

The ARENA National League round 2 – 13.11.2010

All three A, B and C Boldmere teams were back in action last weekend in the West Midlands region of the Arena National League. In Division 1 the A team travelled to Stafford to face Chase, Gloucester, Leek, Northgate and Stourbridge but it was one way traffic as Boldmere crushed the opposition with a 61 winning gala point margin ahead of second placed Gloucester City.

From the 32 individual events the team posted 29 top three finishes of which 16 were wins and 11 of the 16 relays were first places with four second spots – impressive dominance.

With so many top performances again picking the Gala Stars was a really tough call but 11 year old Ben Stanford's impressive 50m Backstroke win along with solid relay legs earned him the boy's award while Emma Smith stole the show with three individual wins. Not only did she touch first in both her two age group 100m Free and Backstroke races, where she recorded a Club Record 1:07.69 in the latter, but she also swam up and won the Open age 100m Freestyle.

The rest of the team who also bagged the maximum 6 gala points for the club were; Matt Price (11/u 50m Breast) in a new CR of 43.10, Penny Whittingham (13/u 100m Fly) also in a new CR, Charlie Payne (13/u 100m Free) in a new best time of 1:01.55, Eden Harlow (11/u 50m Breast), Ben Campbell (11/u 50m Free), Givenchy Sneakes (13/u with both 100m Breast & Free), Luke Davies (13/u 100m Breast), Bradley Lynch (15/u 100m Free), Josh Winnicott (15/u 100m Breast), Phil Hewitt (Open 100m Fly) and Joey Stanger (Open 100m Free).

A further four more CR were broken by Jake Dixon (13/u 100m Fly) with a 2nd place 1:07.57 and Joey Stanger took 3rd spot in the Open 200IM in 2:15.69 while Emma and Penny set 50m Free and Back records respectively in their relay first legs.

Three CR were set by relay foursomes - the first being broken by Matt Price, Ben Stanford, Kai Alexander and Ben Campbell who destroyed the opposition with a 10 metre winning margin in their Freestyle. In similar fashion the older girls of Charlotte Smith, Beth Grant, Penny and Givenchy led from start to finish for victory in their Medley. The final record fell in the boys Open Medley team of Adam Kelly, Josh Winnicott, and Phil Hewitt handed over to Joey on anchor who stormed the last 50m making up three metres to take second.

Going into the final round in December the A team lie second in the table, level on the same 12 league points but 23 gala points adrift of City of Coventry. With double points awarded in round 3 it's going to be an exciting final round for the top 6 league clubs over at Coventry.

In Division 2 the B team faced the hosts B team over at the 50m pool in Coventry, along with Arnold, Aylesbury, Droitwich Dolphins and Redditch where they had an excellent result finishing 3rd with 29 new long course personal bests set.

Tom Bloor swam out of his skin to slice two and a half seconds off his 50m Fly PB (11/u) to touch first along with a 3rd placed PB in the 50m Breast which, with his three relay swims earned him the boys Gala Star medal. Alex Dolan smashed her PB by 4 seconds to take maximum points in the 13/u 100m Free. Alice Dearing was back to her best taking first in the 100m Fly (13/u) after setting a PB with a second place in the older 15/u event just five races before!

Lauren Wilson earned herself the girls Gala Star award with a solid second place in the 50m Free (11/u) with a 2 second PB and two strong anchor legs in both relays. There were four more 2nd place finishes from Joel Cunningham (11/u 50m Back & PB), Gina Luckett (13/u 100m Breast & PB), Matt Hyde (15/u 100m Back) and finally 14 year old Katie Richardson who swam up in the Open age group 200IM who also set a PB.

Katie set another PB in the Open 100m Fly along with ten others; Lydia Barnsley (11/u 50m Bk), Stella-Anne O'Hehir (11/u 50m Fly), Sarah Kelly (13/u 100m Bk), Lois West (11/u 50m Br), Archie Langston (11/u 50m Free), Matt Hyde (15/u 100m Free), Josh Halsey with two (15/u 100m Fly & Br), Steve Scarrott (Open 100m Free) and Joel who swam up an age group in 13/u 100m Backstroke.

In the relays the 13/u girls quartet of Sarah Kelly, Gina, Alex and Alice dominated their age group by comfortably winning both Medley and Freestyle races while the boys 11/u team of Tom, Archie, Joel and Ben White just missed out on the same double with a close second in the Medley.

Over at Leamington Spa the C team, despite a little depleted on number on the night, did a sterling job to finish in 4th place, behind Cinderford & District A, Camphill Edwardians A and Solihull B but ahead of Camphill Edwardians B with 174 gala points, some 28 more than round one.

Once again the 13/u girls took much of the limelight, with Emma Buckroyd setting a PB in winning the 100m Backstroke before taking 2nd place in the older 15/u Freestyle which, with her 4 relay legs in both age groups earned her the girls Gala Star award. Like wise Caitlin Meade won her 100m Breaststroke in a new PB before taking 2nd place in the older 15/u race.

Tully Kearney took 1st spot in the 100m Fly as well as swimming up in the Open 200IM where she set a new PB. Rachel Wilson also swam up two age groups with her 2nd place in the Open 100m Fly. With Margaret Gately, Emma and Caitlin, Rachel then swam the anchor leg to win the 13/u Medley relay and then took 2nd in the Freestyle relay but with Tully replacing Caitlin. Then, with Tully, Caitlin, Margaret and her older sister Clare went on to finish second in the 15/u Medley two races later – a very busy night!

Another quartet of girls in consistent form were the 11/u foursome of Chanel Kang, Pheobe Abbott, Emma Greenaway and Georgina Dolan who finished in 2nd place in both relays, which was where Georgina also placed in both her 50m Free and Breaststroke individuals setting a PB in the latter. Pheobe meanwhile was called up to swim up 3 age groups in the Open 100m Breaststroke and set a new PB as did Chanel in the 50m Backstroke.

John Curtis stole the show for the boys taking 1st place in the 11/u 50m Breaststroke setting an impressive 4 second PB to earn the Gala Star accolade while reliable Lewis Gordon swam a superb 11/u 50m Fly to take 2nd.

Others to set PB's were Chris Joyce who swam up in the Open 200IM, Josh Edwards (15/u) and Sam Forrest (Open) both improved by 5 seconds in their respective 100m Back races and finally Reece Whittaker in his 15/u 100m Free.

