

We are the Champions!

Nuneaton & District Junior League Division 1 Final 11.9.2010 – Wolverhampton

On Saturday 11th September, Boldmere's Junior 'A' team league, having topped Division 1 of the Nuneaton & District Junior Swimming League (of 58 Midlands Clubs), confirmed their status as top Midlands club by cruising to a whopping 50 point winning margin - ahead of second placed Northampton 'A' - with a superb team performance in the regional final at Wolverhampton.

Going into the final Boldmere had amassed the same 18 league points as Halesowen but topped the league by virtue of 85 more gala points with the remaining top 4 spots taken by Northampton 'A', Nuneaton & Bedworth 'A', Redditch and City of Coventry – all with 16 points.

At the end of the 51 events the twenty eight strong team of impressive 9 – 12 year old swimmers had won 13 events, had 41 top three place finishes, posted 27 personal best times, broke 12 age group club records, set 2 new Championship Final records and won 4 relay trophies – in addition to the trophy awarded to team captains Charlotte Smith and Jake Dixon for the league title! To win the final by such huge margin was an outstanding achievement by a great team and a feat of dominance not witnessed for a good number of years.

The six Individual wins for the team to bag maximum gala points came from; Kate Davies (10 yr) in the 50m Breaststroke in a time of 41.97 which sliced 3 seconds off her pb to break an 8 year old club record, Matt Price (10 Yr 50m Breaststroke) who likewise set a new best time and CR, Beth Grant who did the double in both 11 and 12 Yr 50m Breaststroke setting a new CR in the latter, Charlie Payne in the 12 yr 50m Freestyle and finally Penny Whittingham - who not only broke her PB and CR - but also set a new Championship Final best time of 31.55 in 12 yr 50m Fly.

A further Championship Final record time was set by the Boys 10 year Medley relay quartet of Joel Cunningham, Matt Price, Tom Bloor and anchor man Archie Langston in a 2.5 second winning margin time of 1.11.10. They also did the double by winning the Freestyle relay with Kai Alexander stepping in for Matt with Tom breaking the 25m CR on the first leg.

The girls 11 yr quartet of Laura Richardson, Eden Harlow, Beth Grant and Rachel Wilson were a whisker away from repeating the boys feat. They claimed first and a new CR in the Medley

while on the anchor leg of Free everyone thought Eden had caught Halesowen only to see the lane 4 time on the scoreboard stop second, by a mere 0.05 of a second slower!

Such was the quality of the competition on the night, there were many other similar close finishes; Tom Bloor (10 Yr 25m Fly) PB and 2nd place by 0.07 seconds, Jake Dixon (12 Yr 50m Fly) in a new CR but still 2nd place by just 0.08, the Boys 11 Yr Free relay team of Ben Stanford, Ben Campbell, Joel Cunningham and Matt Price lost out on first by just 0.17 seconds while the youngest 9 Yr old Girl Freestyle team of Remi Oldbury, Stella-Anne O'Hehir, Madeline Van Loan and Aristeia Knight fought a close battle for 2nd only to lose out by 0.10 of seconds.

The strength and depth of Boldmere showed clearly in the three eight-leg 'Cannon' Freestyle relays - where the boys, girls and mixed teams include every age group - with the 3 Boldmere squads making a clean sweep to gain maximum points. Stella, Aristeia, Kate, Laurie Wilson, Rachel, Beth, Margaret Gately and Penny won the girls' race with a cracking 4th leg by Laurie, while third leg Archie Langston took the boys' team of Mitchell Oakley, Roan Griffiths, Matt, Kai, Ben Campbell and Jake from third to first place with 'silky smooth' anchor man Charlie Payne coming home clear by 4 metres.

Another relay win came from the girls 12 Yr Medley team of Charlotte Smith, Beth, Penny and Margaret while the boys' 12 Yr teams using Dixon, Price, Stanford, Payne and Charlie Hackett were solid with two second places.

Other individual personal best times on the night came from Mitchell Oakley (25m Fly), Roan Griffiths (25m Breast), Lauren Wall (50m Back), Aristeia Knight (25m Breast), Stella-Anne O'Hehir (25m Fly & Free) Ben Campbell (50m Breast), Eden Harlow (50m Breast), Kate Davies (25m Fly), Laurie Wilson (50m Free), Charlotte Smith (50m Back) and Ben Stanford (50m Back) and a mention must go to Taleb Givans and Sam Dineen for their great team contributions in their first Division 1 final.

The team have now earned themselves a place in the Southern ARENA Junior Inter-League Area Final in Bristol on 3rd October. The top four teams from this gala will then meet the top four from the Northern Final in the National Junior Inter-League Final in November.

