

HALESOWEN SWIMMING CLUB

REPORTS - 2003

West Midlands Speedo League Round 3 – Saturday 13th December 2003

Senior swimmers from Halesowen Swimming Club took part in the third round of the West Midlands Speedo League at Mansfield and ran out comfortable winners by a 35 point margin. The team notched up 19 first and 14 second places on the night and victory never looked in doubt from the word go. However, problems with the electronic timing system and scoring meant that the team left Mansfield without absolute confirmation of the win and this was not confirmed until the entire event had been scrutinised on the following Sunday evening!

Individual wins came from Hannah Cuthbert, Michelle Jenks, Leanne Taylor, Roxanne Taylor, Louise Williams, Philip Harrington and Richard Spoor and the relay teams including Rikki Ashman, Grace Emms, Verity Emms, Josie Evans, Charlotte Northall, Phillipa McAndrew, Karen Moore, Isabella Piggott, Amy Piper, Stuart Brown, Conor Carey, Richard Dunn, Greg George, Graham Harrington, Aiden Kealey, Scott Morris and John Pridden.

Chief Coach Simon Hillson was delighted by the victory and said, "This win seals a terrific year for the team and typifies the strength of our swimming and the team spirit in the Club. We look forward to building on all our successes in 2003 and carrying our good form into the New Year."

Final points were Halesowen 230, Eckington 195, Rykneld 183, Broadway 174, Leicester Neptune 144 and Perry Beeches Tripe S 'C' 120.

West Midlands Speedo League Round 2 – Saturday 8th November 2003

Swimmers from Halesowen Swimming Club took part in the second round of the West Midlands Speedo League at Cheslyn Hay and finished in a battling third place. The competition got off to a terrific start for the team with wins in the Individual Medley for both Leanne Taylor and Richard Dunn to put the Club in top spot. The team's lead was strengthened by a win from Matt Cherry, Richard Dunn, Greg George and Andy Papworth in the Men's' Medley Relay and was bolstered by further wins by Philip Harrington in the Breaststroke and Louise Williams in the Butterfly. By event 23 the team still held a narrow lead before being overhauled by Ludlow. Further wins by Richard Spoor and Charlotte Northall in Breaststroke and Matt Cherry in the Freestyle kept the team's hope of a second place finish alive but, despite John Pridden and Stuart Brown helping the Men's Freestyle relay team to victory in the final event the team were unable prevent Phoenix Youth grabbing the second spot.

Final points were Ludlow 223, Phoenix Youth 203, Halesowen 197, Linslade Crusaders 164, Haden Hill 141 and Northgate 116.

Worcester Open Meet – Saturday and Sunday 26th & 27th October 2003

Swimmers from Halesowen Swimming Club took part in the Worcester Swimming Club Open Meet over the last weekend in October. Seventeen swimmers from the Club took part and amassed 236 points from the two days of competition to finish in a magnificent third spot overall. The swimmers competed in a total of 138 events across all strokes and distances with 62 of these achieving a top 6 place. To cap off a memorable weekend 10-year-old Hannah Cuthbert secured the 'Top Girl' award with an overall individual points score of 60.

Wins were achieved by Hannah Cuthbert in the Butterfly, Backstroke, Freestyle and Individual Medley, Leanne Taylor in the Butterfly, Backstroke and Individual Medley, Simon Crowe in the Butterfly, Breaststroke and Backstroke and Verity Emms and Michael Edmonds in the Backstroke.

Final points scores for the top 5 placed Clubs were Worcester 553, Tewkesbury 282, Halesowen 236, Newcastle South 236 and Wolverhampton 226.

West Midlands Speedo League Round 1 – Saturday 11th October 2003

Senior swimmers from Halesowen Swimming Club were in action in the first round of the West Midlands Speedo League at Rugby on Saturday 11th October. Swimmers continued the recent excellent run of form shown by the Club to finish in second place and missed out on a win by just a single point which was decided on the very last event of the evening. The gala was exciting throughout with the lead changing place between Halesowen and Leighton Buzzard based Linslade Crusaders no fewer than five times. Halesowen Swimming Club has now finished in the top two places in its last seven competitions.

