

Spa Swimmers Triumph at Cov Sprints

Leamington Spa Swimmers brought home a total of thirty seven medals following the Annual Coventry Sprints Gala held at the City of Coventry Baths on September 24th. A squad of over thirty competitors ranging from nine to sixteen years in age took to the long course pool to compete across the four strokes in 50 metres sprint races. For some of the younger swimmers this was their first opportunity to compete over a long course distance.

Unphased by the size of Coventry's pool nine year old Sophie Woodland had four terrific races bringing home two golds in the fly and the back, a silver in the free and a bronze in the breaststroke. Team mate Ellen Butler took the gold in the breast in 50.38. Not to be out done by the girls nine year old Connell Parker took a bronze in the backstroke.

In the ten year old category it was another clean sweep for Mollie Dibb. She took golds in all four strokes equalling her performance in 2010. Georgina Mitchell clinched bronze in the 50 free. Aran Shuttlewood had a great day's racing taking gold in the breaststroke and three silvers in fly, back and free.

Ruby O'Brien swam well showing the potential she has for the coming season. She took third place in the 50 free in 31.12 and third place again in the breast in 41.00. Hannah Pickett claimed silver in the 50 back whilst Nick Payne took bronze in the boys' thirteen year old backstroke.

Sophie Vale, 14, also enjoyed a terrific day's racing. She won a gold in the 50 breast and silver in the back. Team mate Hannah Greenshield successfully medalled in the remaining two strokes taking gold in the fly in 31.98 and a silver in the free. Peter Clark was also in fine form with an impressive win in the back and three further silvers in breast, fly and free.

National breaststroke qualifier Maddie Spalding took gold in the back and breast (in 36.86) and two silvers in fly and free.

Twelve Leamington swimmers made it through to the finals. In this round the total times of all swimmers four swims are added together. Those who swam the fastest times across the sprints then compete in age group 200metre Individual medley races. Further success was borne out by the controlled swimming of nine year old Sophie Woodland who took gold. Mollie Dibb also won gold by a huge margin of 11 seconds. Aran Shuttlewood continued to impress with his fine win in the 10 year old boys also winning by 11 seconds. Ruby O'Brien dug deep in the last 15 metres to pull away into second place earning her a well deserved silver. Sophie Vale and Peter Clark made it a double victory for Leamington in the 14 year old category.

All those swimmers who qualified for the 200IM finals are to be congratulated on their outstanding achievement. Those swimmers included Connell Parker, Derry Linton Teigan Parker, Jack Dennis, Nick Payne, Hannah Pickett and Maddie Spalding.

This was an excellent day's competing for Leamington. Some incredible PBs were set by many swimmers who may not have managed to secure a medal but still performed in the water with gutsy determination.

A huge well done to all who took part.