

Making Waves at Boldmere



Over seventy swimmers took to the water for a weekend of racing at Boldmere Open Meet (16-17 Nov). This unusual gala runs both level 2 and level 3 events concurrently and the glitz of the flashing lights and disco ball adds a party atmosphere.

Two days of hard competition rewarded the team with an impressive 152 new personal bests, 84 medals and fifteen Midland Qualifying times. Swimmers and parents stayed till the very end to see Hannah Greenshield presented with the club trophy for Best Visiting Club and cheer on our girls in the Skins final. Ruby O'Brien, Ellen Stone, and Hannah all qualified earlier in the 100m Free for this test of all-round sprinting, with Ruby going on to win the dramatic head-to-head final in a swift 27.97s and scooping the £50 top prize. Ellen received £20 for fourth place and Hannah took £15 for fifth.

Seventeen year old Ellen Stone's superb ability in the water appears effortless with another excellent gala under her belt. Not content with four golds and a silver, Ellen's excellent breaststroke performance saw her gain new meet records in both the 50 and 200m events. Smashing nearly a second off the 50m with a pb of 34.19. In the 200m free and a body length down, Ellen's sudden surge at 60m stunned the opposition storming to first place.

A dazzling display from the senior girls saw Leamington dominate the podium in all three backstroke events. Adding to her earlier silver in the 50 breaststroke. Maddie Spalding's fast pace, paid dividends, in the 50 and 100m back sprinting her way to first place. Second and third places were hotly contested with Greenshield securing silver in the 50m by just a tenth from Sarah Smith, both girls producing new pb's. Hannah Pickett, 15 was unlucky finishing in 4th. The 100m event was just as intense with Leamington grabbing the top five spots. A dynamic finish from Sarah Brades pushed Greenshield into bronze place with Jessica Nash and Sarah Smith finishing in fourth and fifth places.

Tightening their grip in the 200m with another all spa podium Jessica equalled the pb she set in the primaries, securing first place with a two second lead confirming she's on excellent form. Hannah Pickett produced a two second pb for silver and Brades took third. Sarah Smith sliced four seconds from her best time finishing just shy of the medals.

Adding to her medal collection, Greenshield produced a brilliant 27.94 in the 50m freestyle for a well-deserved first place. This close race saw the next three swimmers finishing on 28 seconds but a strong finish from Ruby O'Brien pinched silver. Another tight race developed in the 100m freestyle with the top three fighting for gold but Greenshield once again shook the opposition off taking first place. Ruby just a few tenths behind claimed bronze. Further silvers in both 50 and 100m fly brought Greenshield's tally to six. Teammate Hannah Pickett achieved bronze in the 100m fly together with a gold in the level 3 100m breaststroke.

Thirteen year old Teigan Parker went home with a colourful collection of medals, gold in the 50 breast, silvers in the 100 and 200 breast, 50m back and 50m free and bronze in the 400m free. Mollie Dibb, 12, achieved bronze in the 50 free and a two second pb in the 100m fly secured her second place.

Continuing the backstroke success for the intermediate category, thirteen year old Felicity Dempster earned first place in the 200m with third place going to Megan Stanton, 12. Another bronze was collected by Connell Parker, 11. Whilst in the 50m race Derry Linton, 13, knocked a second off her pb for bronze. Abby Jolley, 10, competed in the junior age group and achieved a medal in each distance,

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gold in 50m, silver in the 100m and 200m. Abby's success continued in the 50 fly with silver and bronze in the 50 m free.

Harry Manship just missed a place in the skins final but his speed in the breaststroke generated two silvers recording 2.41.43 in the 200m and 1.13.95 in the 100m with Joshua James taking third in the 100m. Josh went on to snip his 100m fly time to add a further bronze.

Twelve year olds, Megan Stanton and Edward Jolly both gained third places in the 200m IM, Edward reduced his pb by a huge eight seconds to 2.51.20 and swimming into silver for the seniors was fifteen year old Amy Pettigrew.

Finn Nicholas was firing on all cylinders, first gaining bronze in the level 2 400m free recording 5.03.6 and then adding a hat trick of gold medals in the level three events. Finn's impressive form secured personal bests in all his events ripping five seconds off his 100m back for first place. Competition from Edward Jolly in the 200m IM drove Finn into silver, plunging his time down by thirteen seconds. In the level three gala, Edward added gold in the 100m breaststroke cutting his pb by four seconds which had been set only a month before. Gold number two came in the 200m distance together with two more silver in the 50m fly and 50m back, finishing with a bronze in the 200m back.

In the seniors Sophie Hutchinson's stash of level three medals included gold for the 200m breaststroke, silver in the 50 and 100m backstroke and 100m breast finishing with bronze in the 100m free. Following on from his lightning 29.84 in the level 2 50m fly, Philip Warren,15, won bronze in the L3 200m fly and second in the 200m back.

In the intermediate group, Jade Pickett,13 swam into silver in the 400m free before adding gold in the level 3 gala, for the gruelling 200m fly, team mate Lily O'Brien,13 claimed third. Despite not feeling 100% Lily went on to take gold in the 50m breaststroke with a 3 second pb. Derry Linton,12 was third adding silver in the 100m breaststroke just behind Megan Stanton's gold winning performance. Another gold was secured by Jennifer Herbert,12, in the 50m fly and silver in the 200m free. Tristan Thickett knocked four seconds off his best time for bronze in the 200m breast. The intermediate backstroke races were extremely close, eleven year old Evie Nicholas' debut 100m backstroke was rewarded with gold. Phoebe Spalding,12 took third place, claiming another bronze in the 200m race but in the 50m phoebe pinched silver by a fingertip.

Everyone was happy in the Quelch's household as all three went home with medals. Freddie, 11 gained second in the 200m free and third in the 100m fly, Molly,11 scooped bronze in the 200m breaststroke and younger sister Amelia made silver in the same event but for the Junior age group.

In the junior category, Oscar Fitzpatrick finished in second place in the 200 back just ahead of Ben Shuttlewood in third. For the girls, a close race developed in the 50m back with Katy Bamforth snatching third place by hundredths of a second and a new time of 37.62 for Amy Edgar,11 won silver in the 50m free.

A big well done to the Midland Qualifiers:

Sarah Brades in the 100 and 200m backstroke,

Hannah Greenshield in the 50m backstroke, 50m and 100m fly,

Harry Manship in the 50m fly and 200m IM,

Sarah Smith in the 50m backstroke,

Maddie Spalding in the 50m, 100m backstroke and 50m breaststroke,

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Ellen Stone in the 400m free and 200m IM.

Felicity Dempster in the 200m backstroke and

Megan Stanton in the 200m backstroke