

North West Micro League
Match 1 Report – Padiham 22/05/2022

Bobcats started the 2022 Micro League competition with our home match at Padiham on Sunday 22nd May. We were competing against Leyland Barracudas, with Garston and Liverpool unable to attend the fixture. To help generate a better atmosphere for the swimmers we also invited Chorley Marlins, but they were not able to score points, this made it difficult to announce points on the evening and they have only just been confirmed.

The final scores were:

Leyland Barracudas 168

BOBCATS 121

To score over 100 points is a good performance in the Micro League, the last time we completed a full season in 2019 we averaged 116 points and finished safely in mid-table. To score 121 in our first match is an excellent achievement from our team.

It's an even greater achievement because we were missing several swimmers and only 10 out of our team of 23 had previous experience swimming under competitive rules. This meant that we were unable to field a swimmer/team in every race and had a number of disqualifications, which is to be expected due to the inexperience of our team. In total there were 11 races where we did not score any points, clearly this highlights potential for us to maintain and improve our points score in future matches.

Our swimmers all gave their best and supported their teammates, a lot of swimmers had to compete in 5/6 races and to record the times that they did was fantastic. In previous years we have relied on our 11 / 12 years girls' teams to win most of the points, it was great this year to see our 9 / 10 years teams and boys' teams being much more competitive. This is really encouraging for the future, and I hope we can keep the team together and push for promotion to division A in the next couple of years.

Congratulations to the following swimmers / teams who achieved first place finishes:

Bobby Watkiss, 9 Years 25 Backstroke and 25 Freestyle.

Owen Wilson, 12 Years 50 Butterfly and 50 Freestyle.

Robert Barrett, 12 Years 50 Backstroke.

Charlotte Cook, 9 Years 25 Backstroke.

Eleanor Halstead, 11 Years 50 Breaststroke.

Oliver Malpass, 9 Years 25 Breaststroke.

Felix Nutter, 10 Years 50 Freestyle.

Boys 12 Years Medley Relay, Robert Barrett, Jenson Hardacre, Owen Wilson, Michael Zwardon.

A big well done to everyone who took part and thank you to Leanne Nutter for helping on poolside, our swimming officials and volunteers who ensured that the match was able to go ahead as planned.

Our next match is away at Halton on Sunday 26th June and hope everyone can make it.

Thank you, Ian.