



National Arena League Round 1 Saturday 8th October 2011 Hertfordshire Sports Village, Hatfield

Phoenix swimmers travelled to Hatfield for the 1st round of the Arena League, where we were drawn against Hatfield, Teddington, Watford, GBM, Romford, Ealing and Sutton.

We were all very excited but we knew it would be a tough fixture with the league having been reorganized into 3 divisions making the standard of the opposition extremely high and with a number of our swimmers only just in or under their age groups. However there was no time to be complacent! As expected, Hatfield were dominant but we still managed to secure two stunning wins and four fabulous 2nd places with a large number of personal best swims and several club records broken.

The evening got off to a solid start in the ladies 200IM, with Jen Budden, having made the journey from University in Manchester to swim for us, posting a great time of 2.28.33. Jen had a busy night also competing in the open 100m back (1.07.68) and the ladies open relays. Emma Tunstall, also returning from University in Bath, also had fine swims in the ladies open fly (1.11.42) and open freestyle (1.03.76) and the ladies relays.

The team didn't have to wait long for the first win of the night, when 14 year old Charlotte Newman stormed to victory in a breath taking time of 1.06.19 in the U16 100 Back. Magnificent race and what an honour to watch! Next we were treated to a second place victory by 15 year old Ryan McCarthy in the U16 100M back with a time of 1.01.63. Ryan and Charlotte both broke their own age group club records with Ryan having earlier smashed his age group 200m IM record. This was shortly followed by 10 year old Meghan Byrne taking second place with a SC PB time of 40.08 in the Girls U12 50M Breast and again later where she secured our second win of the night in the Girls U12 50M Freestyle (30.66). Superb effort!

12 year old Mia Hawkes put in an awe inspiring 2nd place performance in the U14 100 Free (1.03.35). Mia was then part of the girls U14 4x2 Freestyle relay quartet where she together with Jessie Montague, Amy Carson and Lena Soulas took the team to a fabulous second place with a superb 4th leg swim by Lena almost catching the Ealing swimmer.

A third place was also achieved by Ryan McCarthy in the U16 100 Free in a time of 56.41.

Well done to the whole team, special thanks must go to coaches Barry Thomas & Rob Howe and our Team Managers Linda and Nick Newman, officials Jacqui Holder, Colin Hawkes, Vicki McCarthy and face painter Laura Byrne and all the supporters. We look forward to the second round on Saturday 12th November 2011. Please make sure you put the date in your diaries!

cont

Final points Hatfield 364, Ealing 319, Teddington 241, Romford 228, Watford 226, **EPSC 204**, Sutton 142, and GBM 71.

The team:

Sam Pereira, Ted Winfield, Lewis Hitchings, Oskar Soulas, Meghan Byrne, Caitlin McCabe, Chloe Howe, Emma Montague, Tom Newman, Jack Ryan, Ross McCarthy, Josh Kirlaw, Ben Howe, Mia Hawkes Amy Carson, Lena Soulas, Jessie Montague, Charlotte Newman, Fiona Westcough, Jade Mehmet Ali, Sara Khadraoui, Hannah Thomas, Ryan McCarthy, Toby Pasmore, Elliott Bertram, Joe Glazebrook, Harry Jenner, Megan Holder, Emma Tunstall, Jen Budden, David O'Toole, Alex Pasmore, Zach Kirlaw, Louis Kirlaw.