

NATIONAL AREANA LEAGUE ROUND 1

It is always good to compete close to home and in the first round being at Bognor was good news and up against Bognor is always a bonus. Bognor would be very keen to try and take revenge on last years defeat to Worthing ,on their home pool was going to be a hard contest. Also for the first time I believe in 12 years were Maxwell. This Club is extremely strong and have entered the competition to show off their strength and depth within their squad.

The arena league is a popular competition and often you will find yourself competing against the best from a very large area of the West of the Country. Teams travelling from Isle of Wight, Easteigh to Windsor , Worthing new it was going to be tough.

We started with the relays which gave me a chance to see Annah Bowles, Oscar Silk ,and Edward Taylor swim being relatively new to Galas and first time in this event. They did well and this gives me more strength in the respective age groups which is always a good thing.

Regular swimmers were working very hard and although it is great to get PBs the focus is always on the team and with the events coming thick and fast these are not always possible, however some Club records have fallen again so well done to those concerned.

With 4 first , 5 seconds and 9, 3rd places in 50 events was a good achievement considering Maxwell took 38 firsts, to themselves showing their full strength.

Good swims from all was good to see, even if some had travelled just for the single event it gave opportunity for me to reward hard training and rest others to focus on their next event.

On the night we did manage to keep ahead of Bognor , Local rivals in the County and finishing 4th out of 7 is fair result in the first round .With two more to go not yet knowing who we will be up against I will not know where we will be travelling to.

Big thank you to helpers poolside as being an open pool with the draw of the television and vending machines close by makes it harder sometimes to know where everyone is. That is why swimmers please stay poolside, not only so we know where you are for events but to support your fellow team members as they work hard for every point for Worthing.

A special thank you goes to Ben Alcorn as with University uptakes taking most of my open swimmers without him last night would have made things a little harder than they were in this age group. Also to Luke Moore who has been hearing my voice a lot in training however pulled off a 3 second PB in his Breaststroke well done.

Michelle continues to break records in her swimming another 2 seconds in the 100m Butterfly and Club record is recognition of her hard work and dedication to the sport.

Big thank you to Boys and Girls Captains on the night for supporting the swimmers and giving their all Laura Joseph and Joe Hazeldine who always dig deep for Worthing and despite being close to exhausted after the last event managed to give a cry of gives a W.O.R.T.H.I.N.G. Looking forward to the next round team selection will be posted soon please make yourself available.

Many thanks to all for a fantastic evenings entertainment.

Nic Piper