

The ARENA National League – A, B and C Teams

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 over to Market Drayton to face Braunston, Leamington Spa, Stourbridge, Wolverhampton and Worcester, but it was one way traffic as Boldmere cruised to a winning 78 gala point margin over Stourbridge in second place.

The A team put on a super display winning 29 of the total 50 events and finished top three in 47 events with forty two of them top two.

With so many top performances again picking the Gala Stars was a really tough call but for 11-year-old Georgina Dolan's impressive relay contributions in the girls 11/u foursome especially her gutsy and winning anchor leg in the Medley relay earned the girls award.

For the boys it was another 11 year old as Matt Price excelled by dominating both his two individual 50m Backstroke and Fly events winning by nearly five and four seconds respectively, as well as being part five winning relays – both relays for the 11/u and 13/u relays and then the 15/u Medley relay.

Bagging the maximum 6 gala points for the club with wins were; (11/u) Kate Davies, Tom Bloor, Archie Langston, (13/u) Ben Stanford, Jake Dixon (15/u) Givenchy Sneakes, Emma Smith, Bradley Lynch and finally Jenny Fowler in the Open age group.

Winning both 50m Breaststroke and Fly Kate Davies set a new PB in the latter. Following in Matt's form Tom and Archie maintained a 100% record with a clean sweep of maximum points for the 11/u boys in the 50m Breast and Free. As a relay quartet they dominated as they won their Freestyle and Medley races by a whopping 7 and 10 seconds!

Jake Dixon made his 100m Breaststroke and Fly look easy with demonstration wins by five and three seconds and a new best time in the Breast of 1.13.80. Ben Stanford nearly made it a clean sweep for the 13/u boys by touching first in the 100 Free and then a second place in the Backstroke with a PB.

Emma Smith showed great strength in her two individuals that went to the wire in both getting the nod in dead heat time in the 100 Backstroke and then nicking the 100 Fly by just 0.05 seconds! Givenchy was the only girl in her race to go under 60 seconds as she was 5 metres clear of second place.

Those to claim individual best times on the night were Laura Richardson (13/u 100 Backstroke 1.16.45), Rachel Wilson (13/u 100m Fly 1.12.47), Morgan Harlow (13/u 100m Free 1.03.86), Steve Wilson (15/u 100m Backstroke in 1.05.02) and Kristie Hackett (Open 100m Fly 1.07.06).

With 14 relay wins from 16 the whole team excelled in these events with everyone deserving a mention. A few highlights were Stella O'Hehir on the third leg of the 11/u freestyle relay, digging deep to keep neck and neck with Wolverhampton, handing over to Lauren Wall who then pulled away for a 2 second win.

With three 12-year-old girls, Eden Harlow, Rachel Wilson and Laura Richardson in the 13/u relay team, they were up against tough competition but despite handing over in 5th place to Morgan Harlow on anchor she powered through the field to take 2nd place.

In the penultimate ladies Open six leg relay Jenny Fowler, Kristie Hackett, Emily Gordon and then Gina Luckett maintained a constant 3rd place, while Emma Smith pushed the team up into contention for first with Givenchy finishing the job off with a two metre win.

In the final Men's Open 6 leg relay event Bradley Lynch, Adam Kelly and Steve Wilson kept the team on the shoulders of Leamington in the next lane. On fourth leg was 13 year old Jake Dixon who did not lose any ground and pulled out a storming 25.83 split to hand over to Phil Hewitt who eased out to a four metre lead for final man Joey Stanger to hit the pads first by 4.5 seconds.

This now takes the A team into the third and final round at Coventry with the same 27 league points as City of Derby and City of Coventry but with only 7 gala points separating the top three. With Derby top and Boldmere in third spot it's all to play for on 12th December with a place in the National final at stake for the top two.

The B squad put in a fine performance at Chesterfield against A Squads from other clubs, with girls star of the Gala Katie Richardson starting the proceedings with a great 200IM in the Ladies Open, gaining one of many PB's and setting herself up to swim with the girls 15/U of Alice Dearing, Charlotte Smith and Alex Dolan, who gained maximum points with two 1st's in both 15/U relays and then in the Ladies Open relay, with Elmena Saunders and Margaret Gately.

Individual 1st places were achieved by both Katie and Alice (15/u 100 Free and Fly) both gaining PB's along the way with Alice also taking 2nd in the older Open age group 100 Fly.

The boys chose not to lag behind with Luke Davies turning in time with the opposition at the half waypoint of the 100 m breaststroke, but fighting to edge ahead at the finish. Taleb Givans stormed his way forward in the 50m free to claim 1st place, with Ben Campbell following him to push ahead in the 100m Free. Givans repeated his efforts, along with, with Jack Dobson, Leighton Palmer White and Leo Karski to achieve two 1st's in the boys 11/U relay team, Karski's fearsome turns helping to lead him to PB's and the title of boys Gala star.

Birthday girl Megan Holder, teaming up with Brittany Moore, Maia Boyle and Aristeia Knight (11/U) helped to rack up points as did the 13/U group of Lydia Barnsley, Gately, Chloe Andrews and Saunders, with Saunders providing a blistering last leg in the 50M Free relay.

The boys were not to be outdone and Kai Alexander, Joel Cunningham, Campbell and Givans (swimming up) swam well against stiff opposition, with the 15/U boys group of Charlie Payne, Josh Holsey and Davies swimming up to finish the night with the Men's Open with Andy Luckett, Chris Littler and Adam Hall.

The C team travelled the long distance up to Sheffield where they were up against teams from Cannock Phoenix, Cheadle, Etwell Eagles and Matlock.

Battling well throughout the gala the whole team never giving up on any of the gala points available. Finally finishing in 5th place, the C team put in some fabulous performances and achieved 19 brilliant PB's on the night.

Tully Kearney put in an impressive performance to win the girls 15/U 100m Fly in a time of 1.14.59. A further 8 individual Top 3 places and PB's were also achieved. Teerath Khaira 13/U 100m Breast produced an awesome swim helping him to achieve the much deserved boy's Gala Star.

Impressive performances were also put in by Harry Elliot open 100m fly, Daniel Lynch-Davies 13/U 100m back, Sam Morris 11/U 50 breast and 50m free (2nd place). Lois West in the girl's 13/U 100m fly achieved 2nd place with a gutsy swim and earned her the girl's Gala star.

The remaining top 3 places achieved were by Charlotte Weston, Ladies Open 100m Breast and Caitlin Meade 15/U 100m Breast (2nd place). Other swimmers achieving individual PB's on the night were Zoe Kempson (11/U 50 Back), Grace Chatham (13/U 100m Breast), Chris Joyce (15/U 100m Fly), Jessica Millington (11/U 50 Breast), Lewis Gordon (13/U 100 Fly) and Charlotte Fellows (11/U 50m Free).

The relays produced some exciting races and some impressive times were achieved (5 official PB's for Daniel Lynch-Davies, Harry Elliot, Tom Pratt, Grace Chatham and Jacob Banks). Highest placing came from the Ladies Open Medley squad of Lucy Dixon, Caitlin Meade, Charlotte Weston and Laura Walford who all put in a fabulous effort for 2nd place.

