

Banbridge swimmers out in strength for their second PTL gala of the season with Dungannon.

Saturday 26th of November saw the second swimming gala of the season with the Banbridge PTL (Provincial Towns League) squad ready for action. With a strong squad gearing up for action, the swimmers were eager and hopes were high. Banbridge and Dungannon came face to face last year but Dungannon won by 6 points. It would be interesting to see what this gala had in store for all of us this time.

Group A girls took to the water with a superb beginning to the gala with a first place performance. The girls were Lauren Armstrong, Charlotte Walker, Sophie Mount and Caitlin Kearney. Group B boys followed in a similar style with fabulous swims from Harry Dougan, William Pinkerton, Harry Farson and Daniel Kilpatrick. They also took first place.

Group B girls, swam an excellent race with a strong time in first place. The four swimmers were Olivia Knox, Jodi Doyle, Abbie McCullagh and Elli Robinson. Group B boys, Alex Donnelly, Patrick McNiff, Joel Milligan and Caolan Quinn, didn't hold back, bringing in another superb first place for the home team.

Group C girls, Jenny Wilson, Allyce Nixon, Megan McKenna and Emer Doyle, followed the next medley relay with a fabulous win once again. Group C boys also brought in an excellent 1st place for their medley relay. The strong team this time, consisted of Kealan McCambridge, Declan Loy, Scott Donnelly and Nicholas Reid

Group D girls came in 2nd, as did the Group D boys. At this stage of the competition, Banbridge were well ahead with 6 relay wins out of 8. The competitive individual events were to follow.

Group A girls backstroke began with 1st and 3rd places going to Caitlin Kearney and Lauren Armstrong. Excellent swimming came from both girls.

Group A boys, Rory McNiff and Harry Farson swam strongly in 1st and 3rd places.

Abbie McCullagh swam a wonderful 1st place performance and a 2nd place from Olivia Knox completed the fine performances from the Group B girls. Group B boys produced consistently powerful swims with 1st and 2nd from Joel Milligan and Patrick Mc Niff.

Group C girls Jenny Wilson and Megan McKenna took wonderful 1st and 2nd positions. Group C boys Kealan McCambridge and Scott Donnelly secured 1st and 2nd place.

Group D girls Olivia Loy and Kate Farson, took third and fourth places. Group D boys finished off the backstroke with a 2nd from Patrick Morgan and a 3rd from Daniel Chambers. At this stage of the competition, Banbridge looked extremely strong. Everyone could feel the excitement and anticipation for the final result.

Breaststroke events were underway with the Group A girls and wonderful performances came from Charlotte Walker, Julia Knox and Caitlin Kearney who took

2nd, 3rd and 5th place. Their team-mates Group A boys saw a 1st, 2nd and 4th place from William Pinkerton, Daniel Kilpatrick and Harry Dougan. Great swimming came from these boys.

Group B girls won a superb 1st, 2nd and 4th places from Jodi Doyle, Olivia Knox and Ellie Purdy. Patrick McNiff, Michael Rafferty and Eunan Quinn secured second, third and fourth places for a super trio of Group B boys.

Group C girls brought in excellent positions with a superbly fast time from Allyce Nixon followed by Lauren Robinson. Likewise Group C boys brought in a super 1st position from Scott Donnelly, and a furious 2nd from Declan Loy

Group D girls saw Olivia Loy coming in 3rd with Kate Farson bringing in 4th position. Group D boys collected 2nd and 4th place from Daniel Chambers and Cameron McDonald.

The butterfly events began with Group A girl, Sophie Mount, swimming at an incredible pace to take 1st place, followed by her team-mates, Julia Knox, taking 4th place and Caitlin Kearney 5th place. Harry Farson was in tremendous form with a superb time in 1st place for the Group A boys followed by his team mates Harry Dougan and William Pinkerton who came in 2nd and 6th position. The swimmers Abbie McCullagh, Olivia Knox and Elli Robinson (Group B girls) achieved a fine 1st, 2nd and 4th place in this event. Group B boys Joel Milligan, Caolan Quinn and Alex Donnelly swam excellent 1st, 2nd and 4th positions.

