

ANOTHER STRONG PERFORMANCE FOR EDMONTON PHOENIX AT NATIONAL ARENA LEAGUE DIVISION ONE ROUND TWO

Edmonton Phoenix were again drawn at Southbury Leisure centre on Saturday 14th November.

After our fine first round performance which saw us into 11th place in the league the seeded draw found us competing, once more, with Greenwich Borough Mariners and Griffins of Enfield. Sutton and Cheam, Harrow and Wealdstone, Camden Swiss Cottage , UEA city of Norwich and Bexley were the other teams competing.

We knew what we were up against before the start and fielded our strongest team available (despite one or two members being under the weather). Our target was to try and overhaul Greenwich who managed to just beat us into fourth place in round 1. At this stage in our club's development the prospect of catching the two "Superteams" of Camden and Norwich were not really an option although we were hoping to snatch a couple of individual wins!

The gala started as expected and after 20 events Phoenix and GBM were dead level. There followed a period where the positions were constantly changing between these two clubs. Greenwich eventually managed to squeeze us out by 9 points at the end and it shows with each event that we are getting ever closer to these larger clubs.

We had four 1st Places from Charlotte Newman (100m breast and back) and Ryan McCarthy (100m back and freestyle) in the 13/U Age group. Charlotte's time of 1:18.92 for the breaststroke was good enough to break Heather Stephenson's long standing age group record and her time of 1:09.19 broke her own backstroke record! Ryan's time of 1:07.41 in the backstroke also broke his own age group record and he dipped under the one minute mark in the freestyle recording 59.33.

Charlotte Payne got two 2nd places in the ladies open backstroke and butterfly, the butterfly in a time of 1:08.61 which again broke her own club record! Amy Carson was just pipped to 2nd in the girls 10/11 freestyle in a time of 31.51.

Nine 3rd places were bagged by Phoenix: Mia Hawkes in the girls 10/11 backstroke, Josh Kirlaw in the boys 10/11 backstroke and 10/11 freestyle, Amy Carson in the girls 10/11 butterfly, Zach Kirlaw in the boys 15/U butterfly, David O'Toole in the men's open breaststroke, boys 9-11 medley relay team, girls 13/U freestyle relay team and the ladies open freestyle relay team.

Special mention must also go to Emma Tunstall who regained her club record for the 200M IM in a time of 2:31.51.

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Once again placing in the top 3 in over one third of the events against the likes of Camden Norwich and Greenwich is no mean feat and praise must go to both the swimmers and coaching staff for such an outstanding achievement.

The final placings were as follows:

1st Camden - 371pts, 2nd Norwich - 341 pts, 3rd Greenwich Borough Mariners – 242 pts, 4th Edmonton Phoenix – 233 pts, 5th Harrow – 179 pts, 6th Griffins – 156 pts, 7th Sutton & Cheam - 148 pts and 8th Bexley – 122pts.

Thanks go out once more to all the swimmers who took time to make themselves available especially those who turned out for just for one or two relays (Sam Fagg, Afton Doe, Emily Whale, Taria Carson, Christos Panayiotou, Joe Smith, James Wallace, Harry Jenner, Joe Glazebrook, Ross McCarthy and Nina McGarvey), this commitment to the club is exemplary. WELL DONE PHOENIX!!

The team In full:

Emily Whale, Mia Hawkes, Amy Carson, Afton Doe, Taria Carson, Hannah Thomas, Charlotte Newman, Megan Holder, Armani Antoine-Chaggar, Nina McGarvey, Sarah Browne, Charlotte Payne, Alice Smyth, Emma Tunstall, Tom Newman, Ben Howe, Josh Kirlaw, Ross McCarthy, Cheyenne Antoine-Chaggar, Sam, Fagg, Joe Glazebrook, Thomas Disney, Ryan McCarthy, Harry Jenner, Michael Tunstall, Reece Ballett, James Wallace, Zach Kirlaw, Louis Kirlaw, Ben Zuccolini, David O’Toole, Joe Smith, Christos Panayiotou.

