

PRESS RELEASE



2nd July 2018

BBF celebrate hosting first Short Course Meet

This weekend saw Bicester Blue Fins host their first L4 Short Course Invitational Meet, and it was most definitely one to remember! Athletes from BBF, Banbury Swimming Club and Kidlington & Gosford Swimming Club took part in 40 events over two days.

Swimmers as young as six competed in 25m events (open to ASA Lesson stages 5-7 with mixed age groups), spending time and soaking up the atmosphere amongst all Squads from Academy to Masters. Six-year-old Evie Scrivener was the youngest competitor and was extremely excited to claim gold in all four of her 25m events in the eight and under age group. An enthusiastic Evie said "I loved racing! I just wanted to do my best. I really enjoyed swimming with my friends, my brother and my Daddy and I am very proud of my medals. My favourite race was butterfly".

Hannah Mansfield has been involved with the Club for 14 years, firstly as a young swimmer, then part of the coaching team and now for Blue Fins Masters and volunteering as an Official. Hannah said "This is a rare opportunity for our young swimmers to see our top swimmers compete which is very inspiring. They get to realise what their potential could be. The 25m races give our young athletes a glimpse into Club life, and the early race experience gives them the drive to continue because of the incredible atmosphere. It's positive, friendly and very welcoming from all involved, and the perfect opportunity to introduce new members young and old, to competitive swimming". Adam Child (40) was one of the 'mature' swimmers taking to the blocks to race for the first time. He said "I have trained with Blue Fins now for over six months and was excited but slightly nervous for my first competition. However, the support from all the team was immense from the very young swimmers to my Masters team mates. I had people I hadn't even met calling my name which was extremely encouraging. I really enjoyed the experience!"

The Blue Fins team witnessed many fantastic performances with sensational medal hauls for girls from;

- Tia Falkner (14) 11 Golds
- Grace Bradney (13) 10 Golds
- Courtney Best (20) 9 Golds
- Shana Soleil-Arnephy (15) 8 Golds
- Holly Mclellan (11) 7 Golds
- Sam Usher (46) 7 Golds
- Club Captain Rachel Lawrence (16) 6 Golds
- Eleanor Iles (10) 6 Golds

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Flying the flag for the boys with incredible wins were;

- Joshua Best (14) 10 Golds
- Leo Jayakody (13) 10 Golds
- Joshua Scrivener (9) 8 Golds
- Tom Henley (12) 7 Golds
- Ryan McKenzie & Luca Soleil-Arnephy (16) 6 Golds

Head Coach Craig Oliver said "It's not just our athletes who did us proud, but the team of volunteers behind this event who made it all happen. We had a huge number of swimmers competing together seamlessly, from our brave little ones doing their 25m races, to our Academy juniors, Squads and Masters. For BBF to host an Invitational Meet was a huge milestone, as it has been a goal for some time! It was fantastic to welcome our friends from Kidlington & Gosford SC and Banbury SC to BBF for some fast and fun swimming. The camaraderie as always was superb and the whole weekend was one to remember!"

-Ends-

For further information, please contact:

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