first race that I had to make a quick journey to a nearby bin to let's say get 'really focused.' I then became regular national swimmer, achieving success at county and regional level also. One of my favourite moments was winning a bronze medal at British Nationals in the 50m freestyle final in 2017, having had to compete in a swim-off to even get into the final.

When Mark became head coach, and having grown a bit more, my times started to drop further, resulting in two silver medals at English Nationals and becoming the 3<sup>rd</sup> fastest 18 year old in Britain. In all, the greatest aspect of the club was the people, I was always training alongside older swimmers such as Hannah Burvill, Anna Maine, Ed Lee, and Andrew Roy to name a few.

### My time at University:

I am currently studying Aerospace Engineering at Bath University and swimming for the TeamBath performance squad. The training here focuses more on sprint work which great for my liking! I have competed at both BUCS short and long course, which is a great excuse to catch up with past Woking swimmers.

The highlight of swimming at Uni so far was our trip to Amsterdam where we swam alongside some big name like Ranomi Kromowidjojo and Marius Kusch.

Swimming at Uni is a great way to keep yourself on top of all your work despite the time and effort it requires. You also instantly meet new or existing friends as everyone has come from the same swimming background.

