

Barnsley Minor League At Dearne Valley.

It was Scunthorpe Anchors first trip to the Dearne Valley pool & it proved to be a very exciting and eventful day for the Scunthorpe Anchor Swimmers.

Scunthorpe Anchor are at the top of this league with a 42 point lead from the first round at Gainsborough earlier in the year. But this was not a sign for the Anchor swimmers to take it easy because they knew that Cleethorpes & District (CADS) & Dearne Valley were going to do all they could to narrow the lead Scunthorpe had taken.

As usual it was the youngest swimmers to start the afternoon events and Lauren York started with the 10/u 25m Breast Stroke. This was a very exciting race with Scunthorpe, Cads, & Dearne all evenly matched, and Lauren taking a New Club Record to set anchor off on a high note. Jan van den Berg Slowey also took a New Club Record in the Boys 25mtr Breast Stroke with a Pb and first place. It seemed that Scunthorpe Anchor had fielded yet another strong squad with some new relay combinations to come later in the proceedings. Louisa Smith kept the pressure on in the girls 12/u breast stroke to come in first with an excellent swim. William Dale took a resounding lead from all the other swimmers to finish in first place in the 50m Breast Stroke and yet another New Club Record!

All the individual Butterfly races were swam well with the Anchor swimmers taking Pbs in all individual races, Samantha Martin-Neal swimming her first 50 fly in competition and improving her entered time with a Pb, & Oliver Conlon improving his time yet again.

Anchor kept the pressure on with improved times and places in the frontcrawl individuals with close battles from Daniel Strong & Rhiannon Haber.

Encouragement from Steve Moore & Steve Dale telling the swimmers to remain focused & enjoy their swims was a good combination as this kept the pressure on the other teams with CADS & Dearne both playing catch up.

The structure of the pool was very different to Riddings Pool where the squad train, with the ceiling trusses being in an hexagonal shape and this caused some of the back crawlers to be disorientated not only for Anchor swimmers but also swimmers from the other squads. No Pbs were achieved for the backcrawl but good positions were obtained by all the swimmers.

Scunthorpe were still in first place and we wanted to keep it that way with extra effort & determination from the rest of the races Scunthorpe were back in good form and winning races.

The relays began to put the pressure on with the younger squad setting the pace. The girls 10/u relay swam together as a relay team for the first time with 2 of Scunthorpe Anchors youngest swimmers Becci Foster & Jessica Martin doing their share to keep the pressure on. But the boys 12/u 4x1 relay certainly had a fantastic race with Ryan Holmes taking the lead from the first hand over to William Dale, Scott Strong & Josh Barker all pulled further & further into the lead to finish a good 5 mtrs in front of the 2nd place CADS. It was just the boost Anchor needed. Scunthorpe Anchors relay squads certainly put the pressure on with CADS & Dearne doing their best to take the points. It was also the girls 12/u 4x1 Medley relay who took charge from start to finish with an excellent start from Rebecca Redmile on the backcrawl to give a good lead to Louisa Smith whos magnificent breast stroke leg put the team further ahead to hand over to Becci Moore who literally flew in the butterfly to increase the lead further handing over to Rhiannon Haber who took advantage of the lead & increased it even further to take this impressive relay squad to first place. But the boys 14/u felt that they could do a better job than the u/12 relay squads and swam one of the most exciting races of the day in this 4x1 freestyle, the lead changing at every change over between Dearne, Anchor & CADS. Oliver Conlon, John Bell, Sam Green & David Ridgely all put in a brilliant swim and effort was 110% but first place eluded them by a fingers touch.

With no running tally of points through the afternoon it was hard for the supporting crowd to know who was in the lead but Anchor Supporters were in good voice, and all the squad supporting each other kept the team spirits high.

Pbs were achieved by Alicia Snow, Becci Moore, Daniel Strong, Jasmin Kirk, David Ridgely, Amy Houldsworth & Hayley Redmile. in their individuals with many of the races being close right to the finish.

But as usual the excitement continued right until the last race with the winners to be decided on the result of the cannon. The last eight to swim in the cannon started with the youngest girl Alicia Snow putting Anchor in the lead at the first hand over to Jan van den-Berg Slowey, Rhiannon Haber, & Daniel Strong carried on improving Anchors lead leaving it to the older swimmers to finish it off, Hayley Redmile Sam Green & Sophie Moore all kept the momentum up and the pressure on for Scunthorpe, handing the last leg to Steve Dale and the winning points in a great Cannon finish. Scunthorpe sealed the match on winning form just as we had started it. This keeps us at the top of the league with a 52 POINT lead.

Steve Dale & Steve Moore thanked all the swimmers for their fantastic efforts and brilliant swims keeping Scunthorpe on Course for the next League meet at CADS home pool in June.

