

Leamington's Second in Ginger North "A Great Swim."

Coaches Mike Hartwell and Stuart Parker were delighted with the effort shown by all those swimmers who took part in the exciting Ginger North Gala held at Newbold Comyn Leisure Centre on January 14th.

In the running were Nuneaton and Bedworth, Redditch, Stratford Sharks, City of Coventry and Leamington Spa. Unfortunately Rugby pulled out leaving five lanes open to be challenged for the prestigious cup that Leamington won in 2011. With recent success at the Crystal Gala still fresh in many swimmers' minds there was a mood of expectancy pool side as the lane draw was called and the competition began.

With some of our youngest swimmers, some as young as eight , competing in their first Club gala there was little time to catch breath as the momentum of this busy event meant that for some no sooner had they emerged from one relay leg were they back in the water battling hard in a new race.

The capacity spectator area were most appreciative of all the swimmers' abilities and achievements. Leamington's youngest teams, representing the nine year old category, swam brilliantly. You would never have known that for some, who are still in teaching, this was their first gala. Hats off to our dedicated and skilled teaching coaches who have clearly put in the hours in with these little ones to give them the confidence to take part in a gala such as this.

Many nail biting races kept spectators on their toes. Notable wins came from the eleven year old girls who took first place in the Freestyle and breast stroke relays – well done Derry, Megan, Ellen, Mollie and Georgina. And also to the eleven year old boys who also won their breast stroke relay with a cracking leg from Morgan Bevan – congrats to Morgan, Emil, Aran and Connell. Together the eleven year old girls and boys stole the show in the mixed free 8X1 relay edging up the points for Leamington.

With Redditch right next to Leamington Spa in lane four it was a constant reminder of the pressure being on. The twelve year old girls rose the occasion out swimming their lane four competition in a thrilling breast stroke relay with Mollie Dibb holding the lead in the final leg, brilliant swims there from Teigan, Bella and Jade.

All in all Leamington won five first places, eleven seconds and six thirds. With a well earned total number of points at the end of the evening taking us into second place behind Redditch.

Final points were Redditch 182, Leamington 133, Nuneaton and Bedworth 110, Stratford Sharks 109 and City of Coventry 100.

A special mention to our youngest swimmers of the meet: Fergus Sleight, Nathan Weaver, Josh Mitchell, Sebastian Dibb, Tobi Court, Katy Bamforth and Amalia Midtsaeter.