Halesowen swimmers achieved 15 personal best times with individual wins produced from Katie Gilliland in the Freestyle, Philip Harrington in the Backstroke and Breaststroke, Michelle Jenks and Leanne Taylor in the Backstroke, Louise Williams and Richard Dunn in the Butterfly and Scott Morris in the Breaststroke.

Relay wins came from the boys Freestyle team including Conor Carey, Liam Garbett, Aiden Kealey and Richard Spoor. The ladies Freestyle and Medley teams including Phillipa McAndrew, Charlotte Northall and Karen Moore and Amy Piper and the girls Freestyle team including Rikki Ashman, Robyn Downes and Josie Evans

Final points scores were Linslade Crusaders 208, Halesowen 207, Eckington 176, Leighton Buzzard 170, Broadway 153 and Rugby 132

Worcester County Sprint Championships – Sunday 14th September

Swimmers from the Club took part in the County Sprint Championships at Wolverhampton on Sunday 14th September and completed 138 swims between them. Swimmers produced 8 age group 1st places, 13 2nd places and 11 3rd places with a further 46 swims achieving a top 8 finish. 98 swims were also completed in personal best times.

Age Group wins were produced by:

Liam Garbett (Freestyle, Backstroke and IM)

Richard Phillips (Butterfly)

Richard Dunn (IM)

Simon Crowe (IM)

Louise Williams (Butterfly)

Kate Gallop (Butterfly)

Many thanks go especially to the 26 volunteers from the Club who helped to run the gala on behalf of the County either on poolside, as officials or in the unseen 'backrooms'. Your help and support is much appreciated.

Nuneaton Junior league Final – Saturday 13th September

Halesowen Swimming Club's junior team claimed a place in Division One of the Nuneaton Junior League after securing third place in the league final at Wolverhampton. The event was exciting from the outset with Halesowen competing fiercely for second place throughout the competition with Wolverhampton. By event 37 the team were 14 points adrift but managed to draw level by event 46 before slipping into third spot by the final race.

Individual wins were achieved by Maria Goodwin and Hannah Cuthbert in the Butterfly, Michael Edmonds in the Backstroke, Roxanne Taylor in the Breaststroke and Richard Spoor in the Freestyle and Breaststroke. Relay wins came from the team of Corrie Edgar-Brailsford, Grace Emms and Kimberley Mack and the boys team of Stefan Ashman, Andrew Baker, Conor Carey, Ben Hadley, David Hunt, Aiden Kealey, Richard Phillips, Tom Sinden, Daniel Summerfield.

Final point scores were Brierley Hill 231, Wolverhampton 196, Halesowen 190, Enderby 154, Evesham 143 and Wombourne 113.

Burntwood Trophy Gala – Saturday 4th October

Halesowen Swimming Club fielded two teams at the Burntwood Trophy Gala and came away with first and second places. Halesowen's success builds on a run of form that has seen the Club win five galas out of six and is proof of the depth of talent now being assembled at the Club.

Victory on the night was never in doubt for Halesowen 'Yellow' after winning eight of the first 10 events and Halesowen 'Blue' finishing first or second in six of these early races. Both teams raced strongly throughout the evening and notched up 25 first places in total between the two closely matched Halesowen teams.

Individual winners on the night were Hannah Cuthbert, Liam Garbett, Richard Phillips, Kimberley Mack, Josie Evans, Michael Edmonds, Scott Morris, Charlotte Northall, Leanne Taylor and Matt Cherry. The competition also gave an opportunity for a rare outing for Masters swimmers with Adrian Worton and chief coach Simon Hillson producing convincing wins.

Final points scores were Halesowen 'Yellow' 176, Halesowen 'Blue' 146, Wednesbury 127, Burntwood 116 and Chase 115.

Mercian League Round 3 – Saturday 5th July 2003

Worcester County Inter-Club Relays – Sunday 6th July

Senior swimmers from Halesowen Swimming Club made it an incredible four wins out of four by winning the B Final of the Mercian League on Saturday at Bromsgrove. The team were in the lead from the very first event and lead all the way through the gala to add to this year's impressive trophy haul.

