

Central Zone Champs

Corby 26th & 27th Jan 2013

At the British Gas ASA Central Zone Champs nine Boldmere swimmers, together with their eight club mates who train with City of Birmingham and two from Royal Wolverhampton School, competed in this event for clubs in the East and West Midlands and East Region - which stretches across to Norwich and down to Hertfordshire - at the Corby International 50m Pool.

After recently qualifying for all three Breaststroke events at the inaugural British Gas International due to be held in Leeds in March, in-form 16 year old Luke Davies had another successful weekend. Competing in the 16-yrs/under age group he qualified for the 200m Breaststroke final with the second fastest time behind Josh Winnicott. However, in the final Luke pushed Josh into second place to take the gold and claim the championship title in a new PB time of 2.29.53. He followed this up with a silver medal in the 100m Breaststroke final, a fourth place in the 50m Breaststroke final and fifth place in the 200m IM final with a time of 2.16.93 which was a 2 second PB from his earlier heat.

Also impressively making all three Breaststroke (15 Yr/under) finals was 15 year old Alexandra Dolan who set two PB's and club records in the 100m & 200m with times of 1.17.62 and 2.47.17 respectively to finish 5th and 4th. In the 50m sprint final she finished 6th ahead of teammate Gina Luckett in 7th spot. Like Alex breaststroke specialists Gina and Emily Gordon also competed in all three distances.

Nineteen year old Joey Stanger reached finals in three out of the four Freestyle events he had qualified in, just missing out on a medal with a 4th place in 200 Free and then a 5th spot 400m event after setting a two second PB in his heat.

In the final of the Girls 14 Years and Under 100 Fly, Rachel Wilson came 7th, improving on her 8th place qualifying position, whilst her 15 year old brother Steve made a number of 16 Years/under finals, finishing 5th in the 100m Freestyle and 50m Backstroke, and 6th in the 200m Freestyle. A slightly under par Morgan Harlow competed in the 100m Breaststroke and 200m Fly and 12 year old Matt Price experienced his first Zonal champs competing in the 16/u age group 50m Freestyle.

Competing in the colours of City of Birmingham in the Open age group, 16-year-old Emma Smith, won silver in the 100m

Backstroke in a new PB time of 1.04.54, securing her third British Gas International Championship qualifying time. She also took the bronze in the 200m Backstroke and place 4th in the 200IM final.

Josh Winnicott followed up his second place 200m Breaststroke place with another silver in the 200IM. Jake Dixon also climbed the podium twice for two silvers in the 50m & 100m Fly while also qualifying for the longer 200m final finishing in 6th.

Open water GB international Bradley Lynch swam two events on the Saturday, the 100m and then 1500m Free. Competing in the fastest and last heat of the 1500m event he took gold in the 16 Yr/u age group. However, despite qualifying for the final of the 100m with the fastest time he had to literally get out from the 1500m event and head straight for the blocks for the 100 Free final. With no fuel left in the tank after 30 lengths he finished 7th some 5 seconds off his heat time - which would have placed him second!

Givenchy Sneekes was another COB medal winner in the 15/u 100m Freestyle where she won a bronze. She also made the finals of the 50, 200 and 400m Freestyle where she placed 4th, 6th and 6th respectively.

Another Freestyle specialist, Alice Dearing had a very successful weekend by topping the podium in the 400m event (15 Yr/u) in a new PB and club record of 4.24.18 on the Saturday. The following day she took the silver in the longer 800m event breaking her own Warwickshire Junior County record in the process in a time of 9.05.29.

For thirteen-year-old National Age Group champion Ben Stanford it was his first time at the event competing in the 16 Yr/u age groups but still qualified for all five (50,100, 200, 400, 1500m) Freestyle events setting PB's in the two shorter distances.

The youngest to get five qualifying times for these championships was 12 year old Kate Davies who competed in the 100m Free, both 200 and 400IM as well as both 100 and 200m Fly, making the final of the latter finishing in 7th place.

