

## Arena National League – Round 1 Gala's - 12th October 2013

It was a spectacular start for the defending Arena National League West Mids Premier Division title holders, Boldmere A, who won the round 1 gala with 261 points, a massive 81 points ahead of second place Gloucester City A. This secures Boldmere A's place at the top of the league table for the second round on the 9th November, ahead of City of Derby in second and Abingdon in third spot.

It was a superb team performance with 45 top 3 places of which there were an incredible 31 1st placed swims out of 50. Boldmere A were on top form as 10 individual and 5 relay club records (CRs) were broken adding to the success of the night. Kate Davies gave an absolutely awesome performance throughout with 2 individual CR's in the girls 100m Breaststroke and 100m Backstroke and in the backstroke leg of the 13/u girls Medley Relay. She also swam up into the girls 15/u relay and gained unofficial PB's in all relay legs earning her a well deserved Gala Star alongside Tom Bloor who also delivered some fantastic swims and swam up into the 15/u boys relay team.

In the individual events the 11 Yr/U Ben Smith clinched 1st places in the 50m Backstroke and 50m Freestyle along with James Goodwin who came 1st in the 50m Butterfly. Toby Chiles took 2nd place in the 50m Breaststroke (PB 41.77).

In equal form the 11 Yr/U girls also shone with Harriet Gordon coming 1st in the 50m Breaststroke with a PB of 41.80 and 2nd in the 50m Backstroke. Alice Oliver finished 1st in the 50m Butterfly in a debut Arena League swim for Boldmere while Lily Wood maintained the momentum with a 1st place in the 50m Free.

There was no stopping the 13/u boys who won all their individual races in style with Tom Bloor gaining a PB in the 100m Breaststroke (1.17.98), Archie Langston a PB of 1.08.90 in the 100m Backstroke and Matt Price taking two 1st's with an impressive PB of 1.03.22 in the 100m Fly.

In addition to Kate Davies's outstanding swims the 13 Yr/u girls also performed well with Megan Holder coming 4th in the 100m Butterfly in a PB of 1.15.82 and Georgina Dolan taking 3rd place in the 100m Freestyle.

In the 15 Yr/u boys continued to impress as Jake Dixon took two 1st places in the 100m Butterfly and Backstroke while Ben Stanford won the 100m Freestyle and came 3rd in the 100m Breaststroke.

Rachel Wilson secured a CR in a fabulous time of 1.06.56 in the 100m Butterfly for the 15/u girls with Lydia Barnsley setting a PB in the 100m Breaststroke in 1.27.23.

In the men's open category Joey Stanger won the 100m Butterfly (PB 58.51) and took 4th place in the 100m Backstroke with



another PB of 1.02.20. Josh Wincott set a CR of 1.06.11 for 2nd place in the 100m Breaststroke and came 3rd in the 200m IM whilst Bradley Lynch took another 1st place in the 100m Freestyle.

In the female open category 200 IM event Emma Smith achieved yet another CR for Boldmere (2.16.98, beating her previous best time by over 2.5 seconds) controlling the race from the start. She continued her winning form by coming 1st in the 100m Butterfly. Alex Dolan took 2nd in the 100m Breaststroke as did Givenchy Sneekes in the 100m Freestyle in a close finish whilst Holly Lynch finished 3rd in the 100m Backstroke.

In the relays the team achieved a phenomenal 16 top 3 places in all of the events with 12 1st places including the 5 CR's. Several swimmers also achieved CR's for their individual relay legs namely Kate Davies, Matt Price, Jake Dixon, Emma Smith and Bradley Lynch. Several members of the relay teams did not have individual races but most importantly contributed to the outstanding result of the night; Alex Bartley, Acer Woolley, Aristea Knight, Ryan Andrews and Alice Dearing.

By Helen Holder

### B Team

Newly promoted to the Premier Boldmere's B team travelled to Leamington Spa where they faced stiff opposition from, the A teams of Leamington, Stratford Sharks, Biddulph and Worcester.

They swung between 4th and 5th place all evening and all team members put in strong performances, with quite a few swimming up into the next age group, finally ending up in 5th overall, 13 PB's set.



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Kai Alexander swam up an age group all night into the 15/u category coming 2nd in the 100m back with a PB and two fabulous swims in the 15/u relays earning himself star of the gala, whilst Erin Davies on her debut in the league at only 9 gave fantastic performances in her relays and 4th in her individual breast stroke gaining the star accolade from coach Ali Pratt.