Individual wins were achieved by Phillipa McAndrew and John Pridden in the Individual Medley and Backstroke, Rikki Ashman and Richard Spoor in the Breaststroke and Hannah Cuthbert in the Butterfly and Backstroke. Relay wins came from the girls teams of Sadie Bruce, Michelle Jenks, Katie McAndrew, Elizabeth Edmonds, Karen Moore, Josie Evans and Robyn Downes and the boys teams of Richard Phillips, Tom Sinden and Jonathan Hunt.

Final point scores were Halesowen 215, Nuneaton 200, Wyre Forest 178, Northgate 158, Tamworth 152 and Rugby 141.

Halesowen swimmers were in action again on the following day at the Worcester County Inter-Club relay competition at Wolverhampton and enjoyed success at this final event before a well deserved summer break. Second places were achieved by the teams of Maria Goodwin, Rebecca Spoor, Hannah Cuthbert and Kimberley Mack and Richard Spoor, Richard Phillips, Stefan Ashman and Tom Sinden. Third places were achieved by the teams of Josie Evans, Rikki Ashman, Robyn Downes and Roxanne Taylor and Michael Edmonds, Daniel Summerfield, Liam Barnes and Aiden Kealey.

Halesowen swimmers can be seen in action at the 40th anniversary celebrations at Halesowen Leisure Centre on Saturday 12th July.

Halesowen Swimming Club Celebrates its 40th Birthday in Style

Members past and present from Halesowen Swimming Club celebrated the Club's 40th Birthday with a barbecue and disco on midsummer night. Memorabilia from times gone by was on display and a special cake with an edible version of the Club's crest had been baked specially for the occasion. Bouquets in the Club's colours, blue and yellow, were kindly donated by Fitzies florists and were presented to volunteers past and present for their constant support. The Club was formed in May 1963 at the invitation of Halesowen Borough Council ahead of the opening of Halesowen Swimming Baths in July of that year. The Club has been ever present in the Leisure Centre since then and remains the Centre's single biggest customer. The Club has been successful through the years and has produced competitive swimmers right up to Olympic standard. At the celebrations, current Chairman Duncan Edmonds commented, "The Club has a very rich heritage and is as strong today as it has ever been. It is testimony to the swimmers and volunteers within the Club that on the same day we had swimmers in attendance at the national Schools finals in Sheffield, District Championships in Coventry and the Club hosted the local Primary Schools Swimming Festival at Halesowen Leisure Centre in the afternoon and still found time to celebrate the Club's 40th Birthday! The Club is proud of its roots and, while we run a professional competitive swimming programme, we remain a strong family based Club."

The Club has recently been awarded the Amateur Swimming Association's Swim 21 award and was amongst the first three nationally to achieve this demanding standard and runs the only accredited swimming programme in the locality. The Club can be seen in action from 6.15pm on Friday evenings at Halesowen Leisure Centre.

Nuneaton Junior League Round 3 – Saturday 28th June 2003

Halesowen Swimming Club's junior team claimed a place in final of the Nuneaton Junior League in September after a convincing win in the third round at Wombourne. The team got off to a steady start and the points scores after 12 events was very close between the top four teams with Halesowen lying in joint first place. By event 26 the team had edged into a narrow 2 point lead but from then on it was Halesowen all the way with the lead extending to 23 points by the final event.

Individual wins were achieved by Maria Goodwin and Michael Edmonds in the Backstroke and Hannah Cuthbert in the Butterfly. Relay wins came from the girls team of Rebecca Spoor, Roxanne Sweeney, Beth Hart, Roxanne Taylor, Kimberley Mack and Josie Evans and the boys team of Ben Hadley, Andrew Baker, Stefan Ashman, Tom Sinden, Aiden Kealey, Richard Spoor, Simon Harris and Daniel Summerfield.

Final point scores were Halesowen 200, Orion 177, Wombourne 171, Oakengates 170, Knighton Fields 150 and Coalville 145.

