

## Boldmere A make Arena National League B Final again.

Going into the final round of the Arena National League (West Mids) Division 1, Boldmere 'A', City of Coventry and City of Derby were all locked on 27 league points with only seven gala points separating the three with Derby topping the league. Boldmere trailed Coventry by one gala point with the next three places and competing teams at Coventry filled by Leicester Penguins, Stourbridge and Long Eaton.

With two automatic places at the National League finals at Ponds Forge at stake the final round was as expected a closely fought contest between the top three throughout the two hours of competition. At the halfway point of the fifty events it was Derby who led Coventry by 6 gala points on 113 with Boldmere in third place on 98.

Matt Price was the first individual to bank the maximum 6 points in the 11/u Backstroke winning by a 2.5 second margin in a PB and new Club Record of 34.16. He followed this up with another PB and 1st place in the 50m Fly.

Jake Dixon followed suit with two wins in the 13/u 100m Breaststroke and Fly reducing his PB by 2 seconds in the former. Givenchy Sneekes eased away in the final 20m of the 15/u 100m Freestyle to touch first as did Josh Winnicott in the 15/u Breaststroke, winning by a clear two seconds.

Bradley Lynch clinched the 15/u 100m Freestyle while Kate Davies stopped the clock first in the 11/u 50m Breaststroke.

Also earning valuable points with four consecutive 2nd place finishes were; Archie Langston (11/u) 50m Free, Morgan Harlow (13/u) 100 Free with a 5 second PB, Ben Stanford (13/u) 100m Free shaving 0.4 off his own CR and Emily Gordon who was only just outside her PB in the 100m Breaststroke.

It was a clean sweep of relay wins for the boys 11/u and 15/u age groups in both Freestyle and Medley events. Maintaining a 100% record in very round the quartet of Price, Ryan Andrews, Tom Bloor and anchorman Langston dominated with winning margins of 5 and 7 seconds respectively.

The older foursome of Dixon, Steve Wilson, Winnicott and Lynch matched the same impressive unbeaten record with easy wins by a clear 2 seconds in both their relays with Club Record times in both.

At the end of the fifty events Derby were clear winners on 220 points and with many very close finishes between Boldmere and Coventry it was the hosts who earned the automatic place in the B Final with 34 top three finishes compared to Boldmere's 33 who had three less second place finishes.

In total on the night there were 6 new CR in both in individual and relays and a further 18 Long Course personal best times. Kristie Hackett set a new Open CR in the girls 100m Fly with a 1.06.91 and Ben Stanford lowered the 13/u 100m Back time down to 1.15.47. PB's were set by Stella O'Hehir (11/u) 50m Back & Free, Kate Davies (11/u) 50m Fly, Tom

Bloor (11/u) 50m Breast, Eden Harlow (13/u) 100m Breast, Laura Richardson (13/u) 100m Back, Rachel Wilson (13/u) 100 Fly and finally Steve Wilson (15/u) 100m Back.

However, after all the results from each of the seven regional leagues around the country had been compiled into a National 'Virtual' Gala (105 remaining teams) Boldmere's event times earned them one of the final six remaining places on the Arena National League B Final in April 2012 and represent West Midlands as their second team along side Coventry.

### Division 2

Boldmere's B Team took on the big guys again in the Final of the Division 2 of the Arena National League. With a possible promotion spot to Division 1 up for grabs it was not the night to have several key swimmers missing but despite competing against the A teams of four other clubs, Boldmere swam their hearts out to gain as many points as possible from both relay and individual events.

Many swimmers achieved Personal Best times in the relay events including Roan Griffiths and Leo Karski in the 11/U Free, Jemma Youngman and Brittany Moore in the 11/U Medley, Lydia Barnsley, Elmena Saunders, and Chloe Andrews in the girls 13/U Medley and John Curtis and Griffiths again in the boys 13/U Medley.

In the 15/U relay the PB's went to girls Sarah Kelly, Camilla Chatfield, Lucy Dixon and Saunders, with Jordan Youngman and Luke Davies picking up the boys PB's.

With many swimmers swimming above their age groups, the Open swimmers also chalked up some impressive improvements in their times with Katie Richardson (2), Chris Littler and Adam Hall (2) leading the way, followed by the end of the night by Charlie Payne and Alex Dolan (Girls Gala Star and individual PB in the Open 100 Free)

After some 2nd and 3rd placings, (including those by Joel Cunningham and Leighton Palmer-Whyte), started to improve the points, two individual firsts in quick succession helped to boost team morale, with Ben Campbell (Boys Gala Star) achieving his 2nd individual PB in the 100 Free and Luke Davies claiming his (also a PB) in the 100 Breaststroke.

With youngsters Maia Boyle, Katherina Hall, Taleb Givans and Margaret Gately helping to add to the points score, and the experienced Andy Lockett showing his speed in the Open age group, the squad achieved a creditable 138 points.

### Division 2

What a great night for Boldmere's C team who were only 3 points from taking runner up in the Division 3 third round of the Arena National League in Nuneaton. There were some fantastic performances which overall earned 10 first places.

In the boys 11/u Freestyle relay with outstanding legs from Sam Morris and Jack Dobson, the boys battled from fourth place to finish in first place, a great start to the night after only 4 events and then pulled it off again in the Freestyle relay.

In other relays the ladies Open Medley stormed to first with a great start from Ellie West, supported by Caitlin Meade on Breaststroke, Charlotte Weston on the fly and Laura Walford finishing in great spirits with the freestyle.

In spite of great start from younger sister Lois West the girls who swam brilliantly and finished 3rd in the girls 13/under freestyle relay.

Individual wins went to girl's star of the gala Charlotte Weston for the ladies open 100m breaststroke in a new personal time of 124.68 with Caitlin Meade hot on her heels who also racked up maximum points for the team for the Girls 15 and under individual Breaststroke. In the Boys 15 and under 100m Breaststroke, Boys Star of the Gala Chris Joyce was just second in a new best time of 1.27.81.

Other individual wins went to Jack Dobson for the 11 and under 50m Fly, Daniel Lynch-Davies, for the Boys 15 and under 100m Backstroke, Lois West for the Girls 13 and under 100m Butterfly and to Sam Morris for the boys 11 and under 50m freestyle.

The final accolade went to the girls 6 x 2 Free style relay when Caitlin Meade took the lead for them but the strength of the girls team, Emma Buckroyd, Charlotte Weston, Laura Walford, Ellie West and Tully Kearney meant a fantastic finish for a great night.

Overall The coach was delighted with all swimmers for their contribution to the last three rounds but awarded stars of the series to Caitlin Meade and Daniel Lynch-Davies, who attended all rounds and contributed maximum points for the C team.

**Reports by Steve Harlow, Pam Campbell and Lucy Meade**

