

# NATIONAL ARENA SWIMMING LEAGUE

## 11 DECEMBER 2010 – ROUND 3

The team:

Alex G	Jon	Becky	Jess
Alex W	Matthew	Charlotte	Katie
Aneel	Nick	Chloe	Lauren
Callum	Pete	Ellie A	Lucy
Edward M	Ricky	Fran	Madison
Jacob	Ryan	Gemma	Megan
James	Sam M	Geena	Niamh
Jarryd	Sam R	Jade	
Joe			

Another long trip to Leighton Buzzard. My nerves are jangling for this one – a good team effort here and we could make the finals so everything to play for.

First swim off was a difficult one – 200 IM for the Ladies and my usual swimmer not available. Step up Fran, my knight-ess in shining armour! What a fantastic swim, you gave that 110% for me and I'm so grateful you stepped up. Sam next and a great effort against some really good opposition. Straight into the relays. Superb swims all round and a real nail biter from our 15s Free Girls (Lauren, Gemma, Madison and Jess) taking the win by a cat's whisker. 2<sup>nd</sup> places going to our 13s and Open Girls medley relay teams. So 10 races gone and we're in 3<sup>rd</sup> place behind Crusaders and Tewkesbury. So far, so good but we need to keep the pressure on.

Races 11 to 18 saw one win from Lauren in the 15s Back. This was an incredible swim leaving her nearest opponent 6 seconds in her wake, completely annihilating the opposition. Matt (11s Back) and Sam (13s Breast) took well deserved 2<sup>nd</sup> places. There was a bit of a gap (11 and 13 points) developing between us and the top 2 teams so we really needed to turn up the heat if we were going to secure that place in the final.

Events 19 to 26 saw a win from Katie (13s Back) with nearly 2 seconds of clear water between her and 2<sup>nd</sup> place Tewkesbury. Megan keeping the pressure on with a great 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the 15s Fly. Despite our teams fantastic effort the gap was widening and I'm starting to fret a little.

I shouldn't have worried too much though because races 27 and 34 saw 3 1<sup>st</sup> places – Edward (Breaststroke); Megan (Fly); and Lucy (Breaststroke). Edward's race had to be the most exciting one of the evening – with 5m to go he was in 2<sup>nd</sup> place and just seemed to find incredible energy to take the win by his finger nails. Such determination and a well deserved 6 points. 2<sup>nd</sup> places came from Niamh (Breaststroke); Gemma (Free) and Ricky (Breaststroke). This was a fantastic section of the gala with our Breaststrokers being absolutely phenomenal. The gap had now closed to just 3 points off 2<sup>nd</sup> place and I could hear my heart pounding over the noise of the gala!

Events 35 to 42 gave us 28 points to keep us in the hunt. 2<sup>nd</sup> place coming from Madison (13s Free) and our remaining swimmers doing a fantastic job to push us ahead of Crusaders and into 2<sup>nd</sup> spot. Just the relays to go and could we hang on to 2<sup>nd</sup> place? One more 1<sup>st</sup> place, coming from our Girls 15s Medley (Lauren, Gemma, Katie and Jess) and super 2<sup>nd</sup> places from the 11s Medley Girls and Boys; and 13s Free Girls and Boys.

With Crusaders having beaten us in the last round, had they done it again? Not this time, the final scores were:

Tewkesbury	207 points
<b>Stourbridge B</b>	<b>189 points</b>
Crusaders	185 points
Leighton Buzzard	159 points
Fox Hollies	156 points

Bilston

148 points

Unbelievable!!!!!! John Sanders is trying to talk to me but at this point I'm just bouncing up and down in excitement. YOU DID IT TEAM!!!! YOU'RE IN THE FINAL – date for your diaries – 16 January 2011, venue to be confirmed. So well deserved!!

Special mentions have to go to Fran for an outstanding job on the IM, Charlotte for taking up the challenge on the Fly, Joe who did one race got out, didn't have time to catch his breath and did the next boy's race and Jess who scored perfect marks out of her 2 relay swims. You were my superstars of the night.

Our Breaststroke swimmers were the run away winners on the night so well done to Niamh, Edward, Megan, Sam M, Lauren, Ryan, Lucy and Ricky. The age group of the night was our 13s swimmers again. Congratulations go to Katie, Madison, Megan, Chloe, Joe, Jacob, Sam M and Alex. My team of the night is the 15s Girls who took an incredible 32 points from 36 on offer. Absolutely incredible Girls you were just outstanding all night.

Swimmer of the night has to go to **Madison Brookes** – one individual swim and 3 relays and a near perfect score. Well done, you put in some great swims tonight.

Thanks again to my helpers and officials on poolside, you're time and effort is very much appreciated.

Now I just can't wait for January – just in case you missed it – WE'RE IN THE FINAL!!!!!!!!!!

Boy do I need a lie down!

Glyn