Luke Davies had an impressive evening gaining 1st place spots in both open 200IM and the open 100m breast. Steven Wilson impressed with a 1st in the Open 100m Back and 2nd in the Open 100m Freestyle.

Leo Karski had a superb night of swims gaining 1st in the 13/u 100m Fly and 3rd in the 13/u 100m Free. Ben Campbell had a fabulous swim in the 15/u 100m Free getting an impressive 1st and a great PB in the 15/u 100m Fly touching in 3rd place.

In his league debut William Cooper (11/u) took 3rd in the 50m breast. Roan Griffiths with a new PB in the 13/u 100m Back (4th Place) and swimming up to 15/u another PB in the 100m Breast with another 4th. Rebecca Ilott set a 2 second PB in 11/u 50m Fly, Ellen Ratcliffe also set a new best time in the 15/u 100m Back, as did Hannah Turnbull in the 13/u Fly and Anya Mee with her 13/u 100m Back. Jamie Dark got a great PB in the 11/u 50m Fly

In the relays the open mens quartet had a fabulous evening with Adam Kelly making his return and putting in an impressive performance with Luke Davies, Josh Holsey and Steven Wilson gaining 1st place in the medley relay with Kai Alexander and Ben Campbell assisting them in the 6x2 free relay for another 1st place

Roan Griffiths, Leo Karski and Leighton Palmer-white swam up into the 15/u category to help Kai and Ben to 3rd place in their relays. The 15/u girls relay team of Lois West, Grace Chatham, Lauren Wilson and Ellen Ratcliffe all gained good PB's.

By Sarah Griffiths

### C Team

Up at Nottingham, in Division 3 North the C Team had their best start to the season with their first ever win which was a fantastic achievement, to sit them at the dizzy heights of 4th on the league.

It was great to see Adam Hall return back to competition and he got the points rolling with a controlled win in the Open 200IM in an impressive 3 sec PB. The following batch of relays saw solid results with one win, four 2nds and a third place with impressive legs from club newcomer Lily Massey (11/u), David Thomas (11/u), Katherina Hall (13/u) and Camilla Chatfield (15/u).

At the end of the first ten events Boldmere led against the A teams of Lichfield, Matlock & District, Haden Hill, Eckington and Leicester Neptune which lifted the team spirit no end with the usual high fives from Adam Hall.

In the following individual races there was an impressive 17 top 3 finishes with 4 maximum 6 point earning 1sts from Daniel Lynch-Davies in the 15/u 100m Back and yet another two from Adam in the 100m Back and Breaststroke. Sarah Kelly won the Open 100m Back by a clear 4 metres following a gutsy race holding on for 2nd in the 100m Fly just outside her PB.

The following seven all dug deep to touch for valuable 2nd place points; David Thomas 11/u 50m Back PB, John Curtis 15/u 100m Br PB, Katherina Hall 13/u 100m Br, Maia Boyle 13/u 100m Back, Defne Balu 11/u 50m Breast, Lynch-Davies 100m Free and Chatfield 100m Free.

Cameron Billingsley showed real grit to hold on for 3rd and that all valuable point in the 13/u 100 Breast and was rewarded with a 0.8 sec PB. Harrison Batchelor did likewise in the 11/u 50m Free. Other third finishes went to Jon Tanner Open 100m Fly and Holly Bloor 11/u 50m Fly.

The final 3rd spot and individual race went to the welcome site of Charlie Payne in the Open 100m Free who, despite a 2 year absence from competitive swimming, still showed great technique. Eden Harlow also made a welcome return after an 18 month break just missing out on 3rd on the touch in the 15/u 100m Breast.

Other PB's on the night went to Amelia Van Loan, Max Southgate, Lewis Myers, Jake Markidis, Will Burley, Chester Powell with 2, Lily Massey and finally Beatrice Adams with a whopping 10 second PB.

Boldmere had led all night on points but going into the final event, the Mens Open cannon relay. they were level on 177 points with Lichfield and Matlock & District so it was all to play for. The team of Tanner, Hall, Payne, Lynch-Davies, Curtis and Ben Forrest on anchor led all the way only for Ben to be touched out into 2nd place on the final stroke but thankfully it was only by Haden Hill meaning Boldmere beat Lichfield by 3 points with 183 points with Matlock & District third on 179.

It was great team effort, (even parents watching) which contributed to a great atmosphere. There were many contenders for the Star of the Gala award but this time they went to Sarah Kelly and Ben Forrest.

By Steve Harlow

