

## B team snatch promotion spot

**BOURNEMOUTH** Dolphins B team picked up where their A team club-mates left off to defy the odds at Weston-super-Mare.

The team arrived at Hutton Moor lying equal fifth in Division Three after third and second places in the first two rounds.

But after cheering on the A team in the closing stages of the Premier Division final, they stormed into third place in their own showdown and earned enough points to snatch the third promotion place from the jaws of Christchurch and New Milton Seagulls.

In a gala dominated by a Swim Swansea squad sprinkled with Welsh internationals, Dolphins managed only one race win through James Solly in the 15/u 100m butterfly (1:10.01).

But their strength in depth produced second, third and fourth places aplenty.

Coach Graham Bassi said: "I felt that a good performance would give us a chance of finishing fourth in the league.

"But our improvement from the first round has been outstanding. I was surprised by the result but on reflection I shouldn't be.

"It was good that our swimmers arrived in time to taste the atmosphere of the Premier final.

"After seeing such a great performance by our A team, they maintained the momentum throughout the evening."

Seagulls' head coach Barry Aldrick was disappointed that his team were unable to follow up their first and second round wins with a promotion place.

"It is frustrating especially as we swam very well," he said.

"We were missing eight first choice swimmers but we still had a large number of PBs and improved on our times in the second round in 39 of the 50 events.

"I couldn't ask more of my swimmers than that."

**Result:** 1 Swim Swansea 337, 2 Celtic Sharks 276, 3 Bournemouth Dolphins B 237, 4 Bodmin 218, 5 Seagulls 209, 6 Carn Brae 193, 7 Bishopsworth & Portway 172, 8 Barry 158.