

FEBRUARY 26 - MARCH 4, 2013

Cottesloe's Simon Hutenga relaxes in the pool at Beatty Park, where he has resumed training after setting a Rottneest Channel Swim record.
Picture: Marcus Whissart/1235942



Bonus for Barcelona

Long distance open water specialist's Rottneest Channel Swim victory a bit of fun before world titles

By DENISE S CAHILL

THE Rottneest Channel Swim was just a bit of fun for Cottesloe resident Simon Hutenga.

However, the 24-year-old and his partner Heidi Gan were the first duo across the line in a record duo record time of 4 hours, 8 minutes and 11 seconds.

Hutenga qualified for the Australian team for the July World Championships in Barcelona after finishing second behind UWA Uniswim's Rhys Mainstone - who pulled out of the Rottneest crossing a few weeks ago - in the 10km open water event at the recent National Championships.

Hutenga said competing in the 39.7km

annual crossing was just a bonus for him and he entered only because it was after the nationals this year.

"For nationals, the goal was to make the Australian team and go to Barcelona for the World Championships, so Rottneest is a bit of a bonus," he said.

"The nationals are a lot harder and there's

more pressure because it's more individual, but doing this is a lot of fun."

Hutenga, Gan and solo winner Jeremy Brooke-Smith train together at the Perth City Swimming Club.

"We're stoked he got the win," Hutenga said.

See page 4