

# Staffordshire Inter-County Champs 2013

Eight years on the trot is a long and impressive record and that is the position that Cheshire found themselves in at The Staffordshire Inter County Championships this month that is until the mighty Warwickshire County swimming squad arrived at Fenton Leisure Centre in Stoke.

Featuring no less than ten Boldmere Swimming Club members approximately 1/3rd of the Warwickshire Squad they put up a display of swimming as good as all management involved can remember and the end result saw Warwickshire win by over 40 points pushing the favourites Cheshire into second place followed by Worcestershire, Leicestershire and the hosts Staffordshire which at this level of completion is a most impressive margin.

Boldmere was represented through all the age levels starting with the boys 11yr s and under with Leighton Palmer-Whyte registering 2nd place in the 50m Breaststroke in 41.14 secs and Roan Griffiths despite registering a Pb of 30.75 secs found himself in 4th against fierce competition in the 50 freestyle. In the 11yrs girls squads Aristeia Knight found stiff competition in the 50m breast stroke with her swim of 41.16 being a mere 2 100ths of a second slower than Leighton clocking a PB time yet found herself in 5th place such was the quality of the competition. In the medley relays the boys 11yr squad took 2nd place and the Girls finished a close 3rd only a second behind the winners.

In the twelve year squads Kate Davies was in fine form winning the 200 metre IM in 2:31.71, 2nd in the 100m Breaststroke in a pb of 1:20.10 and helped her 12yr girls medley relay squad to victory in 2:12.98.

On the boys side Matt Price yet again in sparkling form for his county registering no less than four victories in the 100 back 1:07.81, 100 Fly in 1:08.08 both dominating the competition and then gave an excellent start in the backstroke lead off leg in the boys 12 yr Medley relay 2:08.88 and in the days last event the boys 8 leg cannon he joined Roan Griffiths and Jake Dixon in a fitting close winning finish over Cheshire to finish the day. Boldmere's Tom Bloor played his part

in the Medley relay swimming a superb Fly leg to give the last swimmer a huge lead which they did not squander in fact the Warwickshire 12 year squad supported by Will Foster and Bailey Connell of Coventry remained unbeaten in all events at the championships a most impressive display.

In similar Sparkling form in the boys 14 year squad was Jake Dixon taking the 200 individual IM by 5 seconds in a pb of 2:12.49 and then took the 100m freestyle crown with first in 55.45 his record only blotted by a 2nd in the team Medley relay in 1:59.16 on that occasion to Cheshire in a fingertip finish.

Ben Stanford was the final boys swimmer in the 13 year squad, hot favourite for the 100m freestyle he did not disappoint winning by the significant margin of 2 seconds in 58.44 but was then edged into second place by a second in the Individual 200m IM in a pb of 2:22.70 by Worcestershire's Ashley Markel his training partner at City of Birmingham! However his form would indicate that this time will be further reduced shortly to under 2:20.

For the girls the competition was particularly fierce with in the 14 year squad, Morgan Harlow having to be satisfied with 3rd place in the 100m breaststroke in 1:52.59 and in the same squad Rachel Wilson also clocking 3rd place in the 100m Fly in in 1:10.06 and then both of them finding the competition too tough in the 14yr girls medley with a 5th place finish.

Warwickshire ASA President Mr Ian Carden had plenty to smile about with this victory and congratulated the team stating that "I had no doubts that we would do well today we have an exciting group of young swimmer peaking well ready for next month's Warwickshire county championships however even I was surprised at the manner of our victory, this young crop of dedicated and talented athletes bode well for the future of Warwickshire swimming at the senior level and will in time put Warwickshire back at the very top of British swimming again"

Dave Price

