

Nuneaton & District Junior League Division 1 – Gala Final 2013

Another exciting final for Boldmere's Junior A team who got off to a flying start against the top 6 teams fighting it out for the Nuneaton & District Division 1 League Title. After the earlier three league rounds Boldmere qualified for their ninth consecutive final lying in second place, level on 18 league points with Northampton leading with the greater number of gala points.

Achieving 36 from a possible 51 top three finishes, Boldmere claimed 10 first places overall, 4 of which came from the relays. Nine year old Oliver Carless continued his good form from previous rounds with a 2nd in the 25m Backstroke in a PB and club record of 18.96 and a 3rd in the 25m Freestyle with another PB (16.24). Luke Butcher also secured a 2nd with a good swim in the 25m Breaststroke (PB of 22.40).

Nine year old Erin Davies won her 25m Breaststroke with an exceptional swim, finishing by at least a bodies length in a time of 19.80 – a League Final record! She then placed 2nd in the 25m Freestyle (PB 15.81). Bethan Harrison took 4th place in the 25m Butterfly and Nadya Sterling, 3rd in the 25m Backstroke. The nine year old girls also battled hard to gain 2nd place in both their team relays with another supreme effort from Erin Davies who pulled the team up 4 places in the Breaststroke leg of the Medley Relay.

In the 10Yr/u age group Abbey Turnbull fought hard in the opening race taking 3rd place in the 50m freestyle, followed by 3rd in the 50m Backstroke. Defne Balu finished 4th in the 50m Breaststroke with a PB of 46.38 and Holly Bloor came in 5th in the 50m Butterfly.

Ten year old Ben Smith maintained his impressive form with a win in the 50m Backstroke in a time of 37.57 and swam a fabulous 50m Freestyle, taking 2nd place.

Lily Wood set the pace for the 11 year old girls with a stylish win in the 50m Freestyle in a time of 31.49 and took 2nd place in the 50m Breaststroke. In both relays with Harriet Gordon, Alex Bartley and Molly Sherriff they also gained valuable points with an exciting finish in the 4 x 1L Freestyle relay with Lily pulling up to first place in the closing stages of the race snatching 1st place. They also finished 2nd in the 4 x 1 Medley relay, again with Molly pulling up one place in the Butterfly leg for Alex to maintain the momentum with freestyle in the last 25m of the race.

In the 11year old and under boy age group Ben Smith swam up to make up the relay quartet in both the Freestyle and Medley relays as well as the individual 50m Freestyle where he finished 2nd with a fantastic swim against tough opposition in



a time of 31.98. James Goodwin took 3rd place in the 50m Butterfly as did Toby Chiles in the 50m Breaststroke in a PB time 43.06.

Twelve year old Megan Holder came 2nd in the 50m Backstroke in a fingertip finish and 3rd in the 50m Freestyle while Hannah Turnbull gained a PB in the 50m Butterfly (35.47).

It was the 12 year old boys however who stole the show with a great swim from Roan Griffiths, taking 1st place in the 50m Backstroke and Leo Karski steamed into first place in superb form in both the 50m Butterfly (PB 32.53) and 50m Freestyle. Leighton Palmer-Whyte then took 5th place in the 50m Breaststroke. The 12 year old boys continued to dominate by winning their team relays.

It was a great all round performance demonstrating the usual strength and depth of the team with 16 out of 19 top 3 finishes in the relays. Some members of the relay teams did not have individual races – Irisha Powell, Daniel Banks, Leo Butts, Mollie Goldstone, Jamie Dark, Molly Sherriff, Tim Beesley, Taleb Givens and Anya Mee - who provided a massive contribution to the success on the night.

After 51 events Boldmere trailed Northampton by 35 gala points to finish runners up but still secured a place in the Northern Regional Final on Sunday 6th October in Leeds.

Star of the Gala naturally went to EVERYONE including the Junior Head Coach Nigel Kelly and the poolside team for their support and encouragement to the swimmers who succeeded in qualifying for a Regional Final for the sixth time in the last seven years.

Report by Helen Holder