

Scunthorpe Anchor took a strong squad just a short way down the motorway to Thorne for the 3rd round of the Barnsley Minor League. With a convincing win in the first round and a controversial second round the squad were in the right frame of mind to make their mark. Stuart Williams (Team Coach) came along to see the squad in action and to keep their motivation high. We knew that Edlington was going to be right behind us aiming for the top spot before the final round in September. Bryony Bower gave Anchor their first win in the first event the girls 10yr breast stroke and took a pb along side it with a strong convincing win, she set the squad on a roll with a flurry of pbs in the first seven individuals. Declan Hunt made sure of an outright win in the boys 12/u breaststroke with a clear win of about 5mtr from the second placed swimmer. The breaststroke seemed to bring most of the pbs with a massive pb of 3.94 seconds for Chloe King in the girls 12/u event. But it seemed to be a day of sibling rivalry albeit friendly, with Megan & Laura Fletcher each taking Pbs on the 50 mtr butterfly 1.00 & 2.19 seconds respectively, 10 year old Holly Williams was the only swimmer to swim two individual events and take maximum points in each the girls 10/u 50mtr fly & 10/u 50mtr backcrawl with outstanding swims in each event. She was also a member of the girls 10/u girls relay squad with Yasmin Callaghan, Bryony Bower and Sophie Hame, which also took first place in both the medley and the 4x1 Freestyle relay. Older sister Jessica Williams also swam a good individual in the 14/u 50mtr backcrawl to improve her own pb by 1.52 seconds, this was reflected in the boys event by Scott Strong who took second place and improved his time by 0.19 but brother Daniel was the last pb of the day in the highly competitive open 50mtr frontcrawl, with some = of the other clubs fielding swimmers much older than Daniel but he still trimmed 1.43 off his time to 30.45 seconds. Further pbs came from Michael Trueman, Rhys Skinner, Shannon Johnson and James Clayton. A run of first placing came from one of the senior members of the squad Allan Snowden to the youngest Sven Schygiol and Sophie Hame, Allan just taking first place from the Rossington swimmer in the open 50mtr fly, but it was the youngest swimmers who brought our next maximum points in the 10/u 50mtr front crawl, Sophie Hame and Sven Schygiol taking first places in their 10yr 50mtr fly with clear convincing wins from each swimmer. Axel Schygiol also took maximum points in his 12/u 50 mtr fly. As always the Anchor Relay squads were in full form with outstanding swims from all age groups and squads, with the 14/u boys excelling in both the medley and the front crawl, Scott Strong led a dynamic medley relay squad opening with the backcrawl leg maintaining the lead from the outset, to hand over to Paul Georgiou whose long streamlining strokes were = advantageous to the squad edging them further in the lead from the Edlington squad, Rhys Skinners much improved fly made sure that clear water was increased between Anchor & the 2nd placed team to hand over the final leg to Declan Hunt whose strong leg kick in the front crawl affirmed their first place win, this was repeated in the 4 x 2 frontcrawl relay with Axel Schygiol taking the last leg. It seemed the boys relay squads were all focused on the first place slot with the 10/u Brandon Hunt, James Clayton Michael Trueman and Sven Schygiol equaling the first places of the 14/u boys.

With no running points announced it was unclear to where the teams were positioned, but Anchor knew it was about equal with the Edlington squad, and with Thorne Tigers being at their home pool they were certainly putting on some great swims. It was the final push of encouragement from Stuart Williams that helped motivate the swimmers and with six first placing in the last eight relays certainly put Anchor in a strong position for the top slot. The Cannon 8 x 1 mixed age group relay was the double pointer that we needed to win to guarantee a clear win but Edlington too needed those vital points, with the youngest of the squad taking the responsibility of starting the relays Yasmin Callaghan swam an excellent first leg with a slight edge on her = opponents handing over to Sven Schygiol, then in turn Molly Newton, Jamie Kemp, Megan Fletcher, Paul Georgiou, Rhiannon Haber and finally the Anchor man and oldest swimmer in the relay team Allan Snowden, who swam a brilliant last leg, and little between him and the Edlington Swimmer. But it was Anchor who had to be content with the second placing, but spirits were not dampened as when the points were announced Anchor came out clear winners overall with a 5 point lead over Edlington. With the final round not until September at Rossington Anchor and Edlington are joint top with equal point 390 and Thorne Tigers in third with 358, So the last round is crucial for the Anchor swimmers and with Club Sprints coming up in July it seems there is plenty of time for the squad to iron out any faults with starts and turn and improve on their individual times. With club coach Dave Leeman rolling out a starts, turns and relay take over programme on Monday nights training session the squad will be prepared and ready to push for that promotion to the third division.

Stuart Williams was very encouraged by the efforts and commitment shown by all the swimmers and is certainly looking forward to what can only be an exciting and highly motivated last round in September.