

PRESS RELEASE



25th February 2019

Blue Fins Celebrate at final leg of ONB Counties 2019

Aqua Vale Aylesbury played host to the final round of Galas for the ONB County Championships on the weekends of the 9/10th and 16/17th February.

The first weekend witnessed an incredible swim from 13-year-old **Will Jones** in the 50m freestyle winning Gold in 28.57 with a Regional Automatic qualifying time. Will who also secured Silver last month in the 400m freestyle was elated with his performances across the Championships saying, "I tried my hardest and am proud of what I have achieved". **Mike Procter** then took to the water taking silver in the boys 17 and over 50m freestyle in an impressive 23.95 and **Archie Steward (11)** bagged Bronze in the 50m breaststroke in his first Counties. **Grace Bradney (14)** flew the flag for the Blue Fins girls taking home bronze in the 200m backstroke.

The below Blue Fins swimmers celebrated making the finals and securing Club points:

- Tia Falkner – girls age 15 50m fly
- Ryan Steward – boys age 17 and over 50m breaststroke
- Grace Bradney – girls age 14 50m backstroke
- Will Jones – boys age 13 200m freestyle

A week later and the team were back pulling out all the stops with some particularly exceptional swims coming from Bicester Blue Fins **Mike Procter (26)** adding to his Silverware haul winning the boys 17 and over 50m Fly and taking silver in the 100m freestyle. An ecstatic Mike said "We had two great weekends with many inspired swims. Personally, I'd like to build on this throughout the year and bring back lots more results for the Club". **Grace Bradney (14)** shone once more bringing home Silver in the 100m backstroke and securing a Regional Automatic qualifying time. A delighted Grace who PB'd in the heat and then again in the final said "I am so glad I took medals home from Counties. I am now really looking forward to Spring and competing at Regionals". Another Blue Fins female celebrating was **Bethany Taylor (21)** who won gold in the Multi Class 50m freestyle and a Silver in the 200m freestyle.

Additional finalists who had superb swims and bagged points for Blue Fins were;

- Will Jones – boys age 13 100m freestyle
- Maixm Tarna – boys age 13 50m fly

The team celebrated the end of a great counties with the 17 and over boys (Andy Smith, Mike Procter, Josh Rowland and Ryan Steward) taking bronze in the 4 x 50m freestyle relay.

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Head Coach Craig Oliver praised his squads and said "We are all very pleased and proud of how our swimmers have performed over these Championships. We have witnessed some spectacular swims which have included medals, PB's and Regional qualifying times. A great start to the year".

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For further information, please contact:

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Notes to editors:

Bicester Blue Fins Amateur Swimming Club was established in 1950 and has been based at Bicester Leisure Centre since 1971. The Club aims to deliver a comprehensive teaching and training programme to maximise the potential of all swimmers and help them to achieve success at local, county, regional and national levels. Programmes are designed by the club's head coaching team and delivered by trained coaching / teaching staff assisted by a team of volunteer helpers who have either been swimmers themselves or who have children who are or have been swimmers.

Bicester Blue Fins is 'SWIM 21' accredited and affiliated to the ASA South East Region and the Oxfordshire & North Buckinghamshire ASA