

# PRESS RELEASE



22nd January 2019

## Scrivener Celebrates Gold in his First County Champs

January 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> (at Leys Pool Oxford) and January 20<sup>th</sup> (at Aqua Vale Aylesbury) played host to the first three rounds of the ONB County Championships 2019. The events were open to all County qualifiers aged 10 plus. These three sessions featured 1500m, 800m and 400m distances plus Girls and Boys age group relays (11-12 years and 13-14 years).

Week one saw the Bicester Blue Fins team dig deep for the long-distance events, with ex Club Captain **Freddie Whybrow** (19) pulling out an incredible swim and a superb PB taking, 30 seconds off for his 1500m freestyle and giving him a Regional Base time. **Tia Falkner** (15) also had a fantastic swim knocking 18 seconds off her PB with a time of 18:48.17 and securing a Regional Base time.

The Boys Relay teams all displayed exceptional camaraderie and team commitment with the boys 10-12 age group team finishing mid table for both their (4 x 50m) medley and freestyle races. The Boys 13-14 age group 'A' team finished an impressive 8<sup>th</sup> in their medley and mid-table for their freestyle relay.

The next weekend in Oxford also witnessed some impressive swims from **Tia Falkner** (15) and **William Jones** (13) in the 800m freestyle. **Freddie Whybrow** (19) also secured another Regional Base time in this event.

The 400m events and Girls relays took place this weekend at Aqua Vale, with **Joshua Scrivener** (10) the squads youngest competitor taking **Gold** in the 400m freestyle for the 11 and under age group. An elated Joshua who turns ten in March said "I was surprised to be accepted for Counties as qualifying is tough and I am at the younger end of the age group. To take home a medal was awesome! I now need to work on my turns and stroke count to improve my time". **William Jones** excelled in the 400m freestyle also, taking **Silver** with an outstanding performance and securing a fantastic 16 second PB. **Ben Inness** (18) also secured points for his Club finishing top eight in both the 400m freestyle (with a Regional Base time) and in the 400m Individual Medley.

The Girl's Relay teams then took to the water with some gutsy performances with the 10-12-year 'A' team finish 14<sup>th</sup> in the medley and 11<sup>th</sup> in the freestyle. The 13-14 age group 'A' Team finished 12<sup>th</sup> for both events.

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Head Coach Craig Oliver was pleased with his team's performance and said "We've had a fantastic start to the ONB 2019 County Champs. With little time to prepare after Christmas, our swimmers have shown an outstanding ability to get focused and into the programme very quickly! There have been swims in each distance that have surpassed our expectations. Bring on the main weekends in February."

The next round of the Championships take place the 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> of February and Team Blue Fins are raring to go!

-Ends-

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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