

NATIONAL ARENA SWIMMING LEAGUE

13 NOVEMBER 2010 – ROUND 2

The team:

Alex	Jarryd	Aimee	Katie
Aneel	Joe	Charlotte	Lara
Edward M	Jon	Ellie A	Lauren
Edward P	Matthew	Ellie W	Lucy
George	Ricky	Emily	Madison
Greg	Ryan	Fran	Megan
Jake	Sam	Geena	Niamh
James	Ste	Jess	

With a great result in the first round, we were on a roll. My team were all up for the challenge after a long trip to Leighton Buzzard. New to my team is Aneel and I would like to say a very warm welcome to him.

Charlotte and Ste kicked off proceedings with the 200 IM and both secured 4 points. I would just like to say a special thank you to Charlotte who travelled back from Uni to compete at this gala for me. So next came the first set of relay swims. A great win from the Girls 13s Medley team (Katie, Madison, Megan and Aimee) took maximum points and the Open Ladies Medley team (Lauren, Lucy, Fran (also known as Farn – sorry Fran) and Lara) took a well deserved 5 points. So after the first 10 races we are sitting in 2nd place behind Crusaders – a fantastic start from the team.

Races 11 to 18 saw just one win from Lauren in the 15s Back but what a win with a 3 second margin over 2nd place. Sam took a great 5 points on his Back, with George securing a well deserved 4 points on his Breaststroke. Also taking 4 points was Aimee on the Open Fly – not a bad achievement at all from this competitive young lady (and not too far behind 2nd place either). 18 races down and holding 2nd place but we had Bicester Blue Fins snapping at our heels.

Did I need to ask the swimmers to raise their game? No I did not! They just flew in events 19 to 26. Wins came from Kaite (13s Back) and Megan (15s Fly); with 2nd places from Matthew (11s Fly); Ed (13s Back); and Lauren (Open Back). An incredible 37 points from just 8 events, giving some clear water between us and Bicester, and just 7 points behind the leaders Crusaders.

Now the team were really getting into gear. 35 points from races 27 and 34 had closed the gap on Crusaders to just 5 points. Wins came from Ed (11s Breast) and Megan (13s Fly); with Lauren (15s Free) and Lucy (Open Breast) just missing out on top spot in two nail biting finishes that had us all out of our seats. It's a good job the doctor wasn't taking my blood pressure because it would have been through the roof!

Events 35 to 42 didn't give us any wins but some great swims from the whole of the team kept us in the hunt. 5 points came from Niamh, Madison and Emily. Madison was in action again to take a further 4 points in this section along with Joe. Still firmly in 2nd place and just the relays to go.

Gauntlet laid down and the teams are behind the blocks, raring to go. First up the 11s Medley Girls and 4 points on the board; next the Boys and not to be outdone put 5 points on the board. Over to the 13s for the Free – the Boys taking 3rd spot and the Girls securing a win. The 15s Medley teams took 2nd place for the Girls and 3rd place for the Boys. Last 2 races and the Open teams are in action on the Free 5 points from these 2 teams saw the final points stand at:

Crusaders	212 points
Stourbridge B	202 points
Fox Hollies	187 points
Bicester Blue Fins	167 points
Orion	163 points
Oldbury	113 points

What a fantastic team, and what a fantastic result. Well done to all of you.

I'd like to say a special thank you to Geena, Ellie W, Greg and James who stepped in at the last minute to enable me to put out a full team (in James's case it was only 2 hours before!). We wouldn't have got this result without your superb support and dedication.

Our Backstroke team were the strongest stroke on the night so well done to Ellie A, Matthew, Lauren (twice!), Sam, Katie, Ed and Jon. The age group of the night was our 13s swimmers but they were only just there by 1 point from our Open team. Congratulations go to Megan, Katie, Madison, Aimee, George, Joe, Ed and Greg. My team of the night is the 13s Girls who took 4 of our 7 wins. A sterling effort Ladies and very well done to you all.

Swimmer of the night gave me a lot to think about. The team as a whole were superb but for me 2 swimmers stood out **Lauren Sanders and Megan Dudley** – tremendous effort with Lauren achieving 1 win and 2 2nd places from her 3 individual swims and Megan scoring maximum points on both her individual events.

My helpers and officials on poolside did a fantastic job for me – I don't know what I'd do without you.

I just can't wait for the next round!

Glyn