Siviter Sports Trophy Gala – Saturday 14th June 2003

Halesowen Swimming Club's junior team continued their recent winning streak with a victory in the Siviter gala at Wombourne last Saturday. Despite fielding an under-strength team, the swimmers grabbed the lead after event 37 and, after winning 8 out of the last 10 events, ran out as comfortable winners.

Individual wins were achieved by Corrie Edgar-Brailsford, Maria Goodwin, Richard Spoor and Sean Taylor in the Breaststroke, Jamie Roome in the Backstroke, Hannah Cuthbert in the Butterfly and Josie Evans, Michael Edmonds and Richard Spoor in the Freestyle. Winning relay team members were: ten-years age group Jessica Kelly and Kimberley Mack, twelve-years age group Robyn Downes, Abigail Henderson, Stephanie Parkes, Simon Harris, David Hunt and Daniel Summerfield, thirteen-years age group Abbie Hadley, Laura Mitchell and in the final event Rebecca Spoor, Roxanne Taylor and Richard Phillips

Final point scores were Halesowen 265, Tamworth 248, Lichfield 230, Stourbridge 204 and Oldbury 149.

Nuneaton Junior League Round 2 – Saturday 10th May 2003

Haden Hill Open Meet – Sunday 11th June 2003

Swimmers from Halesowen Swimming Club competed in the second round of the Nuneaton Junior League and the Haden Hill Open competition on successive days at Wolverhampton. The team produced many impressive performances throughout and finished in second place overall in both competitions.

In the Junior League the team produced nine first places with individual wins coming from Maria Goodwin in the Breaststroke, Michael Edmonds in the Backstroke and Richard Phillips in the Butterfly. Relay wins came from the 10 years and under team of Stefan Ashman, Thomas Dunford, Jonathan Hunt, Richard Phillips and Tom Sinden, the eleven and under team of Conor Carey, Aiden Kealey, Richard Phillips, Richard Spoor and Tom Sinden, the 12 and under team of Conor Carey, Michael Edmonds, David Hunt and Daniel Summerfield with Ben Hadley and Andrew Baker joining their team mates for a victory in the boys relay. The gala was finely balanced all evening with Halesowen slipping to fifth place at the halfway mark before surging into second place by the final event. Final points scores were Brierley Hill 243, Halesowen 183, Wolverhampton 178, Oakengates 172, Tamworth 164 and Solihull 'B' 83.

At the Haden Hill Open meet 17 swimmers from the Club took part in a total of 69 events and produced an amazing tally of 30 top 8 finishes to end the competition in overall second place, narrowly missing out on victory by just one point. First places were achieved by Leanne Taylor in the Backstroke and Louise Williams in the Butterfly. Second places were achieved by Leanne Taylor in the Individual Medley and Freestyle and Louise Williams and John Pridden in the Backstroke. Final points scores were Phoenix Youth 146, Halesowen 145 and Brierley Hill 141.

Chief Coach Simon Hillson was delighted with the performance of the team and commented, "I am really pleased by the achievements of our swimmers over the course of a very tough weekend and delighted that we were able to achieve second places in two competitions of such a high standard".

Mercian League Round 2 – 7th June 2003

Halesowen Swimming Club grabbed a last minute narrow victory over the team from Broadway in the second round of the Mercian League on Saturday 7th June at Rugby. Halesowen were in contention all-night and found themselves in a three-way battle for victory with Broadway and Stratford and were in third place for most of the evening. It was not until event 47 out of 50 did the Halesowen team finally edge into the lead before holding off both teams in the final race of the evening. Broadway, who had led the gala from the outset, suffered further heartbreak by being pushed into third place by Stratford who achieved more first places on the night.

Individual wins were achieved by Phillipa McAndrew and John Pridden in the Individual Medley, Hannah Cuthbert, John Pridden and Richard Phillips in the Butterfly, Michael Edmonds and Jamie Roome in the Backstroke, Richard Spoor in the Breaststroke and Josie Evans and Michael Edmonds in the Freestyle. Relay wins were achieved by Jessica Kelly, Maria Goodwin, Hannah Cuthbert and Kimberley Mack in the Medley, Ben Hadley, Richard Spoor, Richard Phillips and Thomas Dunford in the Medley and Rikki Ashman, Stephanie Parkes, Robyn Downes and Josie Evans in the Freestyle.

