

SWIMMING: Pre-gala parade salutes the 2008 trophy winners in each age group and successful teams

Swimmers make a splash to celebrate their success



Ben Smith competed in his first gala for Boldmere.



Stephanie Deathridge

BOLDMERE Swimming Club held its club championships at Stechford last Saturday and used the occasion to celebrate their successes over the last 12 months.

The club also commemorated the contributions of club stalwarts Florrie Birch and Kath Beauchamp, who sadly passed away at the end of 2008.

The pre-gala parade saluted the 2008 trophy winners in each age group and the unprecedented successes of both junior and senior league teams.

Boldmere were the only club in the country to have teams at both Junior and Senior National League Finals in 2008-9.

And they have donated a new trophy for the winners of the Division One (West Midlands) of the National Arena Swimming League as a legacy to Florrie, who gave more than 30 years of service to the club.

In four hours of friendly, but intense competition, in front of more than 200 spectators and supported by the efforts of 70 officials and volunteers, 150 of the club's swimmers produced 384 personal best times and broke 24 club records in more than 600 individual swims.

For many seven and eight-year-olds, who maybe only swim once or twice a week, it was their first experience of competing in a gala which also enabled them to be in the pool with more experienced swimmers in the club.

Notable newcomers to re-writing the club record books were Ben Smith (seven year 25m freestyle, back, breast and fly), Stephanie Deathridge (seven year 25m breast and fly), Matthew Price (nine year 100m medley and 25m breast) and Kate Davies (nine year 100m medley, 25m fly and back), while Beth Grant, Jake Dixon, Penny Whittingham, Charlie Hackett, Kristie



Martyn Wyres and Jo Luckett receive The Florrie Birch Trophy from Florrie's son Stephen.
Pictures by Steve Harlow



Josh



Justine Ryan



Matt Price

Hackett (2), Josh Winnicott (2), Emma Smith, Bradley Lynch, Alix Swinhoe and Adam Kelly all made major inroads into their existing records.

The climax of the meet was the final heat of the boys' 100m freestyle, with Adam Kelly, James Youngman, Chris Littler, Phil Hewitt, and Martyn Wyres all going under the 60-second threshold by some margin and Joey Stanger leading the field home in a remarkable time of 54.34secs – the best time ever recorded by a Boldmere swimmer.

The club is extremely grateful for the ongoing support of Chris Lynch, Multiprint, and Gomm Insurance – the major sponsors of the event for the last six years.

Boldmere award roll of honour was: **Boldmere Swimming Club 2009 Trophy Winners**

Seven years; Boys: The Fred Brown Cup for Learners (1946): Ben Smith; **Girls:** The Fred Brown Cup for Learners (1957): Stephany Deathridge.

Eight years; Boys: The KE Hunt Trophy (1975): Taleb Givens; **Girls:** Chloe Murphy.

Nine years; Boys: The A M Hudson Trophy (1968): Matthew Price; **Girls:** Kate Davies.

Ten years; Boys: The New Oscott School Cup (1974): Joel Cunningham; **Girls:** Laura Richardson.

11 years; Boys: The Olive Wood Trophy (1982): Jake Dixon; **Girls:** Margaret Gately/Bethany Grant.

12 years; Boys: The LeTellier Trophy

(1980): Charles Payne; **Girls:** The F Copson Trophy (1973): Penny Whittingham.

13 years; Boys: The Cllr J Appleby Cup (1905): Bradley Lynch; **Girls:** The Baldwin Webb Cup (1930): Emma Smith.

14 years; Boys: The Wyndley Cup (2001): Luke Robinson; **Girls:** The Wyndley Cup (1996): Kristie Hackett.

15 years; Boys: The Turner Perpetual Challenge Cup (1901): Phil Hewitt; **Girls:** The Russel Cup (1972): Jenny Fowler.

16 years; Boys: The George and Frederick Ansell Trophy (1900): Adam Kelly; **Girls:** The George F Pearson Rose Bowl (1912): Verity Pratt.

