

SCOTTISH SCHOOLS - June 2007

THURSO High School was represented at the Brodies Scottish Schools' Relay Team Championships at Tollcross, Glasgow, on June 8 by Randal Cartwright, Martin Cowie, Craig Spargo and Ryan Sutherland.

The first heat of the opening event saw them in the pool for the S3/4 four by 50m medley relay. The Thurso boys had been seeded in the slowest heat and the seconded-slowest lane but this didn't seem to put them off in any way.

Ryan led the field from the start with his usual strong performance in the backstroke. Martin took over to improve on the lead with an outstanding breaststroke, then Craig powered ahead with his butterfly and Randal finished the medley by touching a good seven seconds ahead of their nearest rivals.

Their time of 1.58.09 broke the Scottish schools' record set in 1996 by Robert Gordon's College and set them up for the fastest lane in the finals.

The finals for the medley relay were a repeat of the morning's heats, with Thurso leading the way right from the start, only faster. They finished well ahead of their nearest rivals, Robert Gordon's, in a time of 1.57.84 - breaking the record for a second time and winning gold.

The afternoon saw the boys back in the pool for the S3/4 four by 50m freestyle relay. Again they were seeded in the slowest heat but on this occasion they were in the fastest lane.

Martin was first on the blocks and completed the first leg in 26.87. Craig managed to build on the lead with a time of 26.83, and Randal further increased their advantage with 27.30 before Ryan pulled off a star performance with 25.54. An overall time of 1.46.54 secured them the fastest lane for the finals.

The finals brought a touch of déjà vu with Martin shaving 1/100th of a second off his heat time and setting the trend. Craig brought his time down to 26.28 and Randal smashed his previous time, bring it down to 26.47.

Ryan put the icing on the cake, finishing in 25.50 for an overall time of 1.45.11 and another gold.



The team who represented Thurso High School with distinction at the Scottish schools' relay championships at Tollcross - (from left) Craig Spargo, Martin Cowie, Ryan Sutherland and Randal Cartwright.