

Nail Biting Wait at Junior League

The third round of Junior League was held at Newbold against Boldmere, Stourbridge, Chase, Pershore and Kingsbury a crucial round for Leamington which could see the squad line up in the final in September. Leamington needed to finish in second place just to give them a chance, the rest would be determined by clubs in other galas to seal our fate.

Leamington got off to a slow start only managing to salvage minor points from the opening 10 races and looked unlikely to meet their part of the challenge. It took the 9 year olds relay medley teams of Harrison Astill, George Hughes, Sebastian Dibb and Samuel Manship in the boys team and for the girls Molly MacKenzie, Natasha Selley, Sarah Timms and Annabelle Cox to steady the nerves and create maximum points. This seemed to kick start Leamington's pace, resulting in more second and third finishes. Surprising their supporters at the point's announcement by managing to climb in to second place.

Helping to restore confidence with two great butterfly races from the 12 year olds saw Mollie Dibb take first place in a new pb and an impressive 33.00 from Aran Shuttlewood achieved second. The youngest age group once again stepped up to the mark gaining maximum points in their freestyle relays with 1.17.75 for the girls and a phenomenal 1.10.83 from the boys left the opposition a massive five seconds behind. Harrison's speed accelerated in the 25m free exploding off the blocks touching first, recording 15.57. Strong relays continued and a cracking last leg from 11 year old Mollie Quelch in the freestyle relay catapulted the team into second.

Captains Aran Shuttlewood and Teigan Parker always produce their best for the team and their safe hands protected vital points, another huge pb for Aran in the breaststroke for silver whilst a dependable performance from Teigan earned first place with 37.53 together with a storming first place victory in the 50m free setting a new time in 29.68.

Leamington finished the night in second place and the coaches desperately needed to know the results of other galas. The morning brought great news that Halesowen had finished in a lower position than anticipated so all eyes are on the final official results, fingers crossed!

It would be a great farewell to the twelve year olds Teigan Parker, Aran Shuttlewood, Derry Linton, Megan Stanton, Mollie Dibb, Edward Jolly, Ben Court and Emil Midstaeter if they could retire from Junior League on a high.