

THE NATIONAL ARENA SWIMMING LEAGUE ROUND 1

On the 9th of October Worthing travelled to Bognor for the first round pitched against two of our rival swimming clubs Chichester and Bognor. Other teams competing were Winsor, Basingstoke, and Andover.

The team was hoping for a good performance but due to some swimmers not being available we knew we were not at our strongest but hoped all being well 3rd or 4th ahead of our rivals would be a fantastic result.

New swimmer Harry Bransdon stepped in to help fill the gaps, along with Mathew Laker Lucas Bubb and Ellis Bubb selected in his own right were fighting with the team for every point. Rebecca Harman a late entry due to an injury and produced outstanding swims. Selecting the team was made harder as with a gap in swimmers in the 15 and under meant swimming some swimmers up. This required a lot of thinking as not to exceed the maximum amount of events allowed.

Karen Chan started the evening with her Individual Medley unfortunately in the open event but produced a fantastic swim achieving a second place in 1.13.60 to Winsor who were clearly stamping their mark on the Gala.

As the evening progressed we realised it was going to be a very close evening. After the first 10 events we were positioned 3rd 1 point ahead of Basingstoke and 1 point behind Bognor. Chichester were finding this Gala hard going and were positioned at the bottom.

Charlie and Joe were swimming up as well as competing in their own age and were doing a fantastic job gaining more points in the challenge to gain ground in our battle to get ahead of Bognor.

As the results were being announced the gaps remained very close between the top 4 teams Winsor Basingstoke Bognor and yes we were in the mix Worthing. Every point was needed and as we reached the closing events nerves were very visible around the pool. Green Army chants became an answer to try and keep the focus and drive towards the end.

All events over and we waited for the final scores to be announced ,nerves hit a new high as we found that we picked up a DQ close to the end. Had we done enough to get a third ahead of Bognor? Then the announcement we had been waiting for Worthing not only 3rd ahead of Bognor but second, fantastic swimming from all.

Huge thank you to all who made this evening happen from the swimmers and coaches. The evening finished with a party at McDonalds in Arundel taking over the restaurant. For the new comers please understand I do not buy McDonalds after every Gala this was a

one off but was a small reward for a performance that gave us a fantastic evening.

Nic Piper
Head Coach
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