

Swimmers loose out to Leander

With one Home win this season in PTL Division 2, followed by two away defeats, Forest Feast sponsored Banbridge ASC welcomed Leander Swimming Club to Banbridge Leisure Centre, on Saturday evening, for one of the mostly hotly contested galas of the season to date.

The Medley team relays got the gala off to a dream start, much to the delight of Banbridge spectators, with a win for Olivia Knox, Jodi Doyle, Elli Robinson and Bethany Wilson-Parry for the Group A girls. Ross Johnston, Patrick McNiff, Caolán Quinn and Alex Donnelly kept the momentum going with a win for Group A Boys. Jenny Wilson, Esmée Hall, Emer Doyle and Megan McKenna were never in question with a convincing win for Group B girls. Lewis Houston, Robert Lyttle, Neil Kilpatrick and Declan Loy followed suit with another great win for the home team. Here started the gala of two half's as just as quickly Groups C and D, boys and girls, all had to settle for second place with the scores equal going into the individual events.

The 50M Backcrawl got off to a great start with a win for Jodi Doyle followed by Olivia Knox in third for Group A girls with Patrick McNiff taking 1st place and Ross Johnston 2nd for the boys. Group B welcomed Jenny Wilson back from injury in fighting form with a great win, and new club 50M Backcrawl record, followed by Megan McKenna in 2nd. Robert Lyttle and Keelan McCambridge also secured first and second place for Group B boys. In Group C Heather Wilson and Cameron McDonald both swam well securing 3rd place points as did Jordan Davies with third place for Group D boys.

50M Breaststroke saw Jodi Doyle and Elli Robinson in 1st and 2nd place for Group A girls and Patrick McNiff 1st and David Houston 3rd for the boys. Esmée Hall was out in front in Group B followed by Georgia Davies in 3rd and Robert Lyttle and Scott Donnelly had a great swim to secure 1st and 2nd for Group B boys with Scott Donnelly demonstrating outstanding personal improvement on the night. In Group C Kayleigh Hamill was 3rd and Kate Farson 4th and Daniel Battersby had a fast time and secured 3rd place for the boys. In Group D the Loy sisters, Fionnuala and Olivia were 3rd and 4th as were Jordan Davies and James Mateer for the boys.

In 50M Butterfly in a highly contended race Jodi Doyle and Elli Robinson were pipped at the post and had to settle for 2nd and 3rd place but Caolan Quinn and Patrick McNiff secured the top spots for the boys. Megan McKenna was back in winning form followed closely by Poppy Robinson for Group B girls and Lewis Houston took 1st place with Robert Lyttle in 2nd place for the boys. In Group C Kate Farson was 4th for the girls and despite a valiant swim Conor Morgan had to settle for 3rd place for the boys. In Group D Fionnuala Loy was third and Jordan Davies finished the Butterfly event in 4th for the boys.

The gala proceeded quickly, to 50M Frontcrawl, despite a slight technical hitch with the starting blocks, with Jodi Doyle and Elli Robinson back in uncharted territory and again having to settle for 2nd and 3rd place. Caolan Quinn and Patrick McNiff maintained a

winning streak for Group A boys with 1st and 2nd place. In Group B Megan McKenna broke her owl club record with an outstanding swim followed by Esmée Hall in 3rd place and Robert Lyttle was 1st and Lewis Houston 2nd for Group B boys. In Group C Heather Wilson was fourth, as was Cameron McDonald for the boys. Heather Dunbar secured 4th for the Group D girls and Jordan Davies and Patrick Morgan were 3rd and 4th for Group D boys.

100M Individual Medley saw a tired Jodi Doyle, Elli Robinson and Olivia Knox in 1st, 2nd and 4th for Group A and the boys still racking up the points with 1st for Caolan Quinn, 2nd for Patrick McNiff and Michael Rafferty in 3rd. In group B Megan McKenna was 1st with Esmée Hall in 2nd and Jane Kilpatrick in 4th for the girls. The group B boys finished the individual events in style with Robert Lyttle in 1st, Lewis Houston 2nd and Neil Kilpatrick in 3rd. In Group C Kate Farson was 4th for the girls and Cameron McDonald 3rd for the boys. Group D brought the individual events to conclusion with Fionnuala Loy in 4th place for the girls and Jordan Davies 3rd and James Mateer fourth for the boys.

In the closing Freestyle relays Group A girls were just beaten to the finish despite phenomenal support from the home crowd. Group B girls and Groups A & B boys all secured a win in the closing relays but the strength of the visiting team was too much for groups C & D who all had to settle for 2nd place despite the Group D boys team of Matthew McDonald, James Mateer, Patrick Morgan and Jordan Davies setting a new club record for their Freestyle relay swim

In unconventional style the visiting club spokesman Frank Stevens announced the results and the gala of two half's finished with a win for Leander with 586 points to 558 to Banbridge. Club Chairman Trevor Wylie thanked all the swimmers for a great competition and success for the rest of the season to the visiting team. For further information on Banbridge Swimming Club visit our website on www.banbridgeasc.co.uk.