Final point scores were Halesowen 207, Stratford Sharks 204, Broadway 204, Bromsgrove 160, Leamington Spa 157 and Etwall Eagles 98.

Mercian League Round 1 – 27th April 2003

Swimmers from Halesowen Swimming Club were in action in the first round of the Mercian Summer League at Leamington on Saturday 27th April. There were some good performances from a number of swimmers and the team remained in contention for 3rd spot right through to the final events but were just unable to overcome Wyre Forest by four points.

First places were achieved by Kimberley Mack and Josie Evans in the Freestyle, Hannah Cuthbert in the Butterfly and Michael Edmonds in the Backstroke. The boys 12/U Freestyle relay of David Hunt, Conor Carey, Aiden Kealey and Michael Edmonds were also event winners.

2nd places were achieved by Stefan Ashman in the Freestyle, Maria Goodwin and Jonathan Hunt in the Backstroke, Richard Ruston and Richard Spoor in the Breaststroke and Richard Phillips in the Butterfly, Jonathan Hunt, Richard Spoor, Richard Phillips and Stefan Ashman in the Freestyle and Medley relays and Beth Hart, Kimberley Mack, Maria Goodwin and Hannah Cuthbert in the Freestyle Relay.

Special mention also goes to Tracy Worton who came out of retirement for the occasion to record a spectacular 1:05 in the Freestyle.

Final points scores were: Perry Beeches/Triple S 229, Stratford Sharks A 228, Wyre Forest 177, Halesowen 173, Redditch 151 and Stratford Sharks B 65.

Nuneaton Junior League Round 1 – 12th April 2003 **Worcester Winter league Round 3 – 13th April 2003**

Teams from Halesowen Swimming Club enjoyed a successful and very busy weekend with competitions on both Saturday Evening and Sunday morning.

In the first round of the Junior League at Wolverhampton on Saturday evening the team got off to a successful start in their 2003 campaign to finish second behind Wolverhampton. Nine-year-old swimmers were successful with wins from Rebecca Spoor and Ben Hadley in the Backstroke and the boys relay team of Andrew Baker, Sam Johnson, James Bayley and Ben Hadley. In the ten year age group individual wins came from Maria Goodwin and Richard Phillips in the Butterfly and Stefan Ashman in the Freestyle. In the eleven-year age group winning members of the relay teams were, Grace Emms, Roxanne Taylor, Hannah Cuthbert, Kimberley Mack, Conor Carey, Richard Phillips, Aiden Kealey and Richard Spoor. In the twelve-year age group wins came from Michael Edmonds in the Backstroke and members of the relay team Aiden Kealey, Conor Carey and Daniel Summerfield. Special mention also goes to Sophia English and Jacob Moose who were representing the Club for the first time in league competition. Final points scores were Wolverhampton 198, Halesowen 187, Braunstone 175, Coalville 163, Orion 143 and Bromsgrove 136.

On Sunday morning the Club put out two teams in the final of the Worcester Winter League at Droitwich with the A team winning the gala comfortably from local Sandwell based rivals Haden Hill. The A team achieved seventeen first places and did not finish below third place in any event during the competition. The full list of individual winners is: Butterfly, Alison Kindon, Louise Williams, Sean Taylor and Michael Edmonds; Backstroke, Verity Emms, Louise Williams and John Pridden; Breaststroke, Alison Kindon, Andy Papworth and Sean Taylor; Freestyle, Josie Evans and Matt Cherry. Final points scores were Halesowen A 158, Haden Hill 135, Broadway 129, Stourbridge B 112 and Halesowen B 44.

The Junior team look forward to the second round of the Junior League on 10th May.

Haden Hill Friendly Gala – 5th April 2003

Our junior team were in action at Haden Hill and after trailing in third place until event 25 recovered strongly to finish in second place behind the hosts.

