

## Craig's gold medal in Scottish championships



Craig Spargo

THURSO teenager Craig Spargo was in record-breaking form at the Scottish national age-group swimming championships in Glasgow at the weekend.

Craig returned home with two national titles after maintaining the outstanding level of performance he has shown this season. He was the only competitor from the Far North at the competition which attracted 86 clubs from throughout Scotland as well as England and Wales.

His first success at the 10-lane, 50-metre pool at Tollcross came on the opening day when he qualified for the final of the 100-metre butterfly. A photo-finish with rival Jamie Wilmhurst, from Tayside, in the 14-year-old age group could not split the pair, who were both timed at 62.97 seconds. That resulted in them - very unusually - being declared joint winners. The time set a new age group record for Thurso Amateur Swimming Club.

On Sunday, he followed that up with a cracking swim in the 200 metres butterfly. His time of two minutes 20 seconds - an all-age club record - was 0.39 of a second behind the first home, Elliot Bisland. As Bisland, from Portsmouth, is not Scottish, the gold medal and Scottish title went to Craig. Craig won the 200 fly in his age group at last year's competition.

The 14-year-old, of Upper Geise, Janetstown, also reached the finals of the 100-metre and 200-metre backstroke and the 100-metre freestyle. It continues a memorable season for the youngster, who was last year's winner of the male award in the Caithness Sports Personality of the Year. Among the highlights was his display at the North district age group meet when he won eight golds and two silvers, breaking 10 age-group club records in the process.