

British Gas Midland A.S.A. Age Group Champs 2011

Twenty of Boldmere Swimming Clubs young stars produced some sparkling performances over two full weekends, at the recent British Gas A.S.A Midland 2010 Age Group Championships at Coventry to reach 24 finals, win 16 medals and set 84 LC personal bests which broke 11 club records in the process.

Racing in Boldmere colours were ten championships debutants of Aristeia Knight, Lauren Wall, Stella-Anne O'Hehir, Archie Langston, Ryan Andrews, Tom Bloor, Rachel Wilson, Alex Dolan, Charlotte Smith, Luke Davies along with previous qualifiers Matt Price, Eden Harlow, Beth Grant, and Steve Wilson.

Stealing the show was Archie Langston who swam in 6 events, reached 3 finals and won 3 medals in 10-year age group. In his first he qualified 8th in the 200 Freestyle and improved to 7th place in the final. However, in his 200m Backstroke heat he set a 5 sec PB but then went on to slice a further second off in the final to take bronze in a time of 2.49.63. In the shorter 100m race he hit jackpot on his back hitting the pads with a 4 second PB to take the gold medal a time of 1:21:87 over second clear of second place.

Qualifying joint 3rd fastest for 200IM final Archie turned in 4th place onto the final freestyle leg and swam one hell of a gutsy last 50m missing out on silver and full colour set of medals by a mere 0.01 seconds to take another bronze reducing his PB by 8 second. In the 400m Free he finished 5th with another pb of 6 seconds.

Also qualifying for 6 events and PB'ing in every swim, shaving a massive 52 seconds in total off his times Ryan Andrews (10) finished 5th just behind Archie in the BAGCAT points awards. Placing 4th and 6th respectively in both the 200m Backstroke and 200m Freestyle he sliced 15 seconds off his 400IM time to take the bronze.

As the youngest Midlands Championships qualifier in Boldmere's Club history 10 year old Aristeia Knight qualified for two events and broke her 100m Breaststroke PB by a massive 11 seconds. Another 10 year old Stella-Anne O'Hehir set PB's in four of her six events in the 100 & 400m Freestyle, 200m Breaststroke and 200IM.

Qualifying for eight events 10 year old Lauren Wall produced a 6 second PB in the 400m Free to finish in 4th spot. In a very close finishing 200m Free Final Lauren improved on qualifying eighth reducing her PB again to finish 7th. She set further PB's in the 100m Backstroke and 200IM

Eleven year old Matt Price also picked up a bronze medal when he set a new club record in the 100m Backstroke in a time of 1.15.69 which was just 0.03 seconds behind second place. Setting no less than 8 personal best times out of eight races he set two further club records in the 200m Backstroke, finishing 4th in the final and 400m Freestyle. Tom Bloor meanwhile also set a PB in his 200IM.

Slowly coming back to form 11 year old Eden Harlow set personal best in all her six events of 100m & 200m Freestyle, 200 & 400IM and 100m Breaststroke while in the longer 200m race she qualified 5th fastest for the final where she slipped to 7th.

Alex Dolan (13) set two good PB's in her 100m Freestyle and then the 100m Breaststroke with a time of 1.24.71 seconds - a 5 second LC PB. More personal bests were achieved by Charlotte Smith in her four events of 200 & 400m Freestyle and 100 and 200 Backstroke - the latter smashing her record by 11 seconds. Beth Grant also competed in the two events of 100m Freestyle and 200m setting a PB in the latter.

Siblings Steve and Rachel Wilson qualified together for the Midlands for the first time, with Rachel recording a new long course PB of 5.15.69 in the 400 freestyle on her debut. Meanwhile Steve, returning to competitive action after missing a month following an operation for appendicitis, still managed to take two bronze medals with determined swims in both the 100m Freestyle and 100m Backstroke.

Qualifying for 6 events Luke Davies's strongest events were in the Breaststroke where he qualified 8th fastest for the 200m final but improved to 5th place overall with a time of 2.48.93. In the shorter 100m he knocked a second off his PB to finish in 6 place overall with a time of 1.15.80. He set further PB's in the 100m & 400 Free and 200IM where, seeded 29th, he finished 15th.

There was further Boldmere SC presence and success at the Championships with six club members who compete for their home club in league competitions but represent their training clubs of City of Birmingham and Royal Wolverhampton School in regional and national championships

In fine majestic form was 13 year old Jake Dixon who entered 8 events over the 4 days of competition and placed top 5 in all of them. He viewed his 400IM bronze as his best performance with a new CR of 5.04.34 which was a National Qualifying time (NQT) and currently ranks him 5th in the country for the National Finals in Sheffield next month.

He claimed two more medals in NQT's in the 200IM (Silver) and 200m Fly (Bronze) ranking him 10th and 17th respectively in his age group nationally with a further bronze in the 100m Breaststroke. The following finishes of 400m Free 4th,(PB),100m Fly 4th, 200m Free 5th (PB) and 200m Breast 6h completed a very successful Champs.

Kate Davies (11) reduced her long course personal best by nearly 12 seconds in the 400IM to qualifying for the Nationals in July but excelled even further by taking bronze and then silver in the 100m & 200m Breaststroke both in new club record times. She also set three personal bests reaching the finals in the 200IM, 200 Fly and 200 Free where she placed 4th, 7th and 8th respectively. She set a further CR in the 800m Free.

With five top six finishes from his eight events Ben Stanford's highlight of the champs was in the 100m Freestyle where in a exciting climax his PB 1.04.09 time saw him miss out on the gold by only 0.02 seconds - which now ranks him 3rd for Nationals. He qualified for three finals - 200IM, 200m Breast (6th with a 7 sec PB), 200m Free (4th with a PB and NQT of 2.20.00) and finally in the 400m Free he placed 5th with another PB and NQT of 4.57.23.

Competing in six events Joel Cunningham reached the 200m Freestyle final placing 6th but, seeded 14th in the 200m Backstroke, he rose to the occasion to not only qualify for the final but took the bronze medal setting a new PB time of 2.41.60 in the process, with his 100m split time also a PB. Charlie Payne (13) qualified for all the Freestyle events of 100, 200, 400 and 1500m.

In the RWS colours Penny Whittingham won the second gold in the 400m Freestyle setting a new CR record in the process. She picked up another medal in the 200IM with a 3rd and placed 4th in the 100m Fly and 6th in the final of the 200m Backstroke.

Finally there was an extra award to eight swimmers in the form of the BAGCATs (British Age Group CATagorieS) awards. Only given out to the top eight swimmers in each age group and based on the accumulated total of FINA points gained from the swimmers best 100m, 200m, freestyle and IM event times, Archie finished 4th, Ryan 5th, Lauren 8th, Ben 4th, Matt 8th, Kate 5th, with Jake and Penny both 3rd in their respective age groups.