Group C girls Jenny Wilson, Megan McKenna and Poppy Robinson achieved excellent 1st, 2nd and 4th places with the Group C boys, Scott Donnelly, Declan Loy and Nicholas Reid bringing in 1st, 2nd and 5th.

To finish off this event, Olivia Loy and Kate Farson came in 3rd and 4th place for their team. Group D boy Patrick Morgan swam an excellent time taking 1st position and his team mates Daniel Chambers and Cameron McDonald brought in 4th and 5th places.

The frontcrawl events began, with the Group A girls Lauren Armstrong, Caitlin Kearney and Eimear Mc Mullan achieving 2nd, 3rd and 6th places respectively. Group A boys also saw excellent performances from Harry Farson, William Pinkerton and Daniel Kilpatrick achieving 1st, 2nd and 5th.

Group B girls, again with excellent performances from Jodi Doyle, Abbie McCullagh and Ellie Purdy taking 1st, 2nd and 3th places. Group B boys Caolan Quinn, Patrick McNiff and Joel Milligan produced fabulous results with 1st, 2nd and 3rd positions. Well done Group B!

Group C girls Jenny Wilson, Megan McKenna and Lauren Robinson swam strongly to come home 1st, 2nd and 3rd. Group C boys Kealan Mc Cambridge, Scott Donnelly and Declan Loy brought in yet another 3 fastest times.

Group D girls, Olivia Loy and Kate Farson produced good results with a 3rd and a 4th place. To finish the freestyle, Group D boys Cameron McDonald, Patrick Morgan and Daniel Chambers brought home 2nd, 3rd and 4th place.

At this stage of the night, the swimmers were well ahead but needed to keep focus for the individual medley. Group A girls Julia Knox, Sophie Mount and Caitlin Kearney took 1st, 3rd and 5th best times in the I.M. Group A boys Harry Farson and William Pinkerton secured fabulous 1st and 2nd places.

Group B girls Jodi Doyle and Abbie Mc Cullagh swam excellent 1st and 2nd places. Group B boys, Joel Milligan, Patrick McNiff and Michael Rafferty came in with superb 1st, 2nd and 3rd fastest times.

Group C girls swam superbly with Jenny Wilson, Emer Doyle and Megan Mc Kenna taking 1st, 2nd and 3rd places. Group C boys were represented by Scott Donnelly, Declan Loy and Nicholas Reid and these swimmers brought in 1st, 2nd and 4th places.

Group D girls, Olivia Loy and Kate Farson achieved 3rd and 4th places in I.M. Group D boys added even more points with 2nd and 3rd places from Cameron McDonald and Daniel Chambers.

The freestyle relays were underway with much excitement, anticipation and at this stage exhaustion. The group A girls (Sophie Mount, Julia Knox, Caitlin Kearney and Lauren Armstrong) and Group A boys (Daniel Kilpatrick, William Pinkerton, Harry Dougan and Harry Farson) both had a comfortable win.

Group B girls (Ellie Robinson, Olivia Knox, Abbie Mc Cullagh and Jodi Doyle) had a fantastic swim claiming 1st place as did their team mates Group B boys (Alex Donnelly, Caolan Quinn, Joel Milligan and Michael Rafferty) with another great swim claiming them 1st place.

Group C girls (Poppy Robinson, Allyce Nixon, Megan McKenna and Jenny Wilson) swam a fine freestyle relay coming 1st and the Group C boys could finely match the pace of their female team mates to win also. These boys included Nicholas Reid, Declan Loy, Kealan Mc Cambridge and Scott Donnelly.

Group D girls had to settle for 2nd place but the boys (Group D Conor Morgan, Cameron McDonald, Patrick Morgan and Daniel Chambers) won their freestyle relay as the competition was called to a close. Banbridge won 7 out of 8 of the freestyle relays!

At this stage of the competition it was an easy guess as to who had won, and to our great delight the final score was:

Banbridge 630
Dungannon 505

It was an excellent gala with a wonderful competitive spirit on both sides. Special mention goes to Jenny Wilson who won every event in which she competed! The next P.T.L gala will take place in Larne on the 28th January.

For further information on Banbridge Amateur Swimming Club, visit our website on www.banbridgeasc.co.uk