The team achieved 14 1st places. Individual wins came from Hannah Cuthbert in the Butterfly, Rebecca Spoor, Michael Edmonds and Ben Hadley in the Backstroke, Ben Hadley, Simon Harris and Richard Spoor in the Breaststroke, Josie Evans, Andrew Baker and Daniel Summerfield in the Freestyle. Relay wins came from the 9 years boys Medley team of Jacob Moose, Ben Hadley, James Bayley and Andrew Baker, the girls 11/U Medley Relay team of Isabella Piggott, Roxanne Taylor, Hannah Cuthbert and Kimberley Mack and the boys 12/U relay team of Michael Edmonds, Simon Harris, David Hunt and Daniel Summerfield winning both the Medley and Freestyle races.

Final point scores were Haden Hill 160, Halesowen 107.5, Redditch 104 and Chase 89.5.

Worcester County Championships and Age Groups – February & March 2003

During February and March 32 swimmers from the Swimming Club took part in the Worcester County Championships. The swimmers took part nearly 200 races with over 100 of these completed in personal best times. Even more impressive was the fact that over half of all swims achieved a top 6 placing which is no mean feat at this standard of competition.

Special congratulations go to County Open and Junior champion Leanne Taylor for her wins in the 200m and 400 Individual Medley and 400m Freestyle and our Junior boys champion Stewart Reading for his victory in the 800m Freestyle.

The Club produced seven age group winners in 23 events; Hannah Cuthbert (200m Butterfly), Maria Goodwin (50m Freestyle, 50m Backstroke, 200m Backstroke, 200m Breaststroke and 200m Individual Medley), Phillipa McAndrew (100m Freestyle), Leanne Taylor (200m Backstroke, 200m and 400m Individual Medley, 200m Freestyle, 400m Freestyle and 1500m Freestyle), Louise Williams (50m/100m/200m Butterfly, 200m Backstroke and 800m Freestyle), Michael Edmonds (50m Freestyle, 50m Backstroke and 200m Backstroke) and Stewart Reading (800m and 1500m Freestyle).

Two County Championship records were also set by Maria Goodwin (200m Breaststroke) and Michael Edmonds (200m Backstroke).

Chief Coach Simon Hillson was delighted and commented, "It is very pleasing that yet again swimmers from the Club have produced excellent performances at the County Championships. Even more impressive is that 11 of our swimmers have achieved District standard times and demonstrates the broad base of talent that is being developed within the Club."

Warley Wasps Perpetual Trophy Gala – 22nd February 2003

Our junior team were in action at Warley and grabbed a dramatic victory to clinch the Warley Wasps Perpetual Trophy. The team got off to a fine start by winning five of the opening six events to lie two points ahead of Tamworth by event twelve. However, a series of disqualifications saw the team slip dramatically from this high point and at the halfway mark found themselves languishing 24 points behind in third place. A series fine races by Halesowen swimmers saw the team inch closer into contention and produced the required a win in the final relay event of the evening to snatch a dramatic overall victory from Tamworth having achieved more first place finishes on the night.

Special mention goes to Emily Badham, James Bayley, Tayla Cleal, Sam Johnson and Elizabeth Richards who were swimming in their first competitive gala. Individual wins for Halesowen came from; Josie Evans, Stefan Ashman and Daniel Summerfield in the Freestyle, Rebecca Spoor, Roxanne Taylor, Ben Hadley and Richard Spoor in the Breaststroke, Grace Emms and Conor Carey in the Backstroke and Hannah Cuthbert in the Butterfly. Relay victories came from; the boys 10 years team of Thomas Dunford, Jonathan Hunt, Richard Phillips and Tom Sinden, the girls 11 years team of Hannah Cuthbert, Grace Emms, Kimberley Mack, Isabella Piggott and Roxanne Taylor, the boys 11 years team of Conor Carey, Aiden Kealey and Richard Spoor, the boys 12 years team of Michael Edmonds, Simon Harris, David Hunt and Daniel Summerfield, with Roxanne Sweeney, Beth Hart and Andrew Baker joining their team mates for the mixed age relay events.

Final point scores were Halesowen 166, Tamworth 166, Warley Wasps 155, Oldbury 136 and Fox Hollies 99.

