

Banbridge ASC V Larne ASC PTL

Banbridge ASC PTL season continued on Saturday 24th November at home in Banbridge Leisure Centre where the local club were joined by Larne Swimming Club. Still high on the success of their first PTL gala a few weeks the local club were keen to swim well again, but were well aware that Larne have a very strong side, so the competition was going to be tough with some very close races ahead. The swimming as always got underway with the team Medley relays, eight races in total across the four age groups, with Banbridge winning five out of the eight races, group A and B boys and girls winning along with group C boys.

In the individual races the group A girls managed to take 1st and 2nd places in all their events – Tara Kennedy's winning ways continued with her taking 5 first places in 50m backstroke, breaststroke, fly, freestyle and 100IM. Georgina Walker was close behind in all the swims and she pickup 2nd place in all these five races also. Nancy McCusker came 3rd in backstroke and 4th in 100IM, Aoife McGrady came 3rd in freestyle and Samantha Burns-Atkin came 4th in both breaststroke and fly – super swimming from these youngest girls in the team. There is also a strong group of boys in group A, with Nathan Boyle taking 1st place in 50m backstroke, freestyle, and 100IM and 2nd in fly. Shea Mather's came 1st in fly and 2nd in backstroke, freestyle and 100IM. Reuben McDowell came 2nd in breaststroke and 4th in 100IM, Oscar Niblock came 3rd in back, Matthew McKernan came 4th in freestyle, Ethan Gray took 5th place in breaststroke and Harry McKee came 5th in fly.

Group B girls had some great races also with Katie Macfarlane swimming winning four out of five of the individual races – 50M backstroke, breaststroke, fly and 100IM. Olivia Miskelly took 1st place in freestyle. Darcy Walker came 2nd in breaststroke and 100IM and 3rd in backstroke, fly and freestyle. Mia Mulholland picked up two 4th places in fly and 100IM, while Edie McCusker came 4th in backstroke, Laura Hanna came 4th in freestyle and Lauren Burns-Atkin came 5th in breaststroke. Group B boys was one of the closer groups but the boys performed well taking 1st place in four of the individual events, first up was Alan Karchento who came 1st in breaststroke, 3rd in backstroke, 4th in 100IM and 5th fly. Dylan Stewart came 1st in 100IM, 2nd in backstroke and breaststroke and 4th in freestyle. Ben Wilson finished in 1st place in fly, 2nd in IM and 5th in backstroke. Matthew Rice came 1st in freestyle and 3rd in both breaststroke and fly and finally Elliott Bingham came 2nd in freestyle – good solid performances here again by all of Group B.

Group C girls continued the winning with Ellie Bingham taking 1st place in backstroke, breaststroke, freestyle and 100IM and 3rd in fly. Alana Burns-Atkin came 1st in fly, 3rd in IM and 4th in both back crawl and freestyle. Kristie McCall came 3rd in breaststroke and 5th in freestyle, Sarah Macauley finished 5th in back crawl, and Sinead McCartan swam well in breaststroke as did Ciara Daly in fly and IM. Some tough races for the group B boys, Liam Og Mather's came 1st in fly and 3rd in both back and 100IM, Jack Lennon took 1st place in freestyle and 2nd in backstroke. Lewis Gray came 2nd in breaststroke, 3rd in fly and 4th in 100IM; Aran McLaughlin took 3rd in freestyle and 4th in backstroke. Bailey Breen swam

breaststroke and fly were he finished in 6th place, Katlo Matihodi came 5th in breaststroke, Pearse Rice came 5th in freestyle and Carter Bell came 5th in 100IM

The group D swimmers had some extremely stiff competition swimming from the Larne Club, the local girls swimming included Julia Knox who came 1st in breaststroke, fly and freestyle and 2nd in both back and 100IM. Rachel Blemmings swam all five individual events were she came 5th overall. Aidin Quinn came 6th in breaststroke, fly and freestyle and Becky Pinkerton came 6th in back crawl. Niall McGeown took 2nd place in breaststroke and fly, 3rd in 100IM and 5th in freestyle; Finlay Wright came 3rd in backstroke, breaststroke, fly and freestyle. Adam Wilson swam the 100IM were he came 2nd. While Ben O'Reilly swam breaststroke, fly and IM and Lawson Morrow swam backstroke.

This finished the individual events and the evening was finished with the freestyle relays and like before the Banbridge team won five out of eight of the relays winning were the Group A girls and boys, the group B girls and boys and the group C boys. This completed the evenings swimming, well done Banbridge and Larne, some really great swimming from both teams. Final score on the evening and a second win for the Banbridge team;

Banbridge ASC 610 v Larne 534

Thanks to Larne for travelling to Banbridge to complete, thank you to the coaches, all the volunteers to poolside, the catering team for preparing supper for after the gala. Congratulations to all the swimmers, and thanks to all their supporters as usual who were in fine cheerleading form. Next PTL gala is in the new year on Saturday 25th January it will be Banbridge's first away gala of the season to Ballymena. Training continues as normal.

If you would like to become a member of this successful club, time trials are held a number of times a year, next two dates are 26th January and 29th February. If you or your child is interested email the club secretary on basc.clubsec@gmail.com.