Men's Open (17 years plus): The Kababish Trophy (2004): Chris Littler; **Ladies:** Joanna Luckett.



Kate Davies competes for Boldmere.
All pictures taken by Steve Harlow

Men warm-up for the season with victory over Evesham

Hockey

Evesham	2
Streetly Men First XI	3

STREETLY'S men finished off their pre season with a fine second-half performance to win 3-2 against West Mids Premier side Evesham on Saturday.

They trailed 2-0 at the break but the second half was a different story as Streetly dominated from the restart.

The evergreen Ian Newton hit a fine double before Craig Moore claimed the third in an encouraging win.

Streetly Men Second XI	4
Berkswell and Balsall Common	1

A STRONG Streetly side hosted Berkswell in this friendly fixture.

Having dominated the opening exchanges, Streetly took the initiative through James Waters.

Waters then doubled the lead thanks to some good play from Ben Venables.

Fourteen-year-old Bryce Strathdee coolly slotted home a third before Berkswell pulled one back.

However, the game was sewn up when Dave Hopkins slotted home.

Streetly Men Fourth XI	4
Ashby	4

STREETLY were involved in an eight-goal thriller against Ashby.

Goals from Shephard, Strathdee (2) and Peers sealed the draw.

Streetly Ladies First XI	6
Stone Ladies	0

STREETLY Ladies hit their rivals for six in their first Staffordshire League game.

Angie Griffin opened the scoring in the first half but it was after the break that Streetly really took control.

Two quick goals from Rosie Streater and Amy Perrow made it 3-0 before Jayne Smewin made it 4-0.

With the girls on a high more goals came, another from Perrow and a well worked short corner resulting in a goal for Stableford.

Jess Aston produced an outstanding performance in goal, saving a penalty flick.

Staffordshire League Division Five

Streetly Ladies Second XI	5
Bloxwich Ladies Fourth XI	0

STREETLY produced a five-star display to beat Bloxwich.

The first goal came from Smewin. Further goals came from Dartnell, Peers and Stableford.

Sutton Coldfield Men First XI	4
Coventry City And University	3

SUTTON produced a fine team performance as they emerged as victors of a seven-goal thriller.

The experienced Coventry forward line took their chances well by punishing the slightest errors.

However, a never-say-die attitude brought the Royals back from the dead on three occasions with goals coming from Poole, Lavery and Vyse.

Sutton then won the game with a late winner after a well-worked move.

Sutton Coldfield Men Fourth XI	8
Barton	0

SUTTON continued their perfect start to the season with another dominant performance.

Goals game from Matt Taylor (3), Dave Morrison (3), David Bradley and Nick Davis sealed the win.

Sutton Coldfield Men Fifth XI	2
Edgbaston	1

SUTTON came from a goal down to secure victory thanks to goals from Ian Harding and Tim Beeton.

Sutton Coldfield Men Sixth XI	7
Barton	1

SUTTON were in seventh heaven after this emphatic win.

They led 2-0 at the break thanks to a Gannon double.

A rousing team talk at half-time spurred Sutton on further with two goals from Guest and a hat-trick from Medlicott.

Lichfield Badgers XI	4
Sutton Coldfield Badgers XI	2

SUTTON were edged out of this game despite goals from Tom Eustace and Jordan Marsh.

Title hopes end in crash

Motorssport

A SUTTON Coldfield race ace saw his hopes of lifting the British Championship dashed in the dirt at Brands Hatch.

Craig Wilkins and his co-driver Aaron Scott, of Wolverhampton, crashed out in the final race of the Avon Tyres British GT Championship season, with their Dodge Viper beached in a gravel trap at the Paddock Hill bend.

Wilkins and Scott finished their British GT Championship season equal fifth in the overall standings.

Despite their disappointing finish to the campaign, Wilkins remained philosophical.

He said: "It was always an outside chance rather than a realistic one, so it's just the way it goes."

He refused to be drawn on where and for who he'll compete in 2010, adding: "I don't know what I'll do."