

ISSUE 1 · JAN 2023

NEWSLETTER

BOLDMERE SWIMMING AND WATER POLO CLUB

WELCOME TO THE FIRST EDITION

FROM MARC FOSTER, HEAD COACH

Hello everybody! Welcome to 2023 - we hope you've all had a wonderful Christmas with your family and friends and are looking forwards to the rest of the 22 -23 season.

I am pleased to introduce to you the very first edition of the Boldmere Swimming and Water Polo Club newsletter. Through this, we hope to regularly share with you updates from the various teams - Learn to Swim (LTS), competitive swimming (CS) and Water Polo (WP) - as well as provide useful information and answer your questions. We hope this newsletter will grow and develop to best serve the swimmers, players, parents, and volunteers of our club.

Looking forward, our aim in the New Year is to continue the development of aquatic skills and techniques among all our swimmers and players. These will give them strong foundations to fulfill their individual ambitions - whether those are to compete more effectively against the top clubs in our region, take part in a meet for the first time, stay fit and healthy, or simply grow the enjoyment and pleasure they get from the water.

For me, club success - whether it be at Water Polo or Swimming - is a team effort from parents, club supporters, teachers, and coaches. We are looking forward to working with you this year to make the Boldmere Swimming and Water Polo Club a success for everyone.

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2022 ARENA LEAGUE RESULTS

Congratulations to the Boldmere A and Boldmere B teams on their achievements in the three rounds of the Arena League. The A team finished 9th overall in the Premiership League and the B team finished 13th in Division 2 with no diving blocks in the final round!

We would like to congratulate all swimmers who took part. You have done your club proud! Thank you to all parents who volunteered as Team Managers, chaperones, and officials to allow us to compete at these events.



Boldmere A Team



Boldmere B Team

2022 ARENA LEAGUE IN NUMBERS

A TEAM

- 9th overall in Division 1
- 29 PB swims across the three rounds
- 55 first or second places across 126 events

B TEAM

- 13th overall in Division 2
- 36 PB swims across the three rounds
- 38 first or second places across 126 events

A NOTE from the coaching team regarding future competitions

The coaching team would like to remind parents that the expectation is for all swimmers to be available for the forthcoming meets noted in the [competition plan](#). This provides the squads and the swimmers the best chance to meet and exceed their goals during the season!



NEXT UP IN 2023

21 & 22 January - 4 & 5 February: Warwickshire County Champs, Coventry



All our county qualifiers will be heading to the Alan Higgs Centre in Coventry on 21 & 22 January and 4 & 5 February for the Warwickshire County Champs. We are thrilled to have over 67 swimmers competing in 181 events across the two weekends, including relays - a total of at least 460 swims. We wish every single one of them the very best of luck!

Further information about the event is available at <https://warwickshireasa.co.uk/events.aspx>

16 - 23 February: Lanzarote Training Camp

This year 18 members of the National Youth squad are heading to Lanzarote for a week of intensive training. It takes place during half term and will be preparing them for meeting the regional and national qualifying times, earmarked by the coaching team.

We will work hard but also have a lot of fun!



25 March: Junior League, venues TBC



We are also excited to see how our younger swimmers will perform in the Junior League this season. Our aim is to have the A Team at the National Finals and the B Team promoted to the 1st Division.

The names of the swimmers chosen for both teams will be released approximately 2 weeks before the event.

If you have questions, please approach your lead coach in the first instance.



LEARN TO SWIM (LTS)

We are thrilled how well the children in LTS have done recently, with many completing their next stage award. Well done to all of them!

Stage	Swimmers completing award
Stage 1	9 swimmers
Stage 2	13 swimmers
Stage 3	14 swimmers
Stage 4	10 swimmers
Stage 5	11 swimmers
Stage 6	10 swimmers
Stage 7	6 swimmers

Congratulations to all of these swimmers that are also moving up to the next squad:

Turtles to Seahorses	16 swimmers
Seahorses to Starfish	12 swimmers
Starfish to Dolphins	9 swimmers
Dolphins to Sharks	6 swimmers

A HUGE WELL DONE TO THE 14 SWIMMERS WHO ARE LEAVING LEARN TO SWIM TO MOVE INTO JUNIOR DEVELOPMENT 1, JUNIOR DEVELOPMENT 2, CLUB AND COUNTY SQUADS. WE WISH YOU ALL THE BEST!

THE LEARN TO SWIM TEAM





DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Please see below details of upcoming meets. For full details of the Boldmere competition plan please visit the website [HERE](#). Where information about these events is available online, it can be obtained by clicking on the meet name below.

Date	Meet	Location	Squads	Date open for entries	Date entries close
8 Jan	County Qualifiers LC Training	Loughborough University	JD2, JD3, Country (County Qualifiers)	N/A	N/A
15 Jan	County Qualifiers LC Training	Loughborough University	Regional, NA, NY (County Qualifiers)	N/A	N/A
21-22 Jan	Warwickshire County Champs	Alan Higgs, Coventry	County Qualifiers	Closed	Closed
28 Jan	Mini Meet	Beeches Leisure Centre	Starfish, Dolphins, Sharks and Club	Now	13 Jan
4-5 Feb	Warwickshire County Champs	Alan Higgs, Coventry	County Qualifiers	Closed	Closed
4-5 Mar	Boldmere Junior Invitation Meet	Ladywood Leisure Centre, Birmingham	8, 9, 10 and 11 year old swimmers	TBA	TBA
11 Mar	Nova Meet	Nottingham TBC	NY, selected NA	6 Feb	Midday 15 Feb
18-19 Mar	Wolverhampton Spring Open Meet	Wolverhampton Central Baths	JD1, JD2, JD3, County, Regional, NA, NY (age 9+ years)	7 Jan	17 Jan
25 Mar	Junior League	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA



2022: A GREAT YEAR FOR OUR WATER POLO TEAM

What a year 2022 has been for our Water Polo players! Here are some of the main highlights:



In March, Boldmere B team won the Midland League Division 3 title undefeated in all matches. Great start!



Also in March, Emily Hewston represented the West Midlands in the U18 inter-regional championship in Bolton and finished in a Gold medal position. Whoa!



Then in April, Boldmere's U18 won the Warwickshire Cup in a fantastic end to a hard-fought campaign.



Finally, in October, Boldmere A beat off stiff competition and expects to soon be confirmed as Midlands League Champions.

WANT TO TRY YOUR HAND AT WATER POLO?

If you are aged 10 to 14+ years old, a competent freestyle and backstroke swimmer, and are interested in giving it a bash, come and join the rest of the players on Sunday, from 5-6 pm at Wyndley. We are offering a **FREE taster session** for all club members - and plenty of fun! Let us know you are coming along by contacting Debbie Arthur - waterpolosecretary@teamboldmere.co.uk.



GET CREATIVE & WIN!

PARENTS, PLEASE SHARE THIS WITH YOUR SWIMMERS OR PLAYERS!

Whether you have just joined the learn to swim squad or are an accomplished master swimmer or water polo player, we want you to bring your fun, creative and even quirky side out to answer the following question:

**WHY I LOVE SWIMMING
FOR BOLDMERE?**

WHAT CAN I WIN?

The winner of the competition will be presented with a **£25 Allens Swimwear voucher**, with a host of other prizes available for second and third places, as well as age category prizes.

WHERE SHALL I SUBMIT MY ENTRY?

Hand any physical items to your coach who would send them onwards to the judging committee. Any digital submissions can be emailed to marcus.atkin@teamboldmere.co.uk. Please write your name, age and squad on every entry.

WHAT TYPE OF ENTRIES ARE ACCEPTABLE?

Draw a poster, create a collage, write a poem, compose a song, edit a video... Anything is acceptable - and if you are using pictures of your friends please ask their permission first for fear of a DQ!

WHEN WILL THE WINNERS BE ANNOUNCED?

Winners will be announced at the Boldmere Junior Invitation meet and shared with parents via email, our social channels and this newsletter.

GOOD LUCK!!!



THE BEST WAY TO SUPPORT YOUR CHILD - AND YOUR CLUB!

Boldmere Swimming and Water Polo is a successful club, run by a large team of supporters who all give their time freely for the benefit of the swimmers. You can find a list of some of the most popular ways to get involved on the right.

The operation and success of the club rely on the commitment, energy and expertise of parents and grandparents who participate on a day-to-day or occasional only basis. Volunteering for the club is rewarding and fun, and gives you an opportunity to learn more about the sport and how to best support your child - while also gaining new skills, contributing existing expertise and giving something back.

Here are some of the ways in which you can help almost immediately:

New officials. Learning to be a technical judge is the perfect way to get off the small, uncomfortable spectator chair, get closer to the pool, and involved with your club and your child's swimming. And now is the ideal time to start! There's already a small group part way through qualification and another ready to begin so you'll be in excellent company - email Tom at boldmereofficials@gmail.com.

Existing J1 trainees can sign up to officiate for the Counties 21/22 Jan & 4/5 Feb. It's possible to get "relays" signed off there (check which sessions!) and while it's not essential anymore to have Level 2 experience to qualify as a J1, it is needed for J2 training, which you'll definitely want to do.

The club will be running a **Level 2 course** soon in time for the Counties' 2nd weekend (4/5 Feb). Please look out for emails and if you want to support the County Champs meet as an official or otherwise please sign up using this link <https://warwickshireasa.co.uk/events.aspx>

In March 2023, our club is also running the Junior Invitational Meet (aka JIM). We hope that many parents of our younger swimmers will sign up to help make this event a success - and meet like-minded individuals. If you would like any further information or have any questions, please contact Laura Larcombe at workforce@teamboldmere.co.uk.

How you can get involved?

- Team managers
- Chaperones
- Catering support
- Tickets and raffles team
- Fundraising
- Officials
- Social media support
- Medals organisers
- Social committee members
- Squad communication champions
- and many others.

LET'S BE SOCIABLE!

