

HALESOWEN SWIMMING CLUB

REPORTS - 2004

West Midlands Speedo League Round 3 – Saturday 11th December 2004

Halesowen Swimming Club were given an early Christmas present by securing promotion to Division 1 of the West Midlands Speedo League at Stetchford last Saturday. As anticipated the competition proved to be every bit as tough as expected and first places were very hard to come by. Leanne Taylor grabbed maximum points in all three of her events in the Individual Medley, Backstroke and Butterfly. Philip Harrington was also victorious in the Breaststroke. The mens Freestyle team of Richard Dunn, Andy Papworth, Greg George, Jon Cherry, John Pridden and Matt Cherry ensured that the gala ended on a high point for Halesowen with an emphatic win to leave the team in third place overall but good enough for the crucial promotion spot.

The gala proved to a real team effort with swimmers finishing in second spot in 15 events. Second placed individual swimmers were Louise Williams in the Backstroke and Butterfly, Josie Evans and Matt Cherry in the Freestyle, Richard Dunn and Laurence Hickin in the Butterfly, Michael Edmonds and John Pridden in the Backstroke, Graham Harrington and Andy Papworth in the Breaststroke. Members of second place relay teams were Hannah Cuthbert, Elizabeth Edmonds, Verity Emms, Michelle Jenks, Katie McAndrew, Phillippa McAndrew, Kimberley Mack, Charlotte Northall and Roxanne Taylor.

Chief Coach, Peter Carey was delighted with the team's performance and said "Every swimmer continued their excellent form into this gala and promotion is a great reward for all of their dedication this year. With both our junior and senior teams back in the first Divisions we can look forward with great anticipation to 2005".

Final points were Gloucester City 214, Boldmere 200, Halesowen 192, Trident 173, Phoenix Youth 136 and Mansfield 126.

West Midlands Speedo League Round 2 – Saturday 13th November 2004

Swimmers from Halesowen Swimming Club took part in the second round of the West Midlands Speedo League on Saturday 13th November at Bromsgrove. The team were only denied overall first place by having fewer event wins than Derby based Trident. The competition had a distinctly local flavour with local rivals Brierley Hill, Haden Hill and Bromsgrove all taking part but Halesowen got off to the best start and by event 11 were in joint first spot. By the halfway mark Halesowen had edged into a five-point lead which grew to nine points with only ten events to go but a tremendous finish from Trident snatched victory by the narrowest of margins. However, second place is good enough to see Halesowen through to the December final with a promotion place up for grabs.

Individual winners were Josie Evans in the Freestyle, Leanne Taylor in the Individual Medley, Breaststroke and Backstroke, Louise Williams in the Butterfly, Michael Edmonds in the Freestyle and Backstroke and Phillip Harrington and Richard Spoor in the Breaststroke. Member of winning relay teams were Laurence Hickin, Daniel Summerfield and Jobe Swingler

Final points were Trident 198, Halesowen 198, Brierley Hill 182, Bromsgrove 178, Haden Hill 158 and Northgate 135.

West Midlands Speedo League Round 1 – Saturday 9th October 2004

Senior swimmers from Halesowen Swimming Club were in action in the first round of the West Midlands Speedo League at Rugby and ran out comfortable winners. The team got off to a storming start by winning all eight opening relays and were never behind at any point in the gala. The team won 28 out of the 50 events on the night with every member of the team contributing to the emphatic win.

Individual event winners were Hannah Cuthbert, Josie Evans, Maria Goodwin, Michelle Jenks, Leanne Taylor, Roxanne Taylor, Stefan Ashman, Greg George, Graham Harrington, Philip Harrington and Scott Morris. Members of winning relay teams were Elizabeth Edmonds, Grace Emms, Verity Emms, Katie Gilliland, Beth Hart, Katie McAndrew, Kimberley Mack, Charlotte Northall, Rebecca Spoor, Roxanne Sweeney, Conor Carey, Matt Cherry, Harry Cowley, Richard Dunn, Michael Edmonds, Laurence Hickin, Andy Papworth, Richard Phillips, John Pridden, Richard Spoor, Daniel Summerfield and Jobe Swingler.

Final points scores were Halesowen 262, Eckington, 179, Broadway 167, Droitwich, 159, Cheadle 150 and Orion 127.

Worcester County Sprint Meet – Sunday 12th September 2004

36 swimmers from the Club travelled to Wolverhampton on Sunday 12th September to take part in the Worcester County Sprints competition and enjoyed a very successful day. Swimmers from the Club completed 133 races with almost three-quarters of these resulting in a top eight finish and two-thirds achieved in personal best times. Most notably, Halesowen swimmers won 25 of the 93 age group categories on offer.

