

## National Arena's Third Place Thriller

What a superb turnaround to the first round of National Arena League, a hard draw against City of Derby, City of Hereford, Long Eaton, Abingdon and Worcester proved a challenging night with very few top place finishes resulting in Leamington lying in joint fourth place, after the first 10 races.

With many swimmers racing out of age group and several having multiple races in an extremely short space of time, showed great character and team work. The 13 year old boys had a storming night, gaining the only first place finishes in both the freestyle and medley relays with Harry Manship, Finn Linton, Kieran Curran, and Philip Warren. Harry went on to secure maximum points in the 100m breaststroke and butterfly events.

The penultimate points call showed a clear winner with the City of Derby some 45 points ahead of their nearest rivals. The rest of the pack were fighting a separate battle with only 10 points dividing the other five clubs, but Leamington had slipped into sixth place.

The gloomy décor of poolside and the dingy balcony didn't damper either coaches expectations or spectator spirits, and the team continued with great determination, gaining points with each race. The final points showed a fantastic turnaround, Leamington had clawed their way to an outstanding and well deserved third place by only 2 points. Well done team!

Round 2 is Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> November, venue to be confirmed.

Final points:

<b>1<sup>st</sup> - City of Derby</b>	<b>252</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> - City of Hereford</b>	<b>165</b>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> - Leamington</b>	<b>154</b>
<b>4<sup>th</sup> - Long Eaton</b>	<b>152</b>
<b>5<sup>th</sup> - Worcester</b>	<b>151</b>
<b>6<sup>th</sup> - Abingdon</b>	<b>148</b>