

The ARENA National League – A, B and C Teams

The first round of three of the 2010 Arena National League got off to a start on Saturday 9th October with Boldmere A, B and for the first time a C team competed in Division 1, 2 and 3 respectively. Taking on Gloucester, Stourbridge, Derby Phoenix, Mansfield and Worcester at Stechford, the A team started the season where they ended 2009 – winning, by a margin of 25 gala points ahead of Gloucester to bag the maximum 6 league points.

The meet was peppered with big performances which produced 11 individual wins, with 28 top three finishes and with 14 new Club Records set there were many contenders for both Gala Star.

Givenchy Sneakes edged the girls vote from Head Coach Ash Cox with a second placed 2 second PB in the 13/u 100m Fly and a win in the 100m Freestyle in a smashing new Club Record of 1.01.97. Adam Kelly took the boys award after his close duel and 2nd place, by only 0.07 seconds in the Open age 100m Backstroke, took him under under the 60 second barrier for the first time with a 59.98 – a new CR. He also set another CR on the first backstroke leg of the Open Medley relay with a 27.86 for his 50m stint.

Those earning maximum 6 gala points with individual wins were Eden Harlow (11/u) 50m Breaststroke and Freestyle, Ben Campbell (11/u) 50m Free in a PB, Beth Grant (13/u) 100m Breaststroke in a 2 second PB and CR of 1.21.13, Jake Dixon (13/u) on 100m Fly in a 2.5 second PB and CR of 1.07.79, Luke Davies (13/u) 100m Breaststroke in a PB, Charlie Payne (13/u) 100m Free in a new PB, Josh Winnicott (15/u) 100m Breaststroke, Emma Smith (15/u) 100 Free and finally powerhouse Bradley Lynch (15/u) 100m Free in a new CR of 54.06.

Bradley also set another CR in the 100m Fly which was so close, his 2nd place time of 1.02.42 was shared by all top 3 places. There were more CR and top three finishes for Josh, swimming up an age group in the 'Open' category 100m Breaststroke with a 2nd place 1.10.32, Phil Hewitt with a 3rd spot in the Open 100m Fly and Joey Stanger dipping under 53 seconds for the first time with a 52.92 for 3rd in the 100m Free.

Once again Boldmere 'A' Team strength in depth dominated the relays with 13 top 2 finishes of which 9 were wins. There were many top performances all deserving a mention but just a few highlights were: the 15/u boys foursome of Josh Holsey, Jordi Youngman, Winnicott and Lynch who cleaned up winning both relays setting two new CR's - in the Free where Holsey set a PB on the first leg and Bradley's 3rd leg Fly thrust them from 4th to 1st in the Medley, the 13/u lads of Luke Davies, Charlie Payne, Steve Wilson and Jake Dixon outclassed the field with a solid 5 metre win in the Freestyle and finally Kelly Dawson got the girls Medley 15/u off to a good start with a new Backstroke CR handing over to Emily Gordon then Kristie Hackett for Emma Smith anchor home for a win.

The evening was rounded off in spectacular style with Men's Open 6 leg Freestyle relay team of James Youngman, Hewitt, Kelly, Lynch, Winnicott and Stanger - neck and neck with Gloucester in the next lane from the off Joey Stanger sealed the win by half a second with an unofficial 23.91 on the last leg.

The B team had a short journey over to Tamworth where they were faced with a tough draw against the Division 2 'A' teams of Stratford Sharks, Redditch, Lutterworth, Kingsbury Aquarius and Flitwick Dolphins and despite a couple of swimmers missing still managed a creditable fifth place – with fourteen PB's set.

Alice Dearing won her 13/u 100m Fly after swimming up in the 15/u age group of the same event where she secured a third.

She also notched another 3rd setting a 2 second PB in the 13/u 100m Freestyle, all of which helped coach Jayne Lockett and Team Manager Mark West in awarding her the girls Star of the Gala. The boys accolade went to 12 year old Charlie Hackett who, like Alice swam seven events, set a PB in his 3rd placed 100m Fly as well as swimming up in the 15/u and Open age relays.

Tom Bloor impressed by winning the 11/u 50m Fly as well as setting a PB in the 50m Breaststroke. Gina Lockett (13/u) claimed a 2nd place in the 100m Breaststroke in a new best time, while Archie Langston (11/u) also touched for 2nd in his 50m Freestyle. Katie Richardson (15/u) reduced her 100m Freestyle PB marginally with 3rd place and Sarah Kelly (13/u) set a PB in the 100m Backstroke, as did Chloe Wiedeman (11/u) in the shorter 50m event. The final individual PB went to Daniel Lynch-Davies (13/u) who slashed 9 seconds off his 100m Breaststroke time.

In the relays the boys 13/u quartet of Tom Bloor, Archie Langston, Ben White and Joel Cunningham shone to easily take the honours in the Freestyle. The girls 13/u Medley relay of Sarah Kelly, Gina Lockett, Alice Dearing and Alex Dolan also earned the team a 6 pointer as did the Mens Open age group foursome - Adam Hall set a new 50m Backstroke PB on the first leg, dipping under 30 seconds for the first time with a 29.91, followed by Chris Littler on Breaststroke, new addition to the team, Venezuelan Amaro Vioria on Fly with Steve Scarrott on the Freestyle anchor leg.

In Division 3 (South) the C were a little depleted on numbers on the night but all those who completed did the club proud by competing in extra events where needed and produced a whopping 25 personal best times against the 'A' teams of Bilsley, Camp Hill, Dunstable and Oldbury.

Girls Star of the Gala went to 12 year old Morgan Harlow stepped up to the plate by taking on the much taller girls in the Open age group in the first event of the evening, the 200m Individual Medley, where she trimmed a big 6 seconds off her PB. She followed this with a win in the 13/u 100m Fly in another new best time. Coach Geoff Fowler awarded the boys Gala Star to young 10 year old Tom Songhurst for the determination he showed in each of his events, picking up a PB in his 50m Freestyle.

The 13/u girls took much of the limelight, with Camilla Chatfield winning her 100m Backstroke with 6 second PB, Emma Buckroyd following suit in the 100m Free also in a PB time, then both teamed up with Margaret Gately, Tully Kearney and Morgan to win both Medley and Freestyle relays.

More top three finishes came from Charlotte Weston (15/u) with a 2nd placed 100m Freestyle PB while Bairaj Singh (50m Back – PB), Eve Purdy (50m Fly – PB), Mitchell Oakley (50m Fly – PB), Taleb Givans (50m Breast – PB), Tully (100m in the Open 100m Fly) and Jack Swinhoe all gained valuable third places spots.

Others who gained individual personal best times were Chanel Kang, Margaret Gately, Luke Kearney, Jake Markidis, Christopher Joyce with two, Matt Keight, and Camilla with a second.

A special mention must go to two contenders for the boys Gala Star award - James Lynch-Davies who achieved two individual PB's from the seven events he competed in and Lewis Gordon who like James swam up in older age group relays in his six events,

