

Junior League Round 1 (Ding Ding)

The first round of the Junior league was held at Stetchford Cascades with Leamington having tough opposition from Leicester Penguins, Redditch, Staff Apex, Oldbury and Wyre Forest.

The swimmers looked ready for the action ahead, stretching on poolside and looking extremely dapper modelling new JL shirts while the coaches were anticipating a hard night of racing and the spectators looking forward to a night of excitement.

The nine year olds swimming in their first JL gala stepped up to the mark with the girls relay team of Abby Jolley, Abbie Blick, Daisy O'Brien and Evie Nicholas clinching first places in both Medley and Freestyle events. Callum McWhirter took first place in the 25m breaststroke event and then joined his team mates James MacKenzie, Tristan Thickett and Ben Shuttlewood to gain second place in the medley and third in the freestyle relays.

The 10 year boys team consisting of Connell Parker, Harry Spalding, Edward Jolly, Callum McWhirter and James Mackenzie secured second in both relays with Harry also having success in the 50m breast gaining maximum points with a time of 49.33 (obviously taking after his older sister Maddie).

There was a thrilling girls 10y free event with both Leicester Penguins and Leamington finishing together on the touch. The decision was referred to the formidable Judge who couldn't split the pair and declared it as a dead heat, awarding both teams with max points. The girls, Sophie Woodland, Lauren Cox, Charlotte Hughes and Abby Jolley later took third in the Medley.

Derry Linton, Teigan Parker, Megan Stanton and Georgina Mitchell gained 2 third places for the 11 year category with Teigan also taking first place in the 50m free in 31.97. There was 3rd and 4th placing for the 11 year old boys with Aran Shuttlewood, Ben Court, Connell Parker and Edward Jolly.

Felicity Dempster, Lily O'Brien, Sarah Chapman, Jade Pickett and Teigan Parker made up the 12 year girls finishing both relays in third places where as the boys Kieran Curran, Luke Williams, Finn Nicholas and Aran Shuttleworth recorded fourth place for their relays.

As always the excitement mounted for the final race, the canon relay and Saturday night was no exception. Leamington got off to a good start, although trailing slightly, but as the race progressed Leamington levelled on the fourth leg, another 25m and we took the lead but Leicester Penguins were fighting back all the time and on the final length, they just managed to pip us into second place, but what a great effort.

Final points were:

Redditch, 237, Leicester Penguins 230, Leamington Spa, 208, Staff Apex 138, Wyre Forest 128, and finally Oldbury 115.

Next round is Saturday May 12th at Rugby please wear your new Junior League T-shirts (and yes that includes both of you Mike & Graham).