Worcester Winter League Round 2 – 15th February 2003

As expected the clash of dates with the Worcester County Long Distance events depleted both A and B teams for the 2nd round of the Winter League and the results of both galas were affected substantially. As a result we were able to offer many swimmers a further opportunity to represent the Club and we also thank

those parents again for supporting both teams on the day and is a testament to volunteers within the Club that we are able to support swimmers in three locations at the same time.

A Team Gala – Stourport

The A team were in action at Stourport and were made to wait until the final event of the evening before being able to record a first place finish. The mixed Open Freestyle team of Liane Andrews, Alison Kindon, Phillipa McAndrew, Matt Cherry, John Pridden and Richard Ruston doing the honours.

There were 11 second place finishes by Alison Kindon, Michael Edmonds and John Pridden in the Butterfly, Michael Edmonds, Phillipa McAndrew and John Pridden in the Backstroke, Richard Ruston in the Breaststroke and Robert Butler and Matt Cherry in the Freestyle. The Open Medley team also finished in 2nd spot.

Final points scores were Perry Beeches Triple S A 175, Worcester 127, Wyre Forest 124, Halesowen A 108 and Stourbridge B 66.

B Team Gala – Bromsgrove

The B team were in action at Bromsgrove and recorded five 3rd place or better finishes. First place was achieved by Laura Mitchell in the Breaststroke, 2nd place by David Hunt in the Breaststroke and 3rd places by Stuart Brown in the Backstroke, Aiden Kealey in the Butterfly and David Hunt in the Freestyle.

Final point scores were Oldbury 153, Bromsgrove 146, Orion 117, Droitwich 108 and Halesowen B 61.

The A and B teams will be in action again in the 3rd and final round of the Winter League at Droitwich with all galas taking place on Sunday 13th April 2003.

Local Swimming Club Receives Prestigious National Award

Halesowen Swimming Club has been awarded **Swim 21** status following an in depth assessment process by the Amateur Swimming Association, the sport's national governing body. The Club has been automatically awarded Sport England's Clubmark status as a result and is only one of three nationally to have achieved these standards.

Chairman Duncan Edmonds said, "Everyone is delighted to have achieved Swim 21 status and is due to the hard work and dedication of all the swimmers and volunteers at the Club. Swim 21 sets standards for swimming clubs to achieve for swimmer and coach development, administration and working with partners and we have been able to demonstrate high standards in all of these areas. We now look forward to further developing our relationship with Dudley Leisure Services and delivering a quality competitive swimming programme in Halesowen."

Halesowen Swimming Club runs an accredited swimming development programme including learn to swim, competitive swimming, adult swimming, Water Polo and Biathlon competitions. If you would like to learn more about the activities of the Club why not drop in and see them in action on Friday evenings from 6.15pm at Halesowen Leisure Centre.

Loughborough Junior Gala – 25th January 2003

Halesowen Swimming Club's junior team were in action at Loughborough on Saturday 25th January and after being in 3rd place for most of the evening overhauled Swadlincote to finish in second spot. Special mention goes to the 9 year old swimmers who won all of their relays on the night and to all other team members who behaved impeccably both on the coach and on poolside.

Individual 9 year old winners were Rebecca Spoor and Ben Hadley in the Backstroke and were joined by Roxanne Sweeney and Andrew Baker in the Freestyle and Medley Relays. Stefan Ashman secured 1st

place in the 10 years Backstroke and the relay team with Matthew Henderson, Jonathan Hunt and Richard Phillips. Individual 11 year old winners were Aiden Kealey in the Butterfly, Richard Spoor in the Backstroke and Breaststroke. The girls 11 years relay team of Hannah Cuthbert, Grace Emms, Kimberley Mack and Isabella Piggott ran out as winners in the Freestyle and in the final relay event of the night Beth Hart, Abigail Henderson, Hannah Jones, Stephanie Parkes, Simon Harris and David Hunt joined their team mates for a convincing win.

Final point scores were Market Harborough 165, Halesowen 152, Swadlincote 149, Boldmere B 126 and Loughborough 66.