

NATIONAL ARENA SWIMMING LEAGUE

11 DECEMBER 2010 – ROUND 3

The team:

Adam F	Myles	Alex P	Emily
Adam H	Nicholas	Becki C	Emma
Ashley	Phil	Becky B	Hannah
Billy	Rich	Becky S	Nat
Graham	Sam	Ellie C	Rochelle
Jake	Tom A	Ellie L	Sophie
Joe	Tom McC	Ellie W	
Michael			

The venue was Leamington Spa and the opposition was going to be tough. But I had a fantastic team that gave it 1000% for me tonight.

Becki C and Rich got us off to a great start with a second place from Becki and a win from Rich on the 200 IM. Step up the relay teams – 5 2nd places out of 8 races! Can you believe it! Well yes I can because the swimmers had Stourbridge on their hats and determination in their eyes. After the first 10 events we were in 2nd place behind Calverton. I must say at this point that Calverton put out a pretty impressive team and we knew it was going to be hard to beat them.

No wins on events 11 to 18 but a very useful couple of 3rd places from the dynamic duo of Toms – Tom McC on the Breaststroke and Tom A on the Back. 18 events gone and still strongly in 2nd place.

Races 19 to 26 saw 2 fantastic wins from Sam on the Fly and Becki C on the Back. Emily give the Haden Hill swimmer a real run for her money on the Back, taking a well deserved 4 points. As dependable as ever, Nat taking 4 points on her Fly. Just over half way and still in 2nd place but Leek were starting to claw back some points.

To resounding cheers and screams from the Stourbridge swimmers the next 8 races were just amazing – 2 wins from Nat (Fly) and Rich (Breaststroke); a second place to Alex on Breaststroke and 3rd places from Tom McC (Fly), Hannah and Sam on the Free. A special mention has to go here to Alex on the Breaststroke. She fought so hard for the maximum points, narrowly missing top spot but a tremendous effort that had me running the length of the poolside (well it was a quick walk really!!) Still in 2nd place and we had now opened up a bit of a gap between us and 3rd placed Leek.

Usually this last section is a bit of a worry for me but not tonight. Great swims in events 35 to 42 saw a 2nd place for Jake on the Free and 3rd places for Ellie C, Nat and Adam H (Free). So, just the relays to go and boy was this exciting – 2nd places to the 13s Free Boys, 15s Medley boys and Mens Open Free. Great consistent swimming from all the lads here. The girls taking 3rd place in the 11s Medley and 13s Free. Chase had put in a storming last few races and we knew it was going to be close.

And so to the final scores:

Calverton	222 points
Stourbridge A	185 points
Chase	181 points
Leek	173 points
Leamington Spa	159 points
Haden Hill	123 points

What can I say? I'm so impressed with my swimmers tonight – I couldn't have asked any more from you. You really did deliver and worked as a team against some outstanding opposition.

And now for the stats:

Our Fly and Free swimmers were the strongest on the night. Age group of the night on points was our Under 13s swimmers – superb swims from you all. My vote for team of the night goes to the Open Men. I know you've had the honours before but with a very different team from previous rounds it was fantastic to see the points just keep rolling in.

Now usually I don't even really need to say that the Girls beat the Boys but tonight – OH YES – the Boys did it!!!! There was only one point in it showing the depth of swimmers we have in this Club but, I'm going to say it again – the Boys beat the Girls!!

Swimmer of the night was a real difficult one for me. I've had several swimmers tonight who stuck out in my mind – Tom McC and Nat for swimming up and doing a tremendous amount of races for me tonight; Rich who was outstanding as ever on his individual swims; Adam F and Becky B – my relay King and Queen. However, tonight I'm giving it to 2 swimmers who were drop jaw amazing **Alex Price and Myles Poutain**. Alex your breaststroke was simply superb tonight and I just don't know where you found the strength from. Myles – my freestyle flying fish – you were simply unbelievable!

Thanks to my helpers and officials on poolside. I know I say this in all my reports but I really couldn't do it without you.

What a great way to end 2010 – a real high and a really exceptional team. Well done to you all and see most of you on Friday for some well deserved partying!!!

Jason