Winning swimmers were Rikki Ashman, Hannah Cuthbert, Josie Evans, Leanne Taylor, Roxanne Taylor, Louise Williams, Harry Cowley, Simon Crowe, Greg George, Graham Harrington, Philip Harrington, Richard Phillips and Richard Spoor

The Club also supported the County in running the competition with 30 volunteers on hand throughout the day to ensure the smooth running of the event. Chairman Duncan Edmonds said, "This was a tremendous result for our swimmers and is a great reward for both the swimmers and coaches hard efforts. Credit also goes to all the volunteers from the Club for helping to run the competition so efficiently on the day." Halesowen Swimming Club can be seen in action on Friday evenings at Halesowen Leisure Centre.

Mercian League Round 3 – 3rd July 2004

Worcester County Inter-Club Relay Championships – 4th July 2004

Swimmers from Halesowen Swimming Club enjoyed a busy but successful final weekend of the season before the summer competition break. Swimmers were in action at the final round of the Mercian League at Rugby on Saturday 3rd July with Championship honours at stake. The competition was every bit as tough as expected and the Club slid into fourth place by the half way mark having achieved only one event win. However, the swimmers rallied superbly to grab 11 victories out of the final 20 events and only missed out on second spot by a single point.

Individual first places were achieved by John Pridden in the Individual Medley, Charlotte Northall in the Breaststroke, Rebecca Spoor and Richard Phillips in the Butterfly and Katie Gilliland, Phillipa McAndrew and Daniel Summerfield in the Freestyle. Members of winning relay teams were Verity Emms, Karen Moore, Stefan Ashman, Stuart Brown, Conor Carey, Jonathan Cherry, Greg George and Graham Harrington.

Final points scores were: Perry Beeches & Triple S 229, Solihull 188, Halesowen 187, Nuneaton & Bedworth 172, Worcester 151 and Stratford Sharks A 113.

On the following day the Club travelled to Worcester for the annual Worcester County Inter-Club Relay Championships and the Club enjoyed success right across the age groups. The girls team achieved fourth place overall with the boys finishing second to a strong Worcester team. The Club were placed third overall.

Top 5 Clubs were Worcester 93, Stourbridge 64, Halesowen 58, Bromsgrove 57 and Haden Hill 27.

Nuneaton Junior League Round 3 – 26th June 2004

On Saturday 26th June our junior team were in action again at Halesowen with the Club successfully hosting the third consecutive gala on behalf of the Junior League. The omens did not seem good for the team as Leisure Centre staff had battled throughout the day to keep the pool in a fit condition after equipment failure. Once underway, Halesowen found themselves in last but one spot but after first places by Graham Harrington in the Backstroke and Roxanne Taylor in the Breaststroke and Freestyle the team climbed into third position at the halfway mark. By event 35 the team had slipped behind into fourth place behind Stourbridge but a victory from the Freestyle relay team of Conor Carey, Graham Harrington, Aiden Kealey and Richard Spoor lifted the team back into third spot at the end of the competition.

Chief coach Simon Hillson was delighted at the result and commented, "We had set ourselves the target of fourth place in this gala to stay in Division 1 for next year's competition but third place exceeded all our expectations. I am thrilled for all our swimmers and supporters at the outcome."

Final point scores were Phoenix Youth 249, Solihull 178, Halesowen 167, Stourbridge A 162, Stratford Sharks A 152 and Bilston 112.

Haden Hill Open – Sunday 9th May 2004

A strong contingent of 25 swimmers from Halesowen Swimming Club travelled to Wolverhampton to compete in the 24th Haden Hill Open Meet. The Club had high hopes of going one better than last year's overall second place and were not disappointed after romping to victory by 70 points over their nearest rivals.

Event winners were Josie Evans in the 50m Freestyle, Andy Papworth in the 100m Breaststroke, Louise Williams in the 100m Butterfly and 100m Backstroke and Leanne Taylor in the 100m and 200m Freestyle and 200m Individual Medley. Second or third placed swimmers were Michelle Jenks, Phillipa McAndrew, Stuart Brown, Greg George, Michael Edmonds and John Pridden. In all, the Club stormed to an impressive 56 top 8 finishes. Point scores of the top 3 Clubs were Halesowen 283, Brierley Hill 213 and Stourbridge 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 with personal best times achieved right through to the last event of the day after nearly 10 hours of competition. We led the Meet at the halfway point by 24 points and really pressed home this advantage in the afternoon session. This result reflects the strength of the Club right across the age groups".

Siviter Sports Trophy Gala – Saturday 12th June 2004

Halesowen Swimming Club's junior team pulled off a convincing win in the Siviter gala at Wombourne on Saturday 12th June. The team edged into the lead at event 7 and pulled away steadily to run out as comfortable winners.

