

Promising Performance at Practise Gala

A late U-turn from the Junior League organisers reverting to the old swimmers ages, caused Leamington to travel to Nuneaton for the Practise Gala with a mixed team sheet. However the squad rose to the occasion and went home with a fantastic win against strong opponents, Chase, Boldmere, Leicester Sharks, Bilston and the host team.

Kicking the gala off with a great start gaining maximum points in the first two events in the 10 year freestyle was Emma Bowden-Williams and Tom Lee-Brown. Jason Herbert and Imogen Hodge carried on the success in the 50m backstroke with Imogen snatching another first place in the fiercely contested 25m fly recording 18.02. Moving onto the relays Imogen helped the 11year old team of Maddison Nuttall, Natasha Selley and Amalia Midstaeter to victory in both the freestyle and medley races. Not to be outshone by the girls, the boys, Niall Connell, Tom Lee-Brown, George Hughes and Harrison Astill also clocked first places in both relays. A further twelve points came from George and Maddison in the individual 50m breaststroke and an easy win for Amalia saw the rest of the field left some two seconds behind in the 50m backstroke.

Joining the experienced 12 year olds, Amalia swam with Evie Thompson, Daisy O'Brien and Connie Hodge in the freestyle finishing just outside the minute mark in 1.00.78 bagging another six points for the team.

A great outcome with Leamington leading the gala from the very first event to the very last. The canon at the end which always drums up a frenzy of excitement from the balcony was left to Harrison on the last leg to bring the team home but chasing the pack down hard, Harrison was left with just a fingertip too much, although securing a great second place.

Final points

Leamington	211
Nuneaton	201
Bilston	192
Boldmere	184
Leicester S	138
Chase	137