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15<sup>th</sup> February 2021

## Bicester Blue Fins celebrate golden glory

Aqua Vale Aylesbury played host to the final round of Galas for the **ONB County Championships** on the weekends of the 4-5<sup>th</sup> and 12-13<sup>th</sup> February.

Leading the charge for Blue Fins was **Josh Scrivener (13)** who had an incredible championship taking five gold medals with sensational swims and times in the 50m and 100m butterfly, 50m and 100m freestyle and 50m backstroke. Josh also took silver in the 100 backstroke and three bronze medals in the 200 freestyle, 200 butterfly and the 200m individual medley. An elated Josh said "I am extremely proud of my achievements at County Championships. I love racing and am happy I PB'd in every event. I am very grateful for all the help and support from my coaches and teammates. It has been great competing and watching others do well especially my sister who had success at first counties".

Gold medals also went to **Ollie Snelgrove (11)** who "loved every minute of the competition" and had superb swims in the 50m and 200m breaststroke, plus a bronze in the 200m freestyle (all PB's). **Sophie Jobling (13)** took two bronze medals in exciting races in the 50 and 100m backstroke (both PB's) and was very excited to be swimming in finals and said "I was so happy to make finals and to take home two bronze medals was just amazing! I love being part of such a friendly club with a great coaching team".

**Kelly Ng (11)** also took home a bronze in the 200m freestyle (PB) with training partner and teammate **Evie Scrivener (11)** bagging bronze in the 50m fly (PB) adding to her gold in the 400m freestyle earlier in the championships.

In total Blue Fins had 17 athletes making finals (top eight finishes) over the last two weekends (in addition to those from the distance events).

- Captain Will Jones (16) – 5<sup>th</sup> in the 200m freestyle, 6<sup>th</sup> in the 100m butterfly and 50m freestyle and 7<sup>th</sup> in the 100m freestyle.
- Jacob Pillinger (16) – 4<sup>th</sup> in the 200m freestyle and 200m breaststroke and 8<sup>th</sup> in the 200m individual medley, 100m freestyle and 100m breaststroke.
- Eleanor Iles (14) – 4<sup>th</sup> in the 200m backstroke, 5<sup>th</sup> in the 100m backstroke, 6<sup>th</sup> in the 50m backstroke and 50m freestyle and 7<sup>th</sup> in the 100m freestyle.
- Kelly Ng (11) – 4<sup>th</sup> in the 50m butterfly and 50m breaststroke, 5<sup>th</sup> in the 100 breaststroke and 100m freestyle, 7<sup>th</sup> in the 100m backstroke and 8<sup>th</sup> in the 50m backstroke.
- Seb Gomm (16) – 4<sup>th</sup> in the 200m backstroke, 6<sup>th</sup> in the 200m breaststroke and 7<sup>th</sup> in the 100m backstroke.
- Beth Wakefield (13) – 6<sup>th</sup> in the 50 and 100m backstroke and 7<sup>th</sup> in the 200m backstroke.
- Ollie Snelgrove (11) – 4<sup>th</sup> in the 50 and 100m freestyle.
- Evie Scrivener (11) – 7<sup>th</sup> in the 200m freestyle and 50m breaststroke.
- Ben Greenfield (12) – 8<sup>th</sup> in the 200m breaststroke and 50m backstroke.

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- Yasmin Preston (16) – 4<sup>th</sup> in the 50m breaststroke.
- George Hide (11) – 4<sup>th</sup> in the 100m breaststroke.
- Tia Falkner (18) – 6<sup>th</sup> in the 200m freestyle.
- Chris Littleton (19) – 6<sup>th</sup> in the 50m butterfly.
- Izzie Carter (15) – 8<sup>th</sup> in the 50 butterfly.
- Charlotte Gore (15) – 8<sup>th</sup> in the 200m breaststroke.

The team finished the championships in style celebrating a bronze podium position in the men's 200m freestyle medley after an electrifying performance from **Ryan Steward (35), Mike Procter (29), William Jones (16) and Dean Milwain (36)**. Club Captain **William Jones** was thrilled with the team's performance and said "The relay was a fantastic way to finish off two amazing weekends of racing. It is great to see so many of the team here achieving PB's, and many making finals and some getting top three finishes".

**Head Coach Craig Oliver** praised his squad and said "Blue Fins are back! A massive congratulations to all the team. Following on from the success of the distance events and the excitement of **Jacob Pillinger** taking Junior Champ in the 400m freestyle, we kept the momentum over the main two weekends. We had a 12.5% increase in qualifying swimmers from 2020 and 70 swims in finals (top 8) over the championships. The team finished with nearly double the championship points scored in 2020 with a fantastic percentage coming from our juniors. It must be noted that **Josh Scrivener** banked the most medals for the team with a total of 10 with some sensational swims, and the men's relay result was a great finish to five weekends of racing! A big thanks to all that made this happen. I am beaming with pride!"

In the team rankings Bicester Blue Fins finished ONB County Championships 6<sup>th</sup> out of 18 clubs with City of Milton Keynes finishing top.

-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