

# PRESS RELEASE



2<sup>nd</sup> October 2018

## **The Blue Fins family come together to celebrate another incredible year**

Saturday night saw the Bicester Blue Fins 'family' come together to celebrate another year of Club success at their annual Presentation Evening. The Club which was originally formed in 1950, now has over 330 members, with swimmers from four to 74. Many of the swimmers and their families attended the presentation of awards at the Highfields Club in Bicester, which recognised performances at the Blue Fins Summer Open Meet and in addition, growth and progression over the last season.

Head Coach Craig Oliver kicked off proceedings and recapped on the year's events and success stories. Some highlights touched on were the Clubs performance at Regionals and the introduction of our holiday Skills Camps for younger swimmers (with older team members supporting these). He also praised the work that has gone into developing the Blue Fins brand with new kit, logo and the production of a Blue Fins promotional film.

Special awards were given to the top performing individual in each age/ gender category based on FINA points secured at the Blue Fins Summer Meet. In addition, awards were given to top swimmers in age/gender groups for short, middle and long distance. Every swimmer who competed also received a certificate in recognition of their achievements.

The Coaching Team also recognised the most improved swimmers of the season and these awards went to;

Under nine girls – Elissa Cleaver  
Under nine boys – Tequan Mofford  
9-12 girls – Eleanor Iles  
9-12 boys – Tom Henley  
13-16 girls – Katelin Cavill  
13-16 boys – Matty Thornley  
17 plus boys – Freddie Whybrow  
Masters female – Hannah Mansfield  
Masters Male – Mike Procter

Special awards also went to;  
Rachel Lawrence for Team Player  
Ryan McKenzie was given the Head Coaches awards  
Tom Henley received the prestigious Swimmer of the Year award

Club Captains Freddie Whybrow and Rachel Lawrence awarded the Captains Trophy to an elated Katelin Cavill. Rachel Lawrence will remain girls Captain for another year whilst Freddie Whybrow passes his mantle over to a deserving Matty Thornley.

# PRESS RELEASE



Reflecting on the event Craig Oliver said "Saturday was a fantastic evening for Blue Fins. We had a great turnout with many members in attendance to celebrate the success of all at our first ever Invitational Meet (which incorporated our annual Club Champs). It was a pleasure to award so many certificates, trophies and shields for both swimming, performance and improvement plus special awards. Our Captains have once again done us proud and their speech captured the very essence of Blue Fins".

'Swimmer of the Year' winner Tom Henley (12), who has only been with the Club for 18 months was ecstatic to receive his prestigious award, as in the past this has often been bestowed on older team mates. Tom said "I was very surprised when my name was called out! As I was expecting one of my older team mates to win this. I feel proud of myself and pleased at how far I have come with my swimming in a very short space of time."

In addition, Presentation Evening was as always, a fantastic opportunity for families and friends to come together and celebrate all that is good about Blue Fins. This culture was captured in the Clubs new video (made in partnership with Bicester Village). The film focuses on camaraderie, friendships and how swimming teaches you many other skills that can be utilised in life out of the pool such as resilience, time management and goal setting. President Paul Walker also paid tribute to the Committee, Coaches and all volunteers that help run the Club, with a special award going to Jo Falkner for her outstanding contribution to Bicester Blue Fins over many years.

Vice Chair and Event Coordinator Sharon Kemp thought it was a fantastic night with a superb turnout from swimmers and families. She said "It's so important to recognise all the hard work and commitment that has been put into training and competitions over the last year by swimmers and the support from their families. One new parent hit the nail on the head when they said it felt like they had joined a big family."