

Jubilant JIM Meet



Eight clubs took part in Boldmere's annual Junior Invitation gala held on Saturday 16th Feb. Over 379 swimmers took to the water for a friendly battle, 44 of those were from Leamington with some as young as eight competing in their very first open gala.

The eight and nine year olds compete in 25m races along with the 10 year olds fly event, all other events are the longer 50m distance.

Getting the gala off to a great start in the breaststroke were the eight year old girls. Imogen Hodge took first place in 32.23 with Erin Sleight finishing just behind in second. Imogen went on to take a further two second places in the 25m back and freestyle whilst Erin secured a good third place in the freestyle event, and in the backstroke, knocked over six seconds off her entry time narrowly missing third place.

Only two tenths of a second separated Molly MacKenzie and Elise Edgar in the nine year breaststroke, with Molly snatching second place in a time of 25.55 just a whisker ahead of Elise in third. The boy's event was just as tight with Sebastian Dibb just managing to grab second in a time of 24.63. A further second place went to Samuel Manship in the freestyle in 18.30 seconds.

Ten year olds Evie Nicholas, Constance Hodge and Callum McWhirter kept the excitement bubbling, tussling with their opponents for third places. Evie's freestyle event saw just a tenth of a second separating second and fourth place. The smallest of margins continued on the backstroke with both Evie and Constance delivering new pb's but Constance had the longer fingertips securing third in a time of 44.32. Callum McWhirter clocked up two great third places in both the back with 42.00 and the 25m fly with 18.90.

Connell Parker, 11, raced his way to first place in the backstroke in a time of 39.22 and an impressive 33.79 secured another win in the free. Connell had a fierce fight with team mate Edward Jolly in the fly with both guys tucking under the 40 second mark. Connell just edged it to secure third place.

Experience showed in the top age group with Teigan Parker displaying a superb performance in the 50m breast, easily taking first place with a storming time of 37.97. Team mate Mollie Dibb secured third place with a new pb of 40.61. Teigan continued to shine with two further top spots in both the fly in 34.66 and freestyle. The smallest of margins forced Teigan into second place for the backstroke. Mollie's solid racing earned her two additional third places and new pbs with times of 35.60 in the fly and 31.88 in the free.

46 new pbs were created helping Leamington to challenge for the top visiting club award. This was hotly contested throughout the day with Leamington, Stratford Sharks and Blythe Barracudas all holding the lead place at one stage. A great team effort from everyone, earning a valiant second place and only three points behind the winners.

Well done to all those swimmers taking part in an open gala for the first time.