

PRESS RELEASE



24th January 2022

Golden glory for Blue Fins Swimmers at County Champs

January 8th and 15th (at Leys Pool Oxford) and January 22nd (at Aqua Vale Aylesbury) played host to the first three rounds of the ONB County Championships 2022. 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 (10-12 years and 13-14 years).

Week one saw the Bicester Blue Fins team dig deep for the long-distance events, with **Jacob Pillinger** (16) pulling out an incredible swim and a superb PB taking 32 seconds off for his 1500m freestyle and bagging bronze in the Boys Juniors (16 and under) and coming 4th overall in the men's open. **Seb Gomm** (16) also put in an impressive swim with a 30 second PB and coming 7th in the Men's Open.

The Boys Relay teams all displayed exceptional camaraderie with the boys 10-12 age group team finishing 8th for their medley event and 4th for their freestyle relay. The Boys 13-14 age finished a fantastic 5th for both events.

The next weekend in Oxford also witnessed some impressive swims from **Jacob Pillinger** who again took bronze in the 800 freestyle Juniors and then 5th in the Men's Open with a 15 second PB. **Club Captain William Jones** (16) also secured a 5 second PB which placed him 6th in the Men's Open and **Josh Scrivener** (13) smashed his entry time with a 30 second PB.

The Girl's Relay teams showed great passion and focus when they took to the water with some gutsy performances with the girls 10-12 team finishing mid table for both their swims and the girls 13-14 team finishing a strong sixth place.

The 400m events took place at Aylesbury and saw **Jacob Pillinger** (16) take to the podium once again as **Junior Champion** for the 400m freestyle after an epic swim. An elated Jacob said "So far County Champs have gone pretty well for me! The long-distance events are my favourite, and the 400m freestyle is an event I really enjoy so I am happy to be Junior County Champ! It was a great race and now I am looking forward to the remaining events and weekends."

Evie Scrivener (11) put in a fabulous performance in her first ever individual county swim and took gold in the girls 11 and under 400m freestyle with a 17 second pb. An excited Evie said "I am very happy with a medal in my first event and the fact I got a good PB too. I was pleased with my swim as I had really tried to listen to my coach's advice on where I could improve." **Joshua Scrivener** (13) also added to the silverware with a bronze medal in the 400 Individual Medley and was placed 4th in his age group for the 400m free with a strong PB. **Eleanor Iles** (14) also took bronze with an impressive swim in her age group for the 400m freestyle plus a PB and then came 6th in 400 Individual Medley with a huge 27 second PB. The team also celebrated an additional eight top eight finishes and a whole host of personal bests.

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Head Coach Craig Oliver was full of praise for his team and said "We've enjoyed a fantastic start to ONB County Championships with many PB's, medal winners and some junior podium positions. These have been from a whole range of age groups, showing the depth in Blue Fins right now. Most noteworthy has been Jacob taking the title as ONB Junior Champion in the 400m freestyle. We are looking forward to continuing this early success in the sprint events".

The next round of the Championships with the 50m, 100m and 200m events take place on the 5th-6th and 12-13th of February and Team Blue Fins are raring to go!

-Ends-

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