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Ledbury Swimmers impress in National League

Ledbury And District Swimming Club fielded a strong team to tackle the 2nd round of the National Arena League held in Droitwich. The swimmers have been working hard under their new Head Coach Duncan Loraine and his attention to detail is starting to pay off with some much improved race skills particularly using the underwater phase on both starts and turns. This improved performance yielded 18 first places and 19 individual personal best times.

Throughout the gala Leicester were always going to be the main rival and eventually beat the Ledbury team into 2nd place by 12 points. Assistant Coach , Tom Stokes set a fine example to his swimmers with convincing wins in both the 200 Individual Medley and the 100m Breaststroke and alongside senior swimmers, Pete Crocombe, Alex Middleton, Tom Harris, Elliot Heath and Bradley Williams secured top points in both their Freestyle and Medley relay events. Girls captain Ellie Ainsworth led by example by winning two individual freestyle events. Other double winners were, William Hughes (10/11 backstroke and breaststroke) Matt Thomas (13/u butterfly and freestyle) with both boys swimming faster personal best times.

Lucy Stokes travelled back from university to support the team and secured vital points with a first place in the Open age group 100m Butterfly and likewise Alex Middleton returned to swim and was victorious in the 100m open freestyle event in a very respectable 57.31 seconds.

Swimming in the 13/under age group Eve Watson showed great form setting new personal best times in both the medley and freestyle relays and winning the individual 100m backstroke event. In the same event for the boys Seb Roffey swam well to add another first place to the tally.

The butterfly swimmers showed well with great swims producing first places for Daisy Wood in the 10/11 age group and Tom Harris in the Open age group. Just pipped to the finish but with new best times were William Kennedy, Lily Wood and Harry Bloxsome.

The relay races were hard fought with top points being spread amongst, Solihull, Tewksbury, Leicester and Ledbury. The 13/u boys, Malachi Cashmore, Robert Wilson, Bryn Batten, Matt Thomas and Seb Roffey proved too strong to catch in their events as were the 15/u boys, Bradley Williams, Eric Harris, Matt Thomas and captain Elliot Heath.

At the end of a very close and exciting gala head Coach Duncan Loraine commented, "This was a strong result for Ledbury and District and I am pleased to see so many swimmers excel - I can't ask for more than for someone to swim faster than they ever have before! Unfortunately we had a few swimmers absent and some swimmers had to swim extra events which they tackled extremely well and supported each other throughout the gala. We are now looking to some further improved results at the Hereford Open event next weekend."

The swimming club caters for swimmers from age 6 and welcome any prospective member to arrange a trial at Ledbury Pool or Malvern College by prior arrangement via their website at LADASC.co.uk.

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