Virtually the entire team enjoyed a win either individually or as part of a relay team. Team members were Emily Homer, Abigail Hughes, Pria Rai, Pollyanna Sullivan, Emily Badham, Tayla Cleal, Rebecca Spoor, Roxanne Sweeney, Maria Goodwin, Beth Hart, Kimberley Mack, Hannah Cuthbert, Grace Emms, Isabella Piggott, Roxanne Taylor, Rikki Ashman, Robyn Downes, Abigail Henderson, Harry Cowley, Jacob Moore, Macauley Swingler, Sam Bainbridge, Andrew Baker, Richard Phillips, Stefan Ashman, Graham Harrington, Tom Sinden, Richard Spoor, Conor Carey, Daniel Summerfield, Jobe Swingler, Michael Edmonds and Simon Harris.

Final point scores were Halesowen 238, Stourbridge B 176, Wellington 155, Oldbury 146, Fox Hollies 126

Nuneaton Junior League Round 2 – 8th May 2004

On Saturday 8th May our junior team were in action again at Halesowen with the Club successfully hosting its second consecutive League gala. The competition proved every bit as tough as in the first round but the swimmers proved that their improvements continue apace with 35 of the swims completed in better times than the previous outing. The team also increased their points tally from 129 in the first round to finish the gala on 149 points.

The team had to wait until nearly the halfway mark before registering their first victory with Richard Spoor winning the Breaststroke. The two other individual victories came from Roxanne Taylor in the Freestyle and Rebecca Spoor in the Backstroke. The team also achieved five second places by Rebecca Spoor in the Butterfly and Emily Homer in the Backstroke and from the Freestyle relay team of Sam Bainbridge, Harry Cowley, Daniel Johnson and George Turton with the girls team of Hannah Cuthbert, Grace Emms, Kimberley Mack, Isabella Piggott and Roxanne Taylor second in both the Medley and Freestyle events. Special mention goes to Chloe Robbins who was representing the Club for the first time. The team looks forward to the third round on Saturday 26th June.

Final point scores were Haden Hill 235, Leicester Penguins 190, Stratford Sharks A 174, Hereford 154, Halesowen 149 and Wolverhampton 116.

Mercian League Round 2 – 5th June 2004

Swimmers from Halesowen Swimming Club travelled to Wombourne for the second round of the Mercian Summer League on Saturday 5th June. The team were hopeful of repeating their first round victory but the

win was snatched from their grasp in the final 3 events of the competition. The team got off to a flying start and lead all the way through to event 30 before a strong Worcester team drew ominously level. Not deterred, the Halesowen team pulled ahead but found themselves level again at event 40. This pattern was repeated to event 45 before Worcester edged into a one-point lead which Halesowen were unable to turn around in the final two events. The team now looks forward to the 'A' final of the League in early July.

Individual first places were achieved by Phillipa McAndrew in the Individual Medley, John Pridden in the Backstroke and Individual Medley, Charlotte Northall, Stefan Ashman and Daniel Summerfield in the Breaststroke, Conor Carey in the Backstroke and Rebecca Spoor and Greg George in the Butterfly. Relay team winners included the 10 year old team of Harry Cowley, Reid Piggott and George Turton, The 14 and under team of Rikki Ashman, Grace Emms, Katie Gilliland, Kimberley Mack and Stephanie Parkes and the Open mens team including Stuart Brown and Jonathan Cherry.

Final points scores were: Worcester 219, Halesowen 218, Northgate 177, Droitwich 160, Brierley Hill 159 and Swadlincote 110.

Mercian League Round 1 – 24th April 2004 **Cheshire Inter-County Gala - 24th April 2004**

Swimmers from Halesowen Swimming Club travelled to Leamington Spa for the first round of the Mercian Summer League Last Saturday. Despite facing strong opposition the swimmers quickly got into their stride and raced into a lead that they held though to the halfway mark. However, by event 31 the team had edged back into the lead and, despite two late disqualifications, held this right though to the end for a well deserved victory.

First places were achieved by Rebecca Spoor and Michael Edmonds in the Backstroke, Rikki Ashman in the Breaststroke and John Pridden in the Freestyle. Double event winners were Andy Papworth in the Individual Medley and Breaststroke, Richard Phillips in the Butterfly and Breaststroke and Daniel Summerfield in the Freestyle and Breaststroke. The age 12 and under relay teams of Conor Carey, Jonathan Hunt, Aiden Kealey, Robyn Downes, Katie Gilliland, Isabella Piggott, gabbled first places with Grace Emms joining the girls in the 14 and under relay victory. The night was rounded off nicely with a win in the final event for mens Freestyle relay team of Greg George, Andy Papworth, John Pridden and Richard Ruston.

Final points scores were: Halesowen 216, Haden Hill 209, Leamington Spa 202, Broadway 190, Redditch 123 and Stratford Sharks B 87.

The same evening saw five swimmers from Halesowen Swimming Club representing Worcestershire County at the Cheshire Inter-County Gala at the long-course pool in Stockport. The competition included some top quality national swimmