

Snow Falls But Cov Relays Hot Up



As the chill of snow fell over Coventry Baths the temperature inside was heating up with the start of the annual Cov & District Relay Gala, held on Saturday 4th February.

Events were swum in four age groups, nine years, 10-12 years, 14 years, and the Open age, each having 'A' and 'B' teams swimming both freestyle and medley relays.

The gala got off to a great start with Abby Jolley, Jessie Butler, Rebecca Morris and Evie Nicholas taking third place in the girls nine year freestyle relay.

In the 10-12 year category Teigan Parker, Felicity Dempster, Mollie Dibb and Jade Pickett took third place in their freestyle race, in a time of 2.10.91. Whilst the 'B' team of Imogen Butler, Sarah Chapman, Amelia Morris and Georgia Kidd went one better and picked up medals in both of their relays. In the freestyle, the team had a tough battle against Coventry but clinched it with a great final leg from Imogen who fought hard to the end and snatched gold with the touch, in a time of 2.16.12. They later went on to secure silver in the medley.

There was an outstanding display from the boys 'A' team with Harry Manship, Kieran Curran, Finn Linton and Luke Williams having a fantastic night by taking gold convincingly in both freestyle and medley relays with times of 2.03.45 and 2.21.10 respectively. Success continued with the 'B' line up of Philip Warren, Finn Nicholas, Aran Shuttlewood and Edward Jolly achieving two bronzes, with times of 2.20.25 for the free and 2.45.82 for the medley.

The fourteen year old girls triumphed with both teams gaining medals in both events. The first team of Jess Nash, Sophie Vale, Hannah Pickett and Niamh Curran secured two bronze places with times of 2.05.23 in the freestyle and 2.20.09 in the medley, whilst the 'B' team of Amy Pettigrew, Harriet Riley, Megan McDonald and Grace Cain achieved silvers in their events, with times of 2.07.98 and 2.29.14. The boys 'A' squad of Max Clarke, Nick Payne, Josh James and Chris Finch gained third place in their freestyle.

In the senior section, Jonty Cartwright and Peter Clark teamed up with Coaches James Wardle and Stuart Parker to form the men's open. They had a flying freestyle race securing second place in a time of 1.43.22 narrowly missing the top spot. They later took bronze in the medley.

The girls open age group had a remarkable night with both 'A' and 'B' teams securing medal positions. Maddie Spalding, Hannah Greenshield, Sarah Smith and Sarah Brades swimming as the 'A' team secured third place in the freestyle with a time of 2.01.04, and silver in the medley in 2.13.01. Whilst later the 'B' team of Charlotte Riley, Ellen Stone, Charlotte Collett and Jenny Chapman soared to first place in the medley to take gold in 2.20.21 and silver in the freestyle in 2.06.17.

The night finished with a total of 4 trophies and 19 podiums along with a heavy flurry of snow. It was definitely worth the very slow long drive back home from Coventry.