

PTL DEFEAT FOR SWIMMERS

Forest Feast sponsored Banbridge ASC faced neighbours and rivals Lurgan ASC in the second Division 2 PTL (Provincial Towns League) gala of the season away to Lurgan. With a home win already secured against Ballymena swimmers knew that Division 2 veterans, Lurgan ASC would be hard to beat, especially as illness and injury were affecting Banbridge swimmers across a number of Age Groups.

The gala kicked off promptly with a win for the Banbridge Group A girls in the 4 x 25M Medley Team relay. Group B took maximum points in the 4 x 50M MTR with the Girls and Boys both securing a win but the home side proved to be stronger in the opening stages and by the end of the Medley Team Relay events and with no further wins in Groups C and D Lurgan had secured a lead of 10 points.

The Individual Events commenced with 50M Backcrawl and Jodi Doyle and Elli Robinson in 1st and 3rd place for Group A girls with Ross Johnston in 2nd for the boys. In Group B Megan McKenna took 1st place with a fantastic time of 36.82 seconds and a new club record with Poppy Robinson in 3rd place. Robert Lyttle kept the momentum going for Group B with a win and Lewis Houston in 3rd for Group B boys. In Group C Kate Farson was third for the girls while Cameron McDonald and Daniel Battersby were 2nd and third. Catherine Downey and Jordan Davies completed the Backcrawl event, each taking third place in their respective heats in Group D.

50M Breaststroke event got off to a great start with Jodi Doyle and Elli Robinson taking 1st and 2nd place for Group A girls and David Houston in 3rd for the boys. Esmée Hall and Jane Kilpatrick swam well to secure 1st and 3rd place in Group B with Robert Lyttle, Scott Donnelly and Declan Loy taking the first, second and third places for the boys. In Group C Kayleigh Hamill and Daniel Battersby both secured 3rd place with sisters Olivia and Fionnuala Loy securing 2nd and 3rd in Group D with Jordan Davies in 3rd place for the boys.

50M Butterfly again got off to the ideal start with Jodi Doyle and Elli Robinson holding on to the top spots in first and second place with Caolan Quinn in 2nd for the boys. In Group B Megan McKenna was back in winning form with Poppy Robinson in 2nd place and Lewis Houston was first with Robert Lyttle 3rd for Group B Boys. In Group C Kate Farson was 3rd but there was no holding Conor Morgan back with a fantastic win for the boys and Fionnuala and Olivia Loy completed the event with 1st and 3rd for the girls with Patrick Morgan securing 2nd place points for the boys.

The 50M Freestyle event gave Jodi Doyle another first place in Group A with Elli Robinson in 3rd and Caolan Quinn in second place for the boys. Megan McKenna was back in record breaking form with a win in 32.92 seconds, a time equal to the club record which has been held since 2003, with Esmée Hall in second place. Robert Lyttle was back in the top spot with a win followed by Lewis Houston in 3rd. In Group C Kate Farson and Heather Wilson were 3rd and 4th as were Graham Stevenson and Conor

Morgan. Olivia Loy finished the Freestyle event in 2nd place in Group D as did Jordan Davies with Patrick Morgan in 4th.

The Individual Events completed with 100M Individual Medley and a full quota of wins for Jodi Doyle followed by Elli Robinson in 3rd and 2nd place for Caolan Quinn. Esmée Hall finished a good night for Group B girls with a win followed closely by Megan McKenna and Robert Lyttle was first for Group B Boys with Neil Kilpatrick in 4th. In Group C Heather Wilson and Kayleigh Hamill secured 3rd and 4th places as did Cameron McDonald and Conor Morgan. Group D finished the Individual Events with Fionnuala Loy and Jordan Davies both in 3rd place.

The closing Freestyle relays were equally matched with both Lurgan and Banbridge securing 4 wins each but this was not enough to close the narrow gap between the two sides and Lurgan were victorious with 593 points to 551 for Banbridge. Despite defeat the margin was small and the Banbridge squad left Lurgan in good spirits and optimistic that they can continue to build on previous success and improvement to secure their position in Division 2 for another season. Swimmers will look forward to the next PTL gala of the season away to Swilly Seals in Letterkenny 12th December 2009. For further information in Banbridge Swimming Club visit our website on www.banbridgeasc.co.uk