

Junior League - Round 1 2011

Boldmere Swimming Club launched their 2011 Nuneaton & District Junior League campaign, as – for the second year in succession – the only club of 56 in the league to have two teams competing in Division 1. In a league of 24 teams, they were fortunate not to be drawn against each other with 2010 Champions Boldmere 'A' having a short trip to Walsall's 33m pool to face Solihull, Halesowen, Stratford Sharks, Lutterworth and the hosts, while the 'B' squad travelled to Leamington to face a challenge against powerful squads from Northampton, Leicester Penguins and the hosts.

The A team maintained their winning ways in Walsall with 43 from 51 top three finishes and twenty-one winning touches to earn 243 gala points on the night – and a maximum 6 League points. Newly promoted Div 2 Champions Lutterworth demonstrated that they are a force to be reckoned with – finishing 2nd with 33 gala points fewer.

Making their Boldmere league debuts, 9Yrs Girls Rebecca Illot, Stephanie Deathridge, Cesca Goode and Harriet Gordon swam impressively, clinching valuable points for the team with two 2nd places in their relays, while Stephanie finished 2nd in the 33m Breaststroke in a new Club Record time, and repeated her performance in the 10Yrs Medley Relay. Newcomers Tim Beesley, Toby Chiles, Jamiroquai Sneekes and Jack Bateman shone for the Boys - taking 2nd in their Freestyle Relay.

In the 10Yrs age group, Stella-Anne O'Hehir won both 66m Freestyle and Fly while Aristeia Knight also touched first in the Breaststroke. In the Boys' equivalent event, Taleb Givans set a new Boys' Club Record, and he then swam up an age group to join Kai Alexander, Joel Cunningham and Matt Price to win both Medley and Freestyle Relays, setting a new Club Record in the 11 Yrs Freestyle event.

Joel (Backstroke) and Matt (Fly & Breaststroke) won their individual events in style, while Kate Davies also earned maximum points in her Breaststroke event with new Club Record. In the 11 Yrs Freestyle Relay, the Boldmere quartet of Kate, Stella-Anne, Lois West and Lauren Wall also took the first place honours.

There were six more individual wins in the oldest age group (12Yrs & Under); two from Beth Grant in the Freestyle and Breaststroke - the latter in a new Club Record, Laura Richardson (Backstroke) Ben Campbell (Breaststroke) and Ben Stanford in the Backstroke with another Club Record set in the Freestyle. The girls (12 yr) Medley foursome of Richardson, Grant, Rachel Wilson and Davies touched first, while 'old hands' Kai, Joel, Matt and both Bens helped secure both relay wins.

For their overall team contributions, Beth Grant and Ben Campbell were awarded 'Star of the Gala' Medals. Finally, a mention must go to another debutant. Leighton Palmer-Whyte produced solid swims in his relay legs to pick up valuable points in both 10Yrs Relays along with Leo Karski, Roan Griffiths and Taleb.

Further south at Leamington Spa, the B team had a much tougher task against 2010 Finalists - Northampton, the 2009 League winners - Leicester Penguins, and the hosts. Despite trailing in sixth place for most of the evening they managed to finish 5th ahead of Droitwich and collect 2 well earned League points against extremely tough opposition.

For many Boldmere youngsters, it was their first Junior League competition outing with 9 Yrs debutants Grace Ballinger, Dani Winkless, Molly Sheriff, Madeline Shay, Dan Campbell, Callum Halsey, Alex Smith and Zach Andrews facing a tough challenge which they all came through with flying colours. Molly shone especially, and was awarded the girls Gala Star award for her excellent relay swims and PB swim in the 25m Butterfly. Carl Joyce won the Coach's vote for the Boys Gala Star accolade following his super relay swims in which he clocked two new PB times.

A further 30 PB times were recorded on the night from: Sophie Resch, Alex Smith (3), Lydia Barnsley (3), Ryan Andrews (2), Kai Jevons, Chloe Wiedeman (2), Archie Langston, Ellie Radford (2), Grace Ballinger (3), Zach Andrews, Sam Dineen, John Curtis, Remi Oldbury, Dan Campbell (2), Sydney Jackson and Callum Halsey. Just outside her PB time, Eden Harlow was highest place finisher in a very close race just being pipped into 2nd place in the 12/u 50m Breaststroke.

The C team hosted their first Division 3 Gala at Wyndley, where the new boom was deployed to create a 25m Short Course Pool. As the only 'C' Team in the League, the Boldmere youngsters made an impressive start against Broadway, Warley Wasps, The Court and Enderby 'B', and were leading the field after 14 of the 51 events. However, in a 'ding-dong' gala, Broadway eventually came out as convincing winners with Boldmere finishing 28 Gala Points behind on 133.

17 top 3 finishes in individual events were gained by Amelia Van Loan, Bonita Deathridge, Chloe Andrews (2), David Thomas, Ellen Ratcliffe, Eve Purdy, James Goodwin, Katerina Hall, Lewis Myers, Maia Boyle, Teerath Khaira (2), Tom McComb (2), Tom Songhurst and Zach Edwards, with Amelia and 'Gala Stars' Maia and Teerath winning their events in impressive style. 33 Personal Best Times were recorded on a night when a great teamwork ethos shone through – with four 1st's, five 2nd's and four 3rd place finishes in the 19 Relay events.

