

Harborough's "Where's Nemo?" diddy gala often provides an exciting finale and this Year was no exception, with the ever improving Leicester Neptune swimming club holding their nerve to take a well earned victory. Neptune, winner's of their previous two gala's, had to call upon all their experience to hold off a late charge from the home club to hang to their lead by just 4 points.

The Harborough team managed to notch up 10 individual and 7 relay wins with 31 personal best performances from a total of 61 swims. It was the seasoned veterans of the diddy team that led the way on victories. A recent call up by Leicestershire ASA to represent the County must have spurred on both Charlie Poole and Jay Newman, with Poole taking victory in the 12/u back and fly events and Newman winning the 11/u breaststroke. Josh Wellicome swam a massive pb of 33.00s in the 12/u free to take victory, an act that was also matched by Alex Nicholson in the 11/u free. The backstroke also proved to be a successful event for the boys swimmers with Ben Bekavac and Frankie Aldridge taking the honours in the 11/u and 10/u events respectively. With so many individual wins in the boys 11/u and 12/u age groups it was not really surprising that the relay teams took a clean sweep of all four races available with the very able assistance of Tom Merryweather and Thomas Dyson. The Boys 10/u freestyle team of Frankie Aldridge, John Green, Josh Maclean and Ben Wellicome also showed a clean pair of heels to the opposition.

The girls 10/u team of Anna Kendall, Lexi Moakes, Mia Poole and Rebecca Samandi won both of their relays in fantastic style. Samandi was in great form on the evening claiming a further two individual wins in the back and breaststroke. Georgia Weller was the final individual winner taking victory in the 11/u breaststroke.

Diddy gala's are contested by swimmers in the age ranges of 8 to 12 years of age. This first diddy gala of the Year is therefore a chance for swimmers to debut for the team and this time out Harborough had 8 swimmers making their team debuts, congratulations to the team debutants who were Jack Burton, Michael Colyer, Elliott Coxon, Rebecca Heron, Amy Hudson, Elisa Lowe, Faith Naylor and Jamie Rushby.

Gala Results:- Leicester Neptune 221, Market Harborough 217, Leicester Sharks 200 Nene Valley 144 & Daventry Dolphins 137

Market Harborough swimmer Candice Hall, swimming for the City of Leicester, starred at the ASA Central Zone long course meet held at Corby. Hall broke the county junior 200m backstroke record on her way to taking silver. She also managed to claim two bronze medals. Her times of 2:18.38 for the 200m back and 5:00.25 for the 400m individual medley achieved the qualification standard for the British Gas International Swimming Meet to be held at Leeds over the 7th to 10th March. At just 15 years of age Hall is the first ever Market Harborough swimmer to achieve an International qualification standard.