

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 7 · SUMMER 2023

BOLDMERE END SEASON ON A HIGH WITH A FUN-FILLED WATER CARNIVAL

July is always an exciting month on the Boldmere swimming calendar as it is associated with our annual Water Carnival. Although highly competitive and still very much an opportunity to score last-minute PBs, it is also the event that swimmers of all ages associate with fun and a celebratory atmosphere.

The Carnival which is usually open to all ages - from 9 years old to masters - was yet again attended by a large cohort of Boldmere swimmers. Over 100 of our own competitors raced against visiting members of Blythe Barracudas, Orion, Oswestry Otters, Halesowen, Lichfield, and Stratford Sharks Swimming Clubs.

The pressure was on for some of our older competitive team members as the standard of the event was really high. And although the Carnival was dominated by our club in attendance terms, we were still thrilled to notch a total of 90 gold medals, as well as 98 silvers and 74 bronzes. There were also 29 4th places, 26 5th, and 27 6th places in the 9-12 year categories. And what about these PBs - all 413 of them, and 2 new county records!

Very importantly though, the event was yet another opportunity for our younger swimmers to test their newly acquired technical and racing skills into the water - and score some fantastic results. We saw many of them beaming with pleasure as they reaped the rewards of their hard work in the pool.

Last, but not least, it was a day filled with dancing, teamwork, and an overall brilliant atmosphere across the board - as all the pictures clearly demonstrate. (cont page 2)

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear Members,

The 2022/23 competitive season has now ended and I hope you are all enjoying your well-deserved summer breaks. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our swimmers for their consistent best effort in the pool as well as the teachers and coaches in our club who have worked so hard this year to develop their swimming potential.

All the fantastic results we have achieved this season - even at the British, English and Welsh Nationals - would not have been possible without the army of dedicated volunteers we have worked behind the scenes to make all this happen. You are all hugely appreciated - and we would encourage everyone who is interested in supporting their child's and club's future to get more involved with us!

To all members - well done for a great season, great achievements all around as we have seen in every single newsletter - so a VERY BIG THANK YOU.

We do still have places available in nearly all swimming squads and in our learn-to-swim programme. So please spread the word, share the benefits and enjoyment you have had with us this year - and let's fill those spaces.

Finally, we will be publishing the September timetable shortly and are looking forwards to seeing everyone poolside for the start of a new season,

Yours sincerely,

Keith Munday

Water Carnival

(cont. from page 1)

We would like to express our huge appreciation to the many parents that stepped up to support this event. From car park attendants and the catering team, to team managers, pool helpers, medals team, the AOE suite, officials and everyone else - your support was invaluable!

We can't say how grateful we are also to our coaches for all the hard work they have put in with everyone throughout the year and their unwavering support for our swimmers throughout the Carnival.

Finally, thank you to our fantastic promoter Helen Tonks for pulling together another fabulous event, and Alex Li for providing the superb medals.





BOLDMERE SWIMMERS AT NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

The last couple of weeks (from 22 July to 9 August 2023) saw the best swimmers across all age groups nationwide compete for some of the most coveted swimming titles at Ponds Forge in Sheffield. Once again we want to congratulate Connie P, Tom P, William T, Joshua D-T, Maryse M, and Jude D who qualified and competed at those events.

We already covered the differences between the British and the English (Scottish/Welsh) Championships, the qualification window and criteria in one of our previous newsletters (June 2023). To recap, the Boldmere qualifiers for this year were:

- William T (Boldmere), Maryse M (City of Birmingham / Boldmere) and Jude D (now swimming for Repton but who qualified whilst at Boldmere) competed at the British Summer Championships.
- Connie P and Tom P (Boldmere) plus Joshua D-T and Maryse M (City of Birmingham / Boldmere) who competed at the English Summer Championships.

And didn't they do well! Racing at the British Championships Will, Maryse and Jude swam in 9 events altogether. Jointly, they achieved 8 PBs and reached 2 finals each (Will in the 100m Breaststroke and 200m Breaststroke; Maryse in the 100m Breaststroke and 200m Breaststroke and Jude in the 100m Backstroke and 200m Backstroke). Will secured a Bronze medal in the 100m Breaststroke, breaking the County Record in the process.

At the English Championships Tom, Josh, Maryse and Connie swam in 5 events between them. They achieved 4 PBs and Maryse reached the final of the 200m IM.

Huge congratulations to all of our Boldmere swimmers! You stepped up to the mark, performed magnificently on the national stage and did yourselves and the Club proud. Enjoy your well-earned summer break!



Congratulations are due once again to Will T for smashing through the Warwickshire Country Record for 100 breaststroke at the British Summer Championships finishing with a time of

1.05.25 !

Simply outstanding Will!





TEAM BOLDMERE WITH AN IMPRESSIVE MEDAL SCOOP AT THE WELSH NATIONALS 23

This years' Swim Wales Summer Open meet was held at the Wales National Pool Swansea from 3 to 7 August 2023.

Competing for Boldmere were 5 swimmers - Lewis D, Alfie E, Clark H, Ollie B and Cerys T - led by our Head of Junior Swimming Coach Ellen Ratcliffe. Between them, they competed in 20 events and 7 finals over the 5 days and achieved a total of **12 PBs, 12 Top 10 finishers, 3 Gold medals, and 2 Bronze medals.**

Many congratulations to:

- Lewis D for winning GOLD in the 15yrs 400m IM, 200m Breaststroke and 100m Breaststroke. He also took away the Bronze medal in the 1500m Freestyle. All these accounted also for 6 PBs - impressive, Lewis!
- Alfie E swam extremely well and well deserved his Bronze medal in the 16yrs 200m Butterfly. That was a PB for him too!
- Clark H was a finalist in the 17+ 100m backstroke and finished 4th, also scoring a personal best in the process.
- Finally, Ollie B was a finalist in the 12yrs 200m Breaststroke event and walked away from Swansea with 4 PBs.

But swimming was not the only thing on the menu there. The team - including swimmers, parents, and the coach - also enjoyed a meal out one of the evenings creating a great social atmosphere and enjoyed themselves hugely outside of the pool!





ROUND 3 | MERCIAN LEAGUE

The last round of the Mercian League took place on 7 July at Pingles Leisure Centre in Nuneaton.

Despite a full day of intense competition at the Boldmere Water Carnival, our team was ready to give it their all against Worcester, Bilston, Leamington, Redditch and Kingsbury Swimming Clubs. Spirits and determination were high, with all members of the squad cheering and supporting each other throughout the event.

After many amazing swims the Boldmere team finished sixth on the night, scoring a total of 157 points.

Well done to all the swimmers who did their best in the circumstances, with many of them going back to competing early the next morning. We also appreciate everyone who helped throughout the three rounds - parents, officials, team managers, volunteers, and coaches!



SOCIAL SURVEY

We would love to hear your thoughts or feedback on the types of social activities you would like the club to organise. Please take a few minutes to answer this very short questionnaire: <https://forms.gle/rQ7mkDDHWr51uuNw7>

FUN VISIT TO CLIFF LAKES

BY CHLOE ARTHUR

On Saturday, 1 July, the Club organised a session for swimmers at Cliff Lakes. For those that haven't been, there are large inflatables in a lake, which form a sort of obstacle course. I really enjoyed it, as it meant that I got to spend some quality time with friends outside of training and it was nice to be in a different environment with them. It was great fun, we had lots of laughs and it was something that we all enjoyed. It was a bit chilly, but we all wore wetsuits and buoyancy aids, and luckily it didn't rain, which was a bonus.

Thank you so much to Geraldine Jackson for organising the visit - on behalf of both the kids and their parents!





BOLDMERE WATER POLO

EVEN ON DRY LAND – WE MADE A SPLASH!

The Sutton Coldfield Community Games held in the middle of July was a resounding success, despite being called-off on the Saturday due to stormy weather. On Sunday, over 1,000 people from all over the West Midlands created a vibrant atmosphere learning about local activities and taking their chance at scoring a goal against Boldmere Swimming & Water Polo’s players.

At the heart of the Boldmere stand was an irresistible challenge that allowed participants to experience the thrill of water polo, albeit on dry land. Guests were given the opportunity to test their skills against a water polo player attempt to score a goal. The anticipatory and competitive spirit were palpable as individuals lined up to take on the challenge.

A prominent feature of the stand was a state-of-the-art speed clock. This device measured the speed at which visitors shot the ball towards the goal, inviting them to surpass the achievements of professional water polo players. The fastest goal clocked in at over 40 mph!

The Boldmere stand provide to be a hotspot of excitement, drawing the attention of numerous young visitors who took a flyer and said they would be coming down to give the sport a try.

The thrilling experience provided by the Boldmere stand undoubtably kindled a newfound appreciation for water polo, and hopefully attracted more players to our water polo family!



FINDRAISING UPDATE

We are delighted to share that we have managed to secure an award of £1,200 for the Club which will be used to cover the cost of Level 1 Swimming Assistant (Teaching) and Level 2 Teaching Swimming qualifications. As a club, we are very keen to not only support our swimmers but all those who wish to share their passion and experience with the next generation of young athletes!



SAVE THE DATE: Boldmere Club Champs

This year's Boldmere Club Champs will take place on the 23 & 24 September at Ladywood Leisure Centre!

As usual, we would be needing all your support with this event so keen an eye out for further announcements and see you there!