

Team Managers Review of 2013/14 Swimming Season

The 2013/14 saw the club build upon the success of previous seasons. We fielded 30 teams to swim in gala's, winning a total of 4.

Team Gala's

The autumn season started with the tough friendly Diddy fixture at Nuneaton where we finished 7th. Once again the gala clashed with the LASA relays gala which significantly stretched our resources. Due to the strength of teams that compete in this gala and the fixture clash we concluded that we should drop this fixture in future years.

The LASA relay gala's once again saw mixed fortunes for our teams. The Ladies performed magnificently finishing 7th but were relegated to division 2. The Men dominated their gala finishing 1st by 11 points over Coalville to win promotion back to division 1.

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

In the National Arena league, for the second season in a row, the A team had some very solid performances finishing 3rd, 2nd and 1st for an overall 7th place finish out of the 24 teams. The Leicester league saw the B team struggling in the first two rounds against strong opposition leaving us in 5th place in both gala's. In the final round we were rewarded with a 2nd place finish to Corby for a 16th place finish out of 22 competing teams.

In the LASA Young teams relay gala we found life more to our liking in division 2 with a 2nd place finish to Melton and a successful promotion back to division 1.

January is always our first opportunity to swim some of our new younger swimmers in the Where's Nemo? gala. This year saw us field two strong teams and we were rewarded with overall victory.

The Leicestershire Winter league witnessed some great performances from both teams. For the second season in a row the A team fully justified their inclusion in the top division finishing in 4th, 3rd and 2nd for an overall 10th place finish out of 18 teams. The B team love finishing in 4th, a position they occupied for the first two gala's making it 4 in a row in this league. The run was broken in the final round with an excellent 2nd place finish.

In February, a Novice diddy team travelled to Braunstone and produced a fabulous result finishing 3rd out of the 8 teams.

The diddy team's challenge on the Nuneaton and Bedworth Diddy league started impressively with yet another victory to make it 3 in four gala's. The team were unable to repeat last year's heroics finishing 2nd and 3rd in the final two rounds leaving us 7th overall in the league and missing out on the final by just 11 gala points.

The late spring early summer gala's saw a change of fortunes for Harborough. For the past few years we have dominated this friendly series of gala's against the likes of Coalville, Daventry and Neptune. Our peer's have now upped their game leaving us in 3rd and 6th in the Where's Flipper? Gala, 2nd and 5th in What's Jaws? And last in the Birley gala.

The B team once again competed in a very enjoyable Mayor's trophy gala hosted by Oadby & Wigston.

Some food for thought from the seasons gala's, like most clubs we are struggling for 14/15 yr old swimmers and we have an abundance of younger swimmers 9-11 who never have the opportunity to compete.

Age Groups & County Championships

The 2014 county age groups were one of our most successful in living memory with seven Harborough swimmers amassing 15 Gold's, 10 Silver and 5 Bronze medals with an additional 29 top 6 place finishes.

Candice Hall was crowned overall county champion in the 100m back, 100m free and the 200m and 400m IM. Other medallists included Ben Bekavac, Jay Newman, Nathan Allen, Emily Kendall, Olivia Weller and Oliver Tremlett

Harborough swimmers achieved a total of 4 BAGCAT top 10 finishes:-

Nathan Allen (9yr) 6th, Rebecca Samandi (10yr) 8th, Ben Bekavac (11yr) 1st, Jay Newman (12yr) 3rd.

Regional & National Championships

Ben Bekavac, Candice Hall, Kirsty Haynes, Jay Newman, Charlie Poole, Ewan Ronald, Harry Waddington and Olivia Weller all qualified for the 2014 Midlands Championships with Candice and Jay progressing to compete in the National Championships. Candice claimed her first individual medal at the Nationals with a bronze in the 200IM, she also qualified for three individual finals. Jay had a superb first Nationals reaching the final of the 200m breast where he finished 6th.

County Honours

Candice Hall, Jay Newman and Charlie Poole represented Leicestershire during 2013/2014 and Ewan Ronald represented Northamptonshire.

Club Records

2013 saw an unprecedented 126 club records broken, which I thought would not be topped in a long time. I have to ask what have the coaches been doing with our swimmers in 2014? By my calculations 119 new short course records and 118 long course records have been broken since the last AGM.....!!!! That's 237 new records from 20 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.

Thank you to Liz for managing the Diddy team with such energy for the past few years during which we achieved many successes. Thank you and good luck to Zoe who now takes over the Diddy team reigns.

Congratulations have to go to a very talented group of swimmers that we have at the club. Also to Ian, Val, Liz, Dave, Steve, Mark 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.

The next year is not going to be easy, I am sure we are going to see many changes. Yes, change can be unsettling, it can also be exciting and very rewarding, our job is to now pull together and drive the club forwards for the benefit of our swimmers.