

Dazzling Dunmow set Braintree alight!

Saturday 6th June 2015 was the last round of the Essex league division 2 at Braintree sports centre. The past 3 rounds had been hotly contested between Basildon & Phoenix and DASC. With DASC getting the better of Phoenix in the first two rounds however Phoenix took the win in round 3 to set up a title decider at Braintree. Therefore it was a winner takes all on the night at Braintree.

DASC were fired up for the challenge, however it was first blood to Basildon when they took the opening race with DASC chasing behind in 2nd. The tables turned in race 2 when Jack Richardson came storming down the last 25m to go past the Braintree and Basildon swimmer to claim first place for the 11&U boys free relay. The spectacular swim from the 11&U boys kicked started DASC night as then Abbie Hart, Jamie McLaughlin & Chloe Moloney all took wins in their respective events which meant the 3 had dominated from round 1 being undefeated in races 3, 4 & 5 across all 4 galas. After a 2nd place in race 6, Grace Mellor & Louis Spong took wins the 100 Breast. Then another 2nd place before a win from Richardson again in the 50 free this time. The open girls swam a good race but were piped by Basildon at the end. Then after winning early individuals L Spong & J McLaughlin returned in the open boys medley joined by George Simmons & Matthew McLaughlin which saw them storm home to win by a comfortable margin and secure an undefeated status over the galas.

DASC always seem to have a blip in the middle of the gala however each and every swimmer on the night stepped and performed. In race 13th the 13&U girls ran away with the race leading from start to finish to win by a good 15m. However in race 14 with DASC finishing 3rd and Basildon winning they began to claw back points but Meghan Maybanks & Josh Smith took victories the 100 free to extend DASC lead. Then DASC went 4 races without a win coming in 2nd & 3rd places with Basildon winning all 4. Basildon had closed the gap but Mellor had other ideas as she won again in the 50 breast. After a 2nd place in race 22, Mellor joined with C Moloney, M Maybanks & Rebecca Watt to storm home to win the 15&U Medley Relay. At half way, DASC maintained a slender lead.

Moving into the second half of the gala, DASC were unlucky in a few races and were struggling to find wins as Basildon were building a winning streak. After 5 races, Watt changed DASC fortunes storming home by a comfortable margin to take maximum points. DASC went on a streak of coming 1st and 2nd with wins for Maybanks, L Spong, & Richardson. After race 36, it was extremely close going into the last 12 races however DASC normally have a strong finish and it was no different on the night.

The combination of C Moloney, Rebecca Moloney, Katie Musgrove & M Maybanks kicked started the last 12 by taking maximum points from race 37. A 3rd and then a 2nd was followed by J McLaughlin returning to the pool to take victory once again this time in the open 100 free. At this point, DASC were feeling confident and the dream of division 1 felt so close but Basildon had other ideas going on to beat DASC in the next 6 races leaving it on a knife edge going into the last 3 relay races. Starting with race 47, the open girls free relay which consisted of Abbie Hart, Mellor, Rosie Musgrove & Maybanks who broke the 2 minute barrier to take victory and seize control of the gala for DASC. Then it was over to the men's open free relay team of L Spong, M McLaughlin, Simmons & J McLaughlin this race was contested from the start with Basildon leading through the first 100 however DASC second 100 of the relay was too strong for Basildon as J McLaughlin eased home to take victory. With no one knowing how close it was, it was time for the last race the squadron relay.

Ansell & Richardson who had dominated there age group on the evening had DASC in 2nd place at the 50m then handed over to Watt who took DASC onto level terms however Basildon hit back and still had a slender lead at the half way mark but Maybanks & L Spong had moved DASC into the lead with just 50 to go, it was now over to Hart who held the slender lead and it was all down to J McLaughlin to hold off any late challenges from Basildon. McLaughlin held on to take the victory and see DASC complete a 5 point victory over Basildon.

A great evening of swimming, every single swimmer deserves praise for their effort. Now the squad look forward to the challenges of division 1 next season.