

Second Club Gala 2013

The second club gala of 2013 had to be delayed slightly due to the success of the Juniors achieving a fantastic place in the final of the Junior League, but the date clash was a dilemma the committee and coaches were pleased to overcome.

An incredible 73 new personal bests were set on the night from the young and the old, with the youngest age groups swimming one length backstroke and either 25metres in freestyle or Butterfly.

The club gala is a great introduction to competitive swimming and the eight year olds displayed the determination needed to excel in competitions with the tightest of margins separating competitors in both events. Emily Newton just touched in first place in the backstroke but following hot on her heels in second was Mia Eatwell and third place going to Scarlett Mackenzie. In the freestyle Mia just had the edge taking gold and Emily in second, Katie Blick secured bronze.

In the boys races Jason Herbert charged his way to gold in both back and Free with James Selley gaining second place in the back. Joseph Deavall turned his bronze from the back to silver in the free with Nathan Valente taking third place.

Harrison Astill gained the double for the nine year old boys but chomping at his heels in the free for second place was Samuel Manship and George Hughes for bronze. George finished second in the fly which saw seven boys start the race but only two finish as overzealous judges disqualified the rest of the pack.

An astonishing seventeen, nine year old girls competed against each other in a very tight backstroke race with all four top spots finishing in 20 seconds. Sofia Bloor secured first place just ahead of Annabelle Cox with both Maddison Nuttall and Sarah Timms recording the same time taking joint third place. A further close fly race saw Tasha Selley out touch Maddison for first place with Sofia Bloor adding bronze to her previous gold.

The older ages swim the slightly longer 50m and compared to the nine year old girls the 10 year boys was very sparse. Sebastian Dibb was battling against Tobi Court, gaining gold in his debut 50m back with Tobi second and in the fly gold again went to Sebastian.

Just two tenths separated the top spot of 43.73 from Daisy O'Brien and Amalia Midtsaeter's time of 43.94 for the backstroke, whilst Katy Bamforth claimed third. All three girls wiped seconds from their personal bests. A fantastic swim from teaching student Sophie Morgan generated a brilliant first place in a time of 49.22 just pipping Amelia Quelch and Amalia into second and third places.

Twelve year old Aran Shuttlewood run away with gold in both back and fly 50m events with Emil Midtsaeter taking third in the backstroke, Connell Parker set new pb's in both events securing silvers stealing the fly from Edward by four hundredths of a second. In the girls events Megan Stanton recorded a sensational time of 35.56 slashing a whopping three seconds from her backstroke time for a great first place. Mollie Dibb gained second and third place went to Derry Linton. In the fly 33.09 easily secured Mollie Dibb first place with Megan in second and a 3 second pb from Jennifer Herbert earning her third place.

The older swimmers had the longer distances to conquer with the 100m breast, 200m IM and the 100m Freestyle. Fourteen year old Harry Manship dominated the 13/14 age group with a clean sweep in all events. A super quick free race saw Harry knocked a chunk off his free time to 58.78 whilst Philip Warren thundered into second place tucking under the minute for the first time in 59.46. The last podium place was secured by thirteen year old Kieran Curran by slicing three seconds

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from his last recorded time. A touch of dejavu followed with the three boys finishing both the breast and IM in the same places.

For the girls thirteen year old Teigan Parker secured first place in the 200IM with a huge 5 second pb setting a new time of 2.36.67. Georgia Kidd,14, dropped 2 seconds off her best for second place and Jade Pickett,13, gained bronze. The breaststroke event saw the same result with all three girls once again recording new pbs but Georgia dug deep in the freestyle and swept to first place with Teigan and Jade in second and third places.

Turning up the heat with a fantastic trio of golds in the 15/16 age group was fifteen year old Josh James with a storming freestyle race, romping home in 58.84 and slashing his pb. Nick Payne secured second taking another in the breaststroke, recording 1.18.40. Jack Dennis went home with two bronze places and upped it in the 200mIM taking silver. A flying start from Ruby O'Brien in the freestyle saw her finish four seconds ahead of the field with a further convincing victory in the individual medley. In the breaststroke Ruby had more of a fight on her hands from Amy Pettigrew, chasing her all the Ruby needed to produce a three second pb to fend off Amy into second and third place was taken by Sophie Hutchinson. Amy generated another silver in the IM and bronze in the free. Jessica Nash was rewarded with second place in the freestyle and the IM bronze was taken by Hannah Pickett.

Giving a wonderful demonstration of how to swim breaststroke was County Champion Ellen Stone,17, successfully scooping gold in all three events whilst Alex de Tuillo returning from University to participate in club gala finished top in all three races. In the over 40's category Rob Robson secured first in the IM and breaststroke and Leamington's oldest swimming member Trevor Clark finished in second place.

Alan Cooper's swift arrival on poolside was so fast that he put his jammers on inside out! But it didn't hamper his performance as he cruised to success in 100m free with a new pb. Alan's better half, Suzanne Linton, also clocked up new times, demolishing her medley by four seconds for first places.

This year's charity raffle helped raise £139. Thank you for everyone contributing.