

The third round of the National Arena swimming league saw Harborough 'A' claim second place in the Division 3 East final earning the team a well deserved promotion to Division two. The final brought together the top five teams in the league, with teams travelling from as far afield as Aylesbury and Wantage to compete in the gala which was held at the Harborough leisure centre. The quality of swimming throughout the final from all teams was excellent, so it took a true team performance from the whole Harborough squad to gain promotion.

Rebecca Samandi secured the 11/u girls only victory in the 50m breast. However, the 11/u quartet of Samandi, Ebony Goddard, Lexi Moakes and Mia Poole put in solid performances across all their races earning valuable points for the team. The 13/u girls were magnificent with two wins from Harriet Bates in the 100m breast and fly, Jessica Otter taking victory in the back and Emily Kendall narrowly missing out on achieving a clean sweep of individual wins finishing second in the free. The quartet was completed by Georgia Weller for both relays where they proved to be far too strong for the opposition winning both races with ease. Harriet Bates made it a breaststroke double by also winning the 15/u event. Older sister Sarah Bates, recently returned from competing in the International children's games in Australia, shook off her jet lag to put in some solid performances and was rewarded with a win in the freestyle relay along with Lauren Bekavac, Jessica Otter and Harriet. In the open ladies Olivia Weller celebrated with another win the breaststroke and ladies open medley relay.

The 11/u boys quartet of Frankie Aldridge, Nathan Allen, George Lowe and Ben Wellicome won a thrilling medley relay with Wellicome gaining two places on the last leg to snatch victory. Ben Bekavac and Jay Newman were successful in the 13/u back and breast respectively and with the help of Charlie Poole and Josh Wellicome also took the free relay. Poole himself was unlucky not come away with a win with three hard fought second place finishes. In the older age groups the competition was tough, so it was all about team work and gaining points, which was exemplified in abundance by the performances of Alec Gibbs, Henry Ingram, Theo Brogan, Kev James, Mark Kendall and Harry Waddington.

Gala Results:-

Arena League; Sutton-in-Ashfield 205, Harborough 'A' 186, Aylesbury 139, Falcon 126 & Wantage 83