

WORCESTER WINTER LEAGUE

19 FEBRUARY 2011 – ROUND 2

Here we go, round 2. Great to see the team warming up together – need more of this please!!

The team:

Aimee	Hannah	Adam	Nick B
Becki	Jade	Alex	Nick C
Bethan	Lauren	Ed	Rich
Ellie C	Madison	Joe	Sam K
Ellie L	Megan	Matt	Sam T
Emily	Nat	Miles	Tom
Emma			

The first race saw our 11s Medley Team take to the water – well done Bethan, Ed, Ellie C, Matt, Jade and Alex for putting our first 5 points on the scoreboard. The next 5 races we were on a roll – 100% wins coming from Nat and Sam T on the free; Emily and Adam on the Back and Becki on the Fly. Our 15s Medley Team (Lauren, Tom, Megan, Sam T, Nat and Nick B) took a fantastic 5 points to keep us in the running. 10 races gone, 51 points on the board and we are standing in 1st place with a very slender 2 points lead over Worcester A.

Now if I thought they were fired up in the first 10 races, the next 10 saw an amazing 53 points go on the board out of a maximum 60. Wow – what can I say? Me, speechless? Never!!! Wins coming from Tom (Fly and Breast); Bethan, Alex and Becki (Back). Now I just have to take a moment here to tell you about one of the best moments in the gala, in my opinion. Tom took to the block to do the 100m breaststroke. With 50m gone he has a good lead but at the end of the race he had opened up a 10 second lead over his closest competitor! This really was a fabulous swim to watch – poetry in motion Tom and in my opinion you should have had some bonus points for this one because it was worth more than 6 points!! So with 20 races down we were still in 1st place with a 4 point lead over Worcester A. Now the nerves are starting to jangle.

Races 21 to 30 were a real tough section for us. Just one win here from our 13s Medley Team (Emily, Adam, Emma, Tom, Madison and Myles) but some great 2nd places from Bethan (Back); Hannah (Free); and our Open Medley Relay (Becki, Rich, Ellie, Joe, Hannah and Nick C). So after 30 events we had slipped to 2nd place behind Worcester A and had quite a lot of ground to make up.

So, everything to play for in the final 10 races and I couldn't have asked for more from my Team – every single event gave us either a 2nd or 1st place!!! This is a fantastic achievement. Individual wins coming from Madison and Adam (Free); Ellie and Rich (Breast) and second places to Lauren and Sam K (Back). Onto the freestyle relays, our last 4 races. Going into this events we were 7 points adrift of Worcester A. Barring a disaster on their behalf, we weren't going to do it, but this did not dampen the enthusiasm of my Team. The 11s (Ellie C, Alex, Jade, Ed, Bethan and Matt) and 15s (Megan, Nick B, Lauren, Sam K, Nat and Sam T) secured 2nd places. Next came our 13s who took a very convincing 3 second win (Aimee, Adam, Madison, Tom, Emily and Myles). And then the last event and the crowd are going

wild – Hannah takes to the block, the beep sounds and she's off – thundering down the first length, touching together in 1st place with Worcester A, Rich next and a very strong opponent from Worcester saw us just touched into 2nd place, Ellie L taking to the water and putting in a tremendous length to pull us to joint 1st place, Joe next and he swam amazing to hold that joint 1st place. Nothing between Worcester A and us, Becki next and giving us a slight lead as our last swimmer of the night, Nick C takes to the water. Is it a bird, is it a plane? No, it's Super Nick – I actually couldn't see him for the splash in the water and with just 0.4 difference between Worcester A and us, we had taken the final victory. What a great end to the night!

So the final scores were:

Worcester A	204 points
Stourbridge A	198 points
Haden Hill	148 points
Worcester B	131 points
Solihull	118 points

My runaway Team of the night are my Under 13s – Emily, Adam, Aimee, Tom, Emma, Madison and Myles. With an amazing 8 wins between them they really are working together well as a Team and the results are a testament to how strong they are. Stroke of the night came from our Backstroke swimmers (Emily, Adam, Becki, Rich, Bethan, Alex, Lauren and Sam K, taking an unbelievable 94% of the available points on individual swims! This is quite an achievement!

Swimmer of the night was a really tough decision. I had several swimmers: Adam, Alex, Becki, Ellie L, Emily and Madison who all gained maximum points from their individual events. But there was one swimmer who absolutely stood out in my mind tonight. I couldn't have asked for more from this swimmer producing the goods time and time again, so for outstanding results, over and over again, **Tom McCallum** you are my swimmer of the night.

In terms of the boys or girls – they've done it again - the Girls got it but only 3 points in it!!

Would I have made any changes tonight? Probably not. Was it a fair result? I think so. I have to say congratulations to Worcester A, you were awesome opponents tonight. But, I have to say, my team were outstanding! You gave it everything, I couldn't have asked for more from any one of you and I have to say you make me very proud to say that I'm your Team Manager.

Thanks, as ever, go to my helpers who turn out time and time again for me. I would also like to say thanks for such an extremely efficiently run gala, the events were underway quickly and the results came thick and fast.

Jason