

Team Managers Review of 2012/13 Swimming Season

The 2012/13 swimming season can be looked back upon with a huge amount of satisfaction. We successfully fielded teams in 27 gala's, winning a total of 6. One of the key highlights of the Year was unexpectedly making the division 2 final of the Nuneaton and Bedworth Diddy League.

During the year, I have tried to select teams that are not only competitive, but also for the B team inclusive, based upon swimmers current performances and attitude to training, supported by facts and data. One thing I have learnt from this role is you cannot please everyone. I do hope that I have demonstrated, honesty, integrity and developed a systematic methodology for selecting teams.

Team Gala's

The autumn season started with the tough friendly Diddy fixture at Nuneaton where we finished 6th. Despite finishing last in the gala, all but seven of the individual swims ended with PB performances. Due to the strength of teams that compete in this gala, recent discussion have concluded that we should drop this fixture in future years.

The LASA relay gala's saw mixed fortunes for our teams. The Ladies performed magnificently to finish 4th. The Men finished 7th and as a result were relegated to division 2.

Our final warm up gala before the autumn leagues saw us finish 4th in the Braunstone sports trophy gala.

In the National Arena league the A team had some very solid performances finishing 2nd, 3rd and 3rd for an overall 8th place finish out of 24 teams. The three rounds of the Leicester league saw us consistently putting out a strong B team, which was reflected in the results, where we finished 3rd, 3rd and 4th for a 12th place finish out of 22 competing teams.

Harborough's first success of the season came at the enjoyable Corby Halloween gala, with the A team easily taking victory from Corby.

The LASA Young teams relay gala proved to be tough for the young Harborough swimmers where we finished 7th.

The ever popular Where's Nemo? gala in January saw the diddy team narrowly miss out by just 4 points to Neptune.

The Leicestershire Winter league lived up to its name with the final round of gala's being cancelled due to snow. The A team, promoted from division 2 in the previous year, justified their place in division 1 finishing in 4th place in both gala's for an overall 11 place finish out of 18 teams. 4th appeared to be the place of choice, with the B team also finishing 4th in both rounds for a 12th place finish from 18 teams.

April witnessed the start of a great sequence of gala performances across the A, B and Diddy teams.

The A team secured victory in the Flipper and What's Jaws galas, with the B team winning a very enjoyable Mayor's trophy gala hosted by Oadby & Wigston. The diddy team competed superbly in the Nuneaton and Bedworth Diddy league finishing 1st, 4th and 1st to qualify for the final in 5th place.

The Coalville Birley trophy gala saw yet another close finish in a gala that we had won in successive years. This time round we were on the end of a very narrow 2 point loss to the hosts.

Age Groups & County Championships

The 2013 county age groups were once again very successful for the Harborough swimmers, who won Gold (4), Silver (8), Bronze (5) and took 25 top 6 place finishes.

Leading the way once again was Candice Hall who was crowned county champion in the 200m back, 200m and 400m IM. Club captain Harry Waddington managed a third place finish in the senior 100m Freestyle. Other medallists included Ben Bekavac, Kieran Flint and Jay Newman.

Harborough swimmers achieved a total of 5 BAGCAT top 10 finishes:-

Mia Poole (9yr) 9th, Ben Wellicome (9yr) 6th, Ben Bekavac (10yr) 9th, Jay Newman (11yr) 9th and Olivia Weller (14yr) 8th.

Regional & National Championships

Candice Hall, Charlie Poole, Harry Waddington and Olivia Weller all qualified for the 2013 Midlands Championships with Candice Hall progressing to compete in the National Championships in 7 events.

County Honours

Candice Hall, Jay Newman, Charlie Poole and Harry Waddington represented Leicestershire during 2013 and Kirsty Haynes represented Northamptonshire.

Club Records

2013 witnessed the breaking of an unprecedented 126 club records.

70 short course records were broken by a total of 19 different swimmers. 56 long course records were also broken by 11 different swimmers

In summary, it gives me a huge amount of joy and pride to recollect the individual and team performances achieved during the past Year.

Congratulations have to go to the talented group of dedicated swimmers that we have at the club. Also to Ian, Val, Mark, Liz and the poolside helpers for putting in those endless hours to make it all possible and also to the many volunteers who have helped through time trials, galas club nights etc and finally to the parents for so ably supporting the swimmers.