

2011 Kingerlee Trophy Inter-County Gala

Boldmere swimmers Lauren Wall, Beth Grant, Archie Langston, Matt Price, Ben Stanford, Jake Dixon and Steve Wilson helped Warwickshire to a superb victory in the Kingerlee Trophy Gala at Aylesbury on Sunday the 8th May.

The gala is an annual licensed Level 2 junior event that pits Warwickshire against teams from the Leicestershire, Bedfordshire and Oxon and North Bucks ASAs in the 10, 11, 12 and 13 years old age groups. This year the gala was fiercely contested from start to finish, with Warwickshire, Bedfordshire and Leicestershire pushing each other all of the way.

Warwickshire got off to a strong start, dominating the opening 8 relays with 3 first and 2 second placed finishes. In the boys freestyle relays, Ben Stanford and Matt Price both put in sub 30 second swims to help secure first place for the 11year olds while Jake Dixon and Steve Wilson also produced powerful swims, contributing to an emphatic win for the 13 year olds. Meanwhile, Archie Langston set up the 10 years boys for an excellent second place with a strong opening leg. In the girls medley relays Beth Grant swam an unofficial 50m breaststroke PB of 36.84sec to help the team secure first place whilst Lauren Wall brought home the 10 years girls in 2nd place, again in an unofficial PB time of 32.90sec.

In the individual events, Matt Price took first place in the 50m Fly in a PB of 32.72sec and then followed this up with first place in the 50m backstroke in a club record time of 33.79sec. Not to be outdone, Ben Stanford took a commanding first place in the 50m free in a new club record time of 28.64sec, whilst Jake Dixon took the 13yrs 100 fly in a new PB of 1.04.77sec. In other fine swims, Archie Langston took second place in the 10yrs 50 back in a time of 37.19sec and Beth Grant a closely fought third place in the 12yrs 100 breast.

As the gala entered the final set of relays, Warwickshire trailed Bedfordshire by a single point and a series of marvellous races was to take the final result right down to the wire. First to contribute from Boldmere was Lauren Wall who brought home the girls 50m freestyle relay team in first place with an unofficial PB time of 32.65sec. Next, Archie Langston's backstroke leg in the boys 50m medley helped secure second place, which was followed by another first in the boys 11yrs medley featuring Matt Price and Ben Stanford. As the tension grew, Bethany Grant put in a powerful swim in the 12yr girls freestyle relay as the team took yet another 1st place, followed by another victory in the penultimate race, the boys 50m medley, featuring strong swims from Jake Dixon and Steve Wilson.

With the teams neck and neck, the final 8x50 mixed freestyle canon turned out to be the deciding race. Three Boldmere swimmers featured as closest rivals Bedfordshire took the unusual step of sending out their oldest swimmers first to try to build a commanding lead. However, Lauren Wall, swimming the first leg, kept the team in touch with a PB swim of 33.10sec and by the time Ben Stanford had completed a superb fourth leg in an unofficial pb time of 28.17secs, Warwickshire were ahead. Victory was assured when boys Team captain Steve Wilson stormed home in the final leg in an unofficial pb time of 26.63secs. The result meant that Warwickshire had won the Kingerlee Trophy by a margin of only 3 points from Bedfordshire.

Well done to Boldmere's swimmers and to all of the Warwickshire swimmers from clubs across the County who took part in the gala- everybody swam well. Special thanks go to Boldmere's Dave Price (Team Manager) and to Nuneaton's Terry Freeman (Coach).

