



Boldmere

SWIMMING & WATER POLO CLUB

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 10 · NOV/DEC 2023

MEDALS, PERSONAL BESTS AND CLUB RECORDS AT THE BOLDMERE OPEN

The last weekend of November 2023 saw over 120 swimmers from our club as well as their parents and other supporters turn up in force to deliver the 16th Boldmere Open Meet at the Ladywood Leisure Centre in Birmingham. The competition also welcomed selected swimmers from Orion and Stratford Sharks who added an extra competitive edge to the swims across the three days.

The range of events included distances from 50 to 400 freestyle, 50, 100, and 200 for all other strokes, as well as 100, 200, and 400 Individual Medley (IM). And when the results came in, they were nothing short of impressive - with the Boldmere swimmers achieving a remarkable 515 personal bests throughout the meet.

However, the icing on the cake were the five brand new club records set by Jason L in the following events: 100 back, 100 breast, 200 breast, 100 IM, and 200 IM. Huge congratulations Jason, what impressive swims!

We would of course also like to celebrate Toby W, who claimed the coveted Top Boy trophy at this meet, and Beatrix L, a deserving recipient of the Top Girl title. Well done also to Orion for securing the title of Top Visiting Club!

The excitement was especially high during the girls' and boys' 14 and under and 15 and over skins competitions, with everyone joining in and supporting their team members. Well done to all the top finishers who also secured cash prizes: (cont. p 4)

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LET'S BE SOCIAL



MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD COACH

Dear Members,

I am sure many of you have already seen our Christmas timetable which has been published on the various Club channels. While it is important to balance rest and exercise during the holidays, it is also crucial to keep the momentum going across all squads to ensure our swimmers are ready to deliver their best results at the upcoming Warwickshire County Champs in January and February 2024.

With this in mind, training will continue as normal up until Tuesday, 19th December 2023. After that, in addition to the other swim sessions, we have also planned both short-course and long-course training at Alan Higgs Leisure Centre. Please do let us know if your child is not available to attend any of these.

I also wanted to remind members that if they have qualified for and intend to compete in the 2024 County Championships, the deadline for submitting their entries to the club is **19th December**. Information has been sent to everyone so please scroll back in your inboxes and if you have any questions please speak to your coach, as well as read the Warwickshire Counties information on the last page of this newsletter.

As we approach the end of 2023, the coaching team would also like to extend their sincere thanks to everyone who helped us in any way in the last year. We know that so many of you have put a lot of effort voluntarily - whether as team managers, officials, catering support, committee members, poolside assistants, promoters, and others - and I just wanted to say we truly appreciate everything you do!

I would personally also like to acknowledge our fantastic coaches and teachers who work tirelessly with our swimmers during training, while in competition, and in between. Thank you for your dedication which is instrumental to the success of our Club!

Finally, on behalf of the committee and coaches, I would like to wish every one of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! We look forward to working with you and your children to achieve even better results in 2024!

Yours sincerely,

Marc Foster

Welcome

to our new members:

Priyanka & Rohan Patel
Amelie Wright-Willis
Vivaan Dessai
Jorja Wright
Eva Vernon
Ava and Meida Ukockyte
Abigail Vaughan
Felicity Garrett
Lily Fallon

We appreciate that you may have questions now that you are part of the club. Some of them will be about your own child's swimming journey and some will be more general in nature. Please address them to your coaches or email us at communication@teamboldmere.co.uk.





BOLDMERE SWIMMERS QUALIFY FOR WINTER SHORT COURSE NATIONALS

BY ROBIN SURGEONER, ASSISTANT HEAD COACH

The West Midlands Short Course Championships is the highest regional competition any of our swimmers can qualify for - other than the National Championships. It is a Level 2 meet with a very high standard of performance across the board; therefore any competitor who qualifies for this meet is doing extremely well.

Thus, it was with great excitement and hope that a team of 11 Boldmere team members headed to the event at the newly opened Sandwell Aquatic Centre on 4 and 5 November for their first meet at the pool used for the 2022 Commonwealth Games.

Between them, they swam 37 events, made 7 finals, won 3 Gold and 1 Silver Medals, in addition to delivering an incredible 21 personal bests.

Please join us in congratulating the following 3 swimmers who qualified for a total of 8 events at the National Short Course Winter Championships:

- **Lewis D** - 50m and 100m Breaststroke;
- **Will T** - 50m, 100m, and 200m Breaststroke; and
- **Alfie E** - 50m Freestyle, 50m and 100m Fly.

We wish them all the very best of luck in the Winter Nationals which will take place from 14 to 17 December at Ponds Forge International in Sheffield.

Final Results: **Lewis D** - 100 Breast 2nd, 50 Breast 4th, 100IM 5th, 200 Br 6th, 3 PBs; **Will T** - 50 Breast 1st, 100 Breast 1st, 200 Breast 1st, 2 PBs; **Alfie E** - 7 events & 5 PBs; **Amber P** - 1 Event 1 PB; **Clark H** - 3 events & 1 PB; **Gracie S** - 2 Events; **Jake D** - 4 events & 3 PBs; **Morgan A** - 2 events & 1 PB; **Oli L** - 1 event & 1 PB; **Rhys B** - 4 events & 2 PBs; **Tobi L** - 4 events & 2 PBs! Fantastic results swimmers! Well done!

AN AFTERNOON AT THE WAVE IN COVENTRY

On Saturday, 2 December, close to 90 Boldmere swimmers and some of their parents headed for an afternoon of Christmas fun at the Wave in Coventry. From high-speed slides and a fun-packed splash zone to the exhilarating Wave Pool and relaxing Lazy River, there were lots of thrills and spills for our swimmers of all ages to enjoy in a relaxed environment.

It was fantastic to see the smiles on everyone's faces at the end of the social event!

A massive thanks again to our wonderful events coordinator Geraldine Jackson for organising such a crowd pleaser!

Now on to the next one - the Christmas Fun Session on 14th December at Wyndley. See you there!





BOLDMERE OPEN (CONT)

Girls 14 and under:

- 1st place : Isla B (Orion)
- 2nd place: Ava N
- 3rd place: Maddison L

Girls 15 and over:

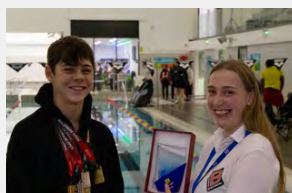
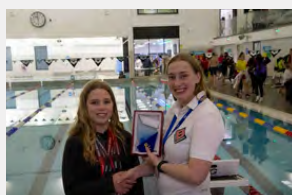
- 1st place : Gracie S
- 2nd place: Erin S
- 3rd place: Emilia P (Stratford Sharks)

Boys 14 and under:

- 1st place: Morgan A
- 2nd place: Oliver L
- 3rd place: Gabe D

Girls 15 and over:

- 1st place : Alfie E
- 2nd place: Lewis D
- 3rd place: Eddie B (Orion)



Behind the scenes, the success of the event was made possible as ever by the Boldmere dedicated team of organisers and volunteers. A sincere thank you goes to our incredible promoter Lauren Downing, catering wizards Helen Tonks and Jennie Atherton, medal maestros Jennie Atherton and Alex Li, workforce coordinator Laura Larcombe, the announcer at the event Stuart Tonks, official photographer Kevin Butcher, and referees Keith Munday and Rob Richardson. Special thanks also to our officials coordinator Tom Williams, the entire team in white and red, the catering crew, timing suite wizards, reception desk and parking helpers, and everyone else who contributed to the seamless execution of the event.

Last but certainly not least, thank you to our coaches, whose guidance and expertise continue to help swimmers achieve their best.

PBS AND TOP 3 FINISHED FOR OUR MASTERS AT ETWALL'S OPEN MEET

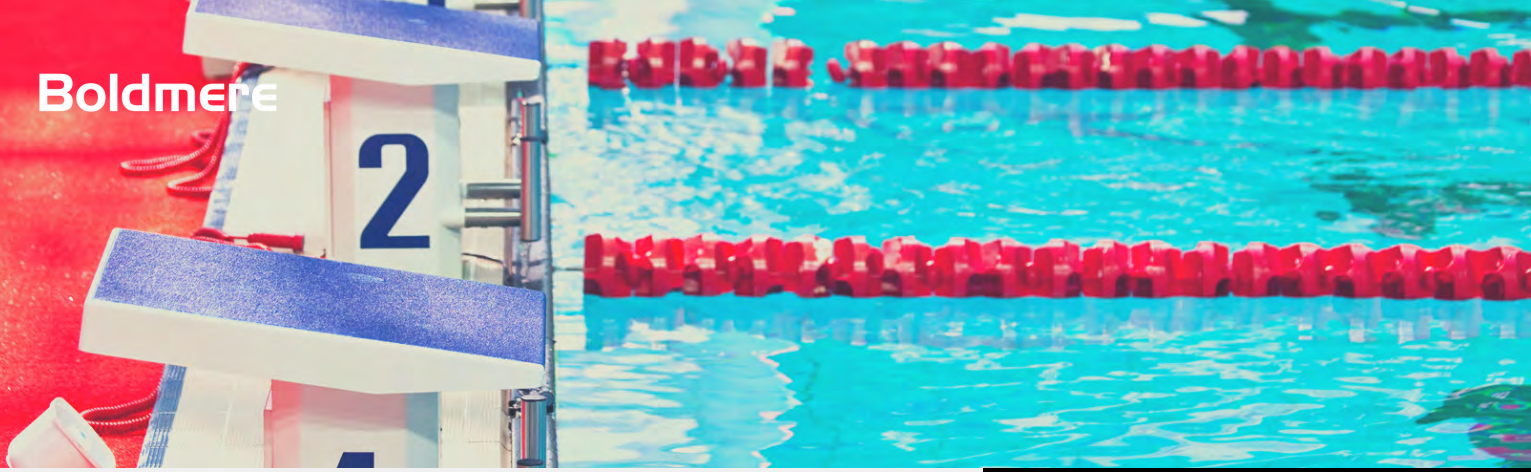
On 25th November eight members of our Masters squad competed in the Etwall Masters Open Meet at Alfreton Leisure Centre.

There were some great individual swims with many personal bests (within current age categories 😊) and top 3 placings achieved.

In the relays the women 4x50m free came 4th in the 72+ age category; the mixed 4x50m Medley Relay team came 3rd in the 160+ category; and in the mixed cannon 6x50m relay (the last event of the meet) Boldmere placed 3rd in the 160+ category.

The squad finished off the day with a well-deserved curry. Well done Boldmere Masters!





NEW BLOCKS & WATER POLO POSTS TO DEVELOP SKILLS OF BOLDMERE SWIMMERS & PLAYERS

After a significant fundraising effort, last month we were thrilled to finally receive 12 brand-new starting blocks. Nine of these are now fully installed and in use by our members, with the other three set to be available very soon. An essential piece of equipment, the blocks will enable all swimmers to refine their technical skills across our training facilities at Wyndley, Erdington, and Tamworth.

In addition to these, the Club will very soon take possession of new water polo posts which will support the training needs of our ladies and men's water polo teams.

We are extremely grateful to the Sutton Coldfield Charitable Trust (SCCT) whose financial support was essential for both purchases. These acquisitions would not have been possible without the support of several individuals at the club who worked tirelessly to make it happen. A special thanks go to our grant and funding officer Ade Mullis for securing the funding through the SCCT, as well as head coach Marc Foster and chairman Keith Munday! Well done all!

To mark this achievement, we are in the process of planning a celebratory event in the New Year to which all club swimmers will be invited. Please keep an eye out for the invitation!



DON'T FORGET TO FUNDRAISE FOR OUR CLUB THIS CHRISTMAS!

Dear members,

As you will know from previous newsletters, we are always keen to raise as much money as possible to support our Club and children to achieve their best.

As a quick reminder, you can now help us generate more funds **FREE OF CHARGE** when you create an account with EasyFundraising - and then visit the app or site every time before you shop online with a range of brands!

In addition to the regular donations, this Christmas, you can also win £100 for the club every day as well as enter their Christmas Day grand prize draw for £5,000!

Simply click on the image below to start raising money for Boldmere.

THANK YOU!





ARENA LEAGUE ROUND 2

Round 2 of the Arena League saw both our A and B teams racing their hearts out on 11 November against other Midlands clubs in a bid to secure as many points as possible.

The A team faced stiff competition from the equivalent squads at City of Coventry and Solihull at Rugby's Queens Dimond Jubilee Centre. Travelling by coach to the venue with their coaches, officials, and parents, the swimmers were determined to deliver their very best against other established clubs in the region. They showed fantastic spirit and pushed themselves to the limit - to finish only 1 point behind third place, with a total of 248!

The B team had a better run at Solihull's Tudor Grange against Newcastle Staffs, Long Eaton, Bromsgrove, Cannock Phoenix, and Arnold. Working together and cheering their teammates on, they finished 3rd on the night with 163 points! Fantastic result all!

The next - Round 3 - of the Arena League will be held on 9 December, with our A and B teams already chosen and set to compete in Worcester and Redditch respectively! We wish both squads the very best of luck!



BOLDMERE'S MASTERS AT THE 2023 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

On 27 – 29 October two of our Masters swimmers competed at the Swim England Masters National Championships at Ponds Forge in Sheffield.

Sarah Tinley produced strong swims in the 50 fly and 50 free. Jen Powell, competing in 50 and 100m back, beat her entry times to place 7th in both events.

Jen was also part of the winning Black Country and Potteries SC women's 240+ free and medley relay teams.

Well done Sarah and Jen!





BOLDMERE WINTER MINI MEET

Boldmere Swimming Club held its Winter Mini Meet at Beeches Leisure Centre on 18th November, with 75 swimmers attending, - the highest number the club has ever had for a Mini Meet.

The swimmers achieved a total of 188 personal bests (PBs) - well done all! - with Leo A also setting two new club records in the 6-year-old boys' category in the 25m freestyle and 25m breaststroke, beating his previous records from the last Mini Meet.

Club Head Coach Marc Foster was impressed with all performances and the support of the parents. "I was at the Mini Meet on Saturday night watching what can only be described as some fantastic swimming by all and brilliant support from the parents in the stands," he said.

"I am normally keen not only to see the overall improvements across the squads, but also look to highlight names of swimmers that I think have future potential. However, on Saturday night I simply had to stop highlighting names and simply watched - such was the quality of the swimming at the event."

Foster was particularly impressed with the level of skill and technical improvement shown across the board. "Both were brilliant to see and are all down to the hard work of all our younger members and our fantastic teaching team," he said. "So I hope you will join me in saying a huge well done to all competitors on the day and our LTS teachers."

The club's next Mini Meet is on Saturday 27th January from 3.30pm to 6pm at Beeches Leisure Centre. To sign up, please click on the following link: [Link to sign up:

<https://forms.gle/emd5Htv5NgBJsnGa7>

More information will be sent out shortly.

STILL LOOKING FOR SWIMMING GIFTS THIS CHRISTMAS?

Now you can take advantage of the 20% off Boldmere discount code at Allens Swimwear.

But hurry - code is valid only until 20th December!



Fancy 20% off?
Plus 10% commission for your club too!

Use Code - **BOLDMERE20**

Offer valid in-store and online from
6th December 2023
to
20th December 2023

80 Bardon View Rd
Dordon, Tamworth, B78 1QB
www.allensswimwear.co.uk



LTS SWIM AWARDS

Congratulations to all the swimmers in LTS on their fantastic progress. We are so proud of the hard work and dedication that each and every one of you has shown. Here is a list of all the swimmers who have successfully completed the following stages across the different levels of our Learn to Swim programme:

Puffin			
Ashton L	Ava U	Charlotte H	Emeliana R
Kit W	Maria E		
5m			
Eko V	James H	Jomana A	Rosa S
Tudor N	Vaishnav A	Zala-Mai S	
10m			
Abigail H	Aurelia W	Calliah T	Ella B
Ethan H	Eva V	Josh F	Liam E
Noah R			
15m			
Aidan C	Alice C	Clodagh W	Georgie C
20m			
Ariel W	Annie I	Ava H	Charlotte F
Ethan E	Jessica F	Julius A	Kiret B
Leanne T-B	Lilly E	Mia D C	Naomi S
Nathan P	Oliver D	Scarlett R	
25m			
Alice H	Arlo F	Conor B	Erin W
Finley B	Freddy B	Harry L	Marios R
Leo M	Patryk E	Siena B	Thomas C
50m			
Adam B	Adam P	Alex L	Amelia W
Amy L	Anastasia S	Anna F	Bianca C
Darshil G	Esha D	Eve L-B	Evelyn A
Felicity G	Gabe D-K	Hugo H	Imogen P
Isaac W	Jake D	Maciej L	Maryam R
Maximus F-D	Lei Y	Lewis L	Lily-Mae C
Noah W	Orla W	Riona R	Rohan P
Theo K	Thomas L	Vivaan D	
100m			
Aiden L	Amelia M	Caoimhe W	Charlie P
Elizabeth H	Esme S	Faizan R	Hiyaam M
Janet L	Jibreel R	Lucy H	Luisa I
Naeshika B	Teo N		
200m			
Abigail L	James B	Rosalie W	

GOOD LUCK

Best of luck to all our swimmers competing across the country next weekend, 16th and 17th December:

- All our national short course qualifiers at Ponds Forge International in Sheffield;
- The Boldmere squad heading to Derby Excel's Christmas Cracker meet; and
- The swimmers competing at the Leicester Shark's County Qualifier!

We wish all all the very best of luck! Swim fast and

Go Boldmere!



BOLDMERE'S WATERPOLO TEAMS MAKE YET MORE WAVES IN RECENT COMPETITIONS

It has been a fantastic start to the season for Boldmere's Mens Waterpolo, with the A and B teams finishing 3rd in Division 1 and Division 2, respectively. At the same time, the Youth Team exhibited commendable performance, securing a respectable 5th place in their division.

Shifting the focus to individual achievements, the Boys U14's Inter Regionals held at Walsall Gala Baths on the 18th and 19th of November were particularly exciting. We are proud to announce that Arnav Athreya, a standout player from Boldmere, represented the West Midlands Warriors team in this tournament. Arnav's outstanding performance earned him a well-deserved bronze medal.

In early December, Nicola Palmer from Boldmere took part in the ladies' West Midlands Waterpolo regional U14s. The team finished top of their division and then went on to play in the semi-finals against London!

BOLDMERE LONG DISTANCE SWIM MEET

Congratulations to all that swam in the Boldmere long distance meet on Sunday, 3rd December, at the Perry Beeches Swimming Pool.

800m Free
Josephine B
Thomas A
George A
Henry H
Beatrix L

1500m Free
Alfie D
Daniel H
Nicholas L
Charlie B
Alexander L
Gracie S
Olly B

Congrats!

Congratulations are in order yet again to Elaine Gale who not only won the West Midlands Swimming Volunteer of the Year award but also secured bronze in the National event! Well done Elaine!



THANK YOU TO OUR BOLDMERE OPEN SPONSORS!





DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Please see below details of upcoming meets. For full details of the Boldmere competition plan please visit the website [HERE](#) (please note you'd need to be logged on to see the plan). 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
9 Dec	Arena League Round 3	TBC	Selected swimmers		
10 Dec	East Midlands Masters Open Championships	Moorways Leisure Centre	Masters		
14-17 Dec	National Short Course Championships	Ponds Forge, Sheffield	Qualifiers	TBC	TBC
16-17 Dec	Derby Excel & Sharks County Qualifier	Moorways Leisure Centre Pingles	All	Closed	Closed
20 Dec	LTS Christmas Gala	TBC	LTS	TBA	TBA
20 & 21 Jan	Warwickshire County Championships 2024	Alan Higgs Leisure Centre	Qualifying swimmers aged 10+	Now	19/12/23
27 Jan	Boldmere Mini Meet	Beeches Leisure Centre	LTS	TBA	TBA
3 & 4 Feb	Warwickshire County Championships 2024	Alan Higgs Leisure Centre	Qualifying swimmers aged 10+	Now	19/12/23



WARWICKSHIRE COUNTIES

WHAT THEY ARE, QUALIFYING WINDOWS, AGES AND ENTRIES

What are the Warwickshire County Championships?

Competitive swimming in England follows a county, then regional, then national pathway. This translates to county, regional, and national championships which take place throughout the year. Swimmers need to achieve preset qualifying times to take part in these events. Boldmere Swimming & Water Polo Club is affiliated with Warwickshire at a county level, West Midlands at a regional level, and England and Great Britain at a national level. Therefore, our swimmers can take part in the Warwickshire County Championships.

When are these championships held?

County championships usually take place in late January and early February over 2 non-consecutive weekends. The 2024 Warwickshire County Championships (or otherwise known as Counties) will be held during the weekends of 20 & 21 January 2024 and 3 & 4 February 2024 at Alan Higgs Centre, Allard Way, Coventry CV3 1HW.

Is my child eligible to swim in the Counties?

Although competitive swimming has a 'season' that runs from September through to July/early August, the age groupings used are based on the calendar year. A swimmer's age for events at County level (or higher) is based their age on 31 December in the year of competing.

So, for example, if your child is competing in the Championships held during 2024, and their birthday is 25th October 2011, they will be

competing as a 13-year-old (not as a 12 year old) because on 31st December 2024 they will be 13.

Qualifying times

There are qualifying times (QTs) that need to be achieved for each age group, gender, and event. For 2024 these are available to view within [the Promoters Conditions](#) (please scroll to Appendix A).

Not all age groups are permitted to swim at this event. The youngest swimmers allowed are 10-year-old.

These QTs could be achieved in a short course (25m) pool, although conversions from long course (50m) pools are also acceptable. You can use [SportSys](#) for conversions.

Qualifying window

Qualifying times must have been achieved in a licensed meet (including Licence Level 4 meets) between 1st March 2023 and midnight 26th December 2023. The times also need to have been achieved in a licensed meet and published on GB Rankings <https://www.swimmingresults.org/>.

My child has achieved the qualifying times. How do we apply?

Information was recently sent via Whatsapp by our Head Coach Marc Foster. Please read the letter carefully and ask your coach for more information.