

Junior League Div 1 - Round 3 2010

In the third and final round of the Nuneaton & District Junior League, Boldmere SC 'A' and 'B' team were yet again drawn against each other - along with Leicester Penguins (LP), Nuneaton & Bedworth (N & B), Walsall and Bilston with Boldmere the hosts at Wyndley's 33m pool.

The 'A's' pre gala mission was to win, take the maximum 6 points to top the league, and qualify for the top six finale showdown in September. The 'B' was simply to finish 5th or better to maintain their status in Division 1 after their first year in the top flight. By 8.30pm, after 2 hours of competition in very humid conditions, it was mission accomplished by both teams....unlike the England football team the following day!!

The 'A' team cruised to a win - finishing 24 points ahead of N & B - with the Penguins a further 10 points behind in 3rd. With 13 individual and 12 relay wins, they were placed in the top two in 41 of the 51 events, and broke 11 individual and 8 relay Club Records in the process.

With so many performances deserving a mention, some of the highlights were: Joel Cunningham in the second event 66m Freestyle in a neck and neck tussle from start to finish but getting the touch for 1st; Tom Bloor creating a 2m lead on the third fly leg of the 11/u medley relay; Penny Whittingham majestically winning both the 12/u 66m Free and Fly - the latter by seven seconds; a three way blanket finish between LP and N & B in the girls 10 Yr Free relay where Kate Davies held off the challenge for the full 6 points; Beth Grant winning both 11 and 12 Year 66m Breaststroke races; and Laura Richardson not giving up against the N & B swimmer in the next lane to take second place in the 11 Yr 66m Backstroke and setting a new Club Record (CR).

There were also many outstanding performances in the relays especially the three 8 leg events. For the girls, Stella-Anne O'Hehir, Chloe Murphy, Kate Davies, Lauren Wilson, Rachel Wilson kept the team in contention, while Beth made up 2 metres for Margaret Gately to take the lead and Penny ease away for maximum points. The boys octet of Taleb Givens, Roan Griffiths, Archie Langston, Matt Price, Ben Stanford, Ben Campbell Jake Dixon and finally Charlie Payne won convincingly by a massive 10 metres. In the final event of the evening, the mixed 8 leg the 'A' of Stella-Anne, Roan, Kate, Joel, Eden Harlow, Stanford and Whittingham were stroke for stroke with N & B in the adjoining lane until Jake swam a superb last leg to pull out a 2 metre gap to win.

The other individual winners came from Roan (9) 33m Back, Stella-Anne (9) 33m Fly, Tom (10) 66m Fly in a new CR, Kate (10) 66m Breast in a CR, Jake (12) 66m Fly in CR, Charlie Payne (12) 66m Free and Charlotte Smith (12) 66m Back. Second spots and CR were gained by Matt Price (10) 66m Breast and Lauren Wall (10) 66m Backstroke.

With so many fantastic performances on the night in times and effort, the Gala Stars awards were a tough call but head coach Ash Cox finally gave the accolades to Penny and Tom.

The same hard decision faced 'B' team coach Nigel Kelly who in the end found himself announcing four Gala Stars of Leo Karski, Lois West, Kai Alexander and Alex Dolan for their overall performances of on the night - but the whole team put out an excellent performance to achieve their goal.

Competing against the 'A' team - who were always going to take most of the limelight - did not stop the 'B's' putting up a good fight. Nine year old Aristeia Knight showed impressive breaststroke form to take 3rd place in the one length event, had a brilliant 2nd leg in the medley relay - taking the team of Lucy Ollerenshaw, Sophie Resch and Tara Rees from last to 4th which they held, and also didn't falter when her goggles came off in the first leg of the freestyle relay.

Anna Walker had a solid anchor leg in the 11/u relay to bring her team of Chloe Wiederman, Lois and Chloe Andrews home in 4th while Lewis Gordon's (11) Medley breaststroke leg stood out - as did Jay Martin's storming anchor leg in the 9 year old Freestyle relay - where he made up 6 metres and gained an all important extra point.

Caitlin Meade (12) yet again gave her all to gain the highest place 'B' with a 2nd place in the 66m Breast for a Boldmere one two, while Morgan Harlow (12) just missed second in the 66m Fly. Other B team swimmers with top three placings were Gala Stars Lois West (10) 33m Fly and Alex Dolan (12) 66m Freestyle.

In their final year of Junior league competition the 12 Yr girl quartet of Alex, Caitlin, Morgan and Emma Buckroyd gave the 'A' a run for their money in both relays - leading the field at the final takeover in the freestyle event - but ultimately securing valuable 3rd spot places in both events.

