

Biggleswade Makes the final!

Swimmers from the Jordan's sponsored Biggleswade Swimming Club pulled out all of the stops in the second round of the Speedo league on Saturday 12th November. Swimming in Boston, the Division 2 champions of 2004 finished in a credible second place to claim their place in the East Midlands Regional A final for the first time in the club's history.

Hannah Raine made it two Bedfordshire county records in two rounds swimming a 1.09.30 in the 100m Individual Medley and claiming a 3rd place in the process. Nick Metcalf followed in the corresponding men's event by claiming a second place. The relays followed and the under 13 girls medley team wowed the crowd with their outstanding talent. Danielle Lee swam a personal best of 35.70 in the backstroke leg, Carmen Mallet then gave GB junior International Sophie Allen of Lincoln Vulcans a challenge by posting a 37.05 in her 50 breaststroke leg, Abbi Lavallin then surpassed her opponents in the butterfly leg swimming 32.28, and Emma Jones finished in 31.21. They claimed one of Biggleswade's three first places of the evening, beating a team from Lincoln Vulcans that finished 4th at last year's National Speedo league final. Rachel Hollington also claimed a first place in the U11 50m backstroke, as did David Dowsett in the Open Men's 100 breaststroke on the touch.

Carmen Mallet relished the challenge of racing some of the top Breaststrokers in the country in her U13 100m breaststroke and finished in a personal best of 1.21.27. Josh Farrell followed by claiming a personal best of 1.23.76 in the corresponding boy's event and a third place in the process. Kane Farrell followed the family tradition of breaststroke by setting a new Biggleswade Swimming club record of 43.67 in the 50m Breaststroke.

Danielle Lee had everyone on the edge of their seats with a nailbiting finish in the 100m backstroke in the U13 category, and then Nikki Newell swam a personal best of 1.10.52 in the Open 100m backstroke despite recovering from illness.

Other outstanding swims included Harry Storton, Chris Budd and Chris Bradbury all swimming low 28 second splits in their relays, and Christian Stokes swam a 1.14.30 in the U15 100 backstroke just 8 races before swimming the U13 race!

The outstanding female swim of the meet was Louise King who swam her first personal best in the 100m Butterfly for two years by slicing some 2.5 seconds off her time to finish in 1.10.07. Not to be outdone Chris Bradbury was the outstanding male swim of the meet as he claimed fourth place in a field of boys twice the size of him, and set a four second personal best in the process in a time of 1.18.46.

The Biggleswade swimmers set a total of 18 personal bests, 1 Bedfordshire County Record, 7 Biggleswade Swimming Club Age Group records and 1

Biggleswade Swimming Club junior record in claiming a place in the regional final.

Vix Metcalf, Head coach at the club, was amazed at the transformation in the swimmers. 'To stake a place in the regional final is beyond our wildest dreams. We were hoping to consolidate our position in the league this year and work to get to the final over the next five years. We have achieved an amazing feat in the one and a half years that I have been at the club. All of the credit must go to the swimmers who have risen to the challenge and have got there through the excellent coaching team that we have at the club.'

Club Chair Nicholas Titley congratulated the swimmers for all the effort they have put into training under the coaching team, which is now paying off and gaining results in competitions. He felt that the swimmers are a credit to themselves, the club and its sponsors W. Jordans (Cereals) Ltd.

Final Results:

1 st	Lincoln Vulcans	264
2 nd	Biggleswade	190
3 rd	City of Milton Keynes	181
4 th	Kings Lynn	149
5 th	Boston	148
6 th	Northampton B	112