

Nuneaton & District Junior League Round 1, Division 1 - 2013

Boldmere's 'A' got off to a cracking start in the opening Division 1 Gala of the Nuneaton & District Division 1 Junior League in Halesowen, winning with 252 points, 20 points ahead of strong opponents City of Coventry with 232 points and Halesowen with 206 points followed by Chase, Kingsbury Aquarius A and Northgate.

They gained an impressive 44 top 3 finishes out of the 51 events with 18 wins earning the maximum 6 league points on the night. Whilst all swimmers gained a PB as the gala was held in a 33M pool there were still 9 club records and 1 relay record for the 11 year /under girls achieved on the night.

In their debut Junior League gala the 9 year old boys made an impressive start in the individuals with Oliver Carless taking 1st place in the 1L Backstroke and 2nd in the 1L Freestyle. Luke Butcher also gained 2nd place in the 1L Breaststroke and a 4th in 1L Butterfly.

The 9 year old girls also got off to a flying start with Erin Davies not only finishing in 1st spot in the 1L Breaststroke but her time of 30.40 was a club record of 30.40. She followed this with another clear win in 1L Freestyle. Irisha Powell achieved a respectable 3rd place in the 1L Butterfly and 4th place in 1L Backstroke.

In the 10 year old girls individuals Abbey Turnbull came 3rd in a very close finish with a club record time of 49.43 in the 2L Freestyle and took 2nd place in the 2L Breaststroke. Holly Bloor finished 4th in 2L Butterfly and 5th in 2L Backstroke.

The 10 year old boys steamed into action with Ben Smith taking 1st place in a superb swim in the 2L Freestyle followed by another clear win in 2L Backstroke whilst Acer Woolley also finished 1st in the 2L Butterfly and Jamie Dark came 2nd in the 2L Breaststroke.

The 11 year old girls gave a great performance with Harriet Gordon grabbing 1st place in a fingertip finish with a club record of 54.06 in the 2L Backstroke and Lily Wood gaining 2nd place in the 2L Breaststroke and 2L Freestyle in a very close finish, both club records. Alexander Bartley finished 3rd in the 2L Butterfly.

Ben Smith swam up for the 11 year old boys in the 2L Backstroke with an impressive 2nd place, whilst Toby Chiles finished 2nd in the 2L Breaststroke and 4th in the 2L Freestyle. A strong swim from James Goodwin in the 2L Butterfly, taking 4th place against tough opposition.

An outstanding performance by the 12 year old girls with Megan Holder taking first place in the 2L Backstroke with a club record of 46.84 and 1st place in the 2L Freestyle. Hannah Turnbull and Aristeia Knight finished 2nd in the 2 L Butterfly and 2L Breaststroke respectively.

The 12 year old boys also performed well with Leighton Palmer-Whyte gaining 2nd place in the 2L Breaststroke in a club record of 54.74. Roan Griffin took 2nd place in the 2L Butterfly and came 3rd in the 2 L Backstroke whilst Taleb Givans came 3rd in the 2L freestyle.

Of the 19 relays Boldmere A came in the top 3 positions in 18 of these, a fantastic achievement with some true team work leading up to some fabulous finishes.

Several members of the relay teams did not have individual races but made a valuable contribution to the success of the night. These were Molly Sherriff, Tim Beasley, Nadya Sterling, Bethan Harrison, Leo Butts, Daniel Banks, Holly Beavan and Anya Mee.

Head Junior Coach Nigel Kelly warded the 'Stars of the Gala' medals sponsored by Appella Fitness to Erin Davies and Ben Smith who both delivered superb performances in the individual and relay events. A special mention was also given to the 12 year old girls relay team who took 1st place in both their Medley and Freestyle relays.

In Division 2 th 'B' Team travelled over to Leamington Spa with a challenging draw against the hosts, Worcester 'B', Wombourne, Cheadle, Blythe Barracudas and Orion.

The overall effort demonstrated by the team was reflected by the high number of personal bests - 37 in total. Sol Langston had two superb individual swims, winning the 50 metre backstroke and coming second in the 25 metre both in new personal best times. Beatrice Adams finished 3rd in the 11 year old girls 50 metre

backstroke, as did Katherina Hall in the 12 year race in a new improved time. Cameron Billingsley also swam well in the 12 year old 50m Breaststroke securing a strong third place.

The nine year old debutants swam with great determination in both their individual races and team relays and although many personal bests were recorded, high placed finishes were difficult to come by. Eve Nash finished fourth in the 25m Butterfly and Freestyle while Pierce Ryan also finished in the same position in the 25m freestyle.

Stars of the Gala, Max Southgate and Charlotte Fellows also recorded personal bests in both their individual events as well as making solid contributions to team relays where a further 47 personal bests were achieved. The 11 year old girls Team who included Beatrice Adams, Maddie Shay, Rebecca Ilott and Eva Lockley finished a respectable third in both the freestyle and Medley events.

Unfortunately, the overall strength of the opposing teams proved too strong on the evening, however, the resolve and team spirit demonstrated will serve the team well in the second round at Wyndley Leisure Centre.

Over in Tamworth the C Team started their 2013 Division 3 campaign with a tough draw against Tamworth, Evesham and Kingsbury Aquarius B. The team, depleted of 10 year old boys, turned in a great round one team performance, recording 37 PB's, 4 wins and 5 second places to finish in a creditable 4th place. Evesham finished first with Tamworth and Kingsbury Aquarius taking second and third place respectively.

Early successes in the pool included a strong third place for Solomon Allen in the boys 9 year breaststroke which was followed by the 11 year old girls Natasha Yardley, Stephanie Deathridge, Francesca Goode and Alexandra Andrews convincingly winning the medley relay. Twelve year old Indu Appanna and 10 year old Lana Ryan then recorded fantastic PB times in the backstroke and breaststroke races, both ending in second place.

The 11 year old girls quartet continued to show their strength in the freestyle relay, where they just missed the top spot. Sensational individual performances were also recorded by 11 year old Alexandra Andrews swimming strongly to gain second place in the 50m Backstroke while Francesca Goode knocked 3 seconds off her Pb with a 40.30 second swim to take top spot in the 50m Butterfly

Team spirits were raised further by 12 year old Indu Appanna taking maximum points with a sensational win in the 50m Freestyle. The girls 12 year old Medley relay team were led to first place by Indu Appanna in the backstroke and Stephanie Deathridge in the breaststroke, eventually ending in second place through solid performances from Ellie Radford in the fly and Natasha Hodson in the freestyle.

Individual PB's went to Sadie Cross (2), Freya Jones, Solomon Allen, Natasha Yardley (3), Matthew Burrows, Indu Appanna (3), Lewis Redford (2), Lana Ryan, Ben Thorn (2), Ben Songhurst, Heather Neath, Marcus Atkin, Jessica Dunn (2), Alexandra Andrews, Alexandra Yardley (2), Oliver Turner, Natasha Hodson, Matthew Green (2), Natasha Yardley, Ella McNerlin, Francesca Goode, Ben Allen, Gemma Lawrence (2), Luca Blackburn, Stephanie Deathridge, Sadie Cross and Dan Campbell.

Special mention should also be made to the 9 year old girls and boys team members Freya Jones, Alexandra Yardley, Gemma Lawrence, Solomon Allen, Ben Songhurst, Oliver Collins, William Eilbeck, Oliver Turner and Luca Blackburn who performed admirably on debut for the club in this competition claiming nine PB's between them.

Stars of the Gala on the night were Indu Appanna for her individual and relay freestyle and backstroke races and Solomon Allen for an overall solid performance in both 9 and 10 year age groups.

Helen Holder (A), Stuart Turnbull and Kristien Boelaert.