

**SWIMMING:** Boldmere Orcas Swimming Club continue to make a splash in 2009 with more national success

# Young Orcas smash records at national club competition

by Michael Beardmore  
SPORTS REPORTER

BOLDMERE Swimming Club consolidated their spot as one of the top 10 clubs in the country with some great displays at the

National Swimming League finals in Sheffield last weekend. The Orcas qualified for the event at Ponds Forge by virtue of winning the West Midlands Division title, earning their right to face nine other top clubs from all over the country. Even before reaching poolside, many Orcas

were lucky enough to meet and rub shoulders with Olympic gold medallist Rebecca Adlington.

The young team put on a terrific performance, securing 161 points with five top three finishes in a final in which they were seeded to finish tenth.

With powerful clubs Plymouth Leander, Stockport Metro and City of Liverpool occupying the centre lanes, out in lane 10 the Boldmere youngsters stuck to their task.

They recorded 14 personal best times and broke a massive 16 'Long Course' (50m pool) club records.

Jake Dixon was second in the 11-year boys' 50m butterfly, slashing four seconds off his personal best in a time of 32.65secs.

That not only set a new club record but also currently ranks him first in the country for the National Age Group (Junior) Championships in July.

Holly Lynch was second in the ladies' open 100m backstroke behind national champion Zoe Hester and in doing so finished ahead of Beijing Olympian Kerri-Anne Payne.

Penny Whittingham finished third in the 11-year girls' 50m backstroke and fourth in the 50m freestyle in a new club record time of 30.15secs, which also ranks her first in the country in her National Qualifying Age Group.

Joshua Winnicott came third in the 13-year boys' 100m breaststroke, slicing five seconds off his best time to set a new club record of 1.15.59mins, which also books him a place at the National Championships.

Alice Dearing was also third in the 11-year girls' 50m butterfly and she also set a new club record with a time of 33.42secs. Other club records were set by

Givenchy Sneekes (fifth, 11-year girls' 50m breaststroke), Kristie Hackett (fifth in both 13-year girls' 100m butterfly and 100m free style), Charlie Hackett (11-year boys' 50m breaststroke) and Elliott Walker in his 50m relay first leg back split.

Hannah O'Brien, Matt Hyde, Emma Smith, Katrina Holmes, Jordan Youngman and Joey Stanger all recorded best times in their individual events, while James Youngman put in a sterling performance to take the open men's 200m club record.

The 11 years and under squads were the most successful relay quartets, with Gina Luckett teaming up with Whittingham, Dearing and Sneekes to secure the most points.

They were closely followed by the boys' team of Charles Payne, Charlie Hackett, Luke Davies, Elliott Walker and Jake Dixon.

The 15-year girls (Verity Pratt, Alix Swinhoe, Jenny Fowler, Katrina Holmes and Kristie Hackett) clocked up club records in both freestyle and medley re-



Jake Dixon came second in the 11-year 50m butterfly.

lay events. And the open boys' squad of Louis Yates, Matt Bateman, Martyn Wyres, Chris Littler, Adam Kelly, Joey Stanger, James Youngman and Phil He-

witt collected the medley club record and brought proceedings to a close with another record in the 6 x 1 length Freestyle Grand Finale.



Holly Lynch on her way to taking second place in the 100m backstroke.

## Serving up the aces

SUTTON Coldfield Tennis Club has enjoyed great success recently with three players winning tournaments, writes Rob Smyth.

Max Stewart and Elle Griffiths won both the under-10s and under-12s events at Coventry's Esporta Club.

The event, which was a Lawn Tennis Association grade four event, saw players travelling from as far as the Isle of Man to take part.

Both finals were all-Sutton affairs with Ben Mitchell losing to Stewart and Jess Crawley being defeated by Griffiths.

Winning the titles was an excellent achievement for Stewart and Griffiths as the pair are among just a handful of players in the country to gain an LTA passport that allows them to compete at the higher age level.

Fellow Sutton player Sunny Ubhi also had a successful tournament at the Nottingham LTA grade three event.

After getting a bye in the first round, Ubhi beat Chris Wood 6-0, 6-4 in straight sets and then downed Luke Smith 4-6, 6-3, 6-0 to make it into the quarter-finals.

A hard-fought three set game saw Ubhi beat Owen Richards 2-6, 6-0, 6-3 before easing past Cameron Malik 7-5, 6-2 to book a place in the final which saw Ubhi emerge victorious, beating Alasdair Owers-Bradley in straight sets 6-0, 6-1.

Matthew Hingley also had a good week, making the semi-finals of the Cheltenham LTA grade three event, beating two seeded players along the way.

Meanwhile, the club hosted its first social tournament of the season recently - Julie Mintoft won the female event with Miyuki Karski the runner-up and Pete Dowse was the male champion, beating Mike Bloomer in the final.

Sutton Coldfield had further success in winning the Warwickshire Winter mixed doubles league played at Billesley Indoor Tennis Centre against Streetly Lawn Tennis Club.

After two rounds of matches both clubs were tied on sets and matches won. A count back was needed and Sutton just scraped the win.

The team consisted of Mike Bloomer, Cheryl Harvey, Neil Goldsby and Kate Fourcade.



Sunny Ubhi with his trophy. (SI)



Boldmere Orcas Swimming Club at the National Finals in Sheffield. The team warming up poolside.

## Father and son team up for weekend Britcar action

SUTTON Coldfield racer Andrew Jordan picked up a podium finish at Thruxton in the latest round of the British Touring Car Championship last weekend.

Having started fourth on the grid in the first race, Jordan finished third behind Vauxhall teammates Matt Neal and race winner Fabrizio Giovanardi.

However, he had to settle for 18th place in the second race after a slight brush with Stephen Jelley's BMW and then finished 16th in the final race of the day at the Hampshire circuit.

Jordan currently lies 10th in the overall standings with 16 points - teammate Neal leads the way with 68 at the top.

The next round of races in the series takes place at Donington Park on May 17 but Jordan will be in action before then, this Bank Holiday weekend.

He will team up with father Mike to share a JordanSport Ginetta G50 at Rockingham in the Britcar GT event.

Having been teammates in the 2008 BTCC, Mike and Andrew were keen to share a car in two-driver events and have now concluded a deal to race in the Britcar GT races that do not clash with Andrew's BTCC programme.

Mike said: "Last year when we were teammates in the BTCC, there was a lot of pressure and stress involved in competing and running the team at that level.

"I can't say how excited I am to have my son racing alongside me.

"Obviously, this programme has to fit around Andrew's BTCC commitments. I also think it's good for Andrew to get some sports car experience, as you never know what may come up in the future."

Mike is already busy in the Britcar arena where he shares the Ford Mustang GT4 of Stuart Scott in Britcar Production races.

He added: "This new project fits perfectly with running the Mustang and both cars will be prepared by JordanSport.

"But we've still got a lot of work to do on the Mustang after it was caught up in the start line accident at Silverstone. All being well, we'll have both cars at Rockingham."

However, though they will be teammates, there will still be some fierce competition between the two Jordans.

Mike said: "We might have some slower pit stops, because we'll need to add 20kg of ballast

to the car when Andrew gets in to equal things up.

"I can't have him being quicker than me."

After Rockingham, the pro-

gramme includes the evening race at Spa on 27 June, the Castle Combe race on August 8/9 and the Brands Hatch race in November.



Andrew Jordan on the podium at Thruxton. PICTURE BY KEITH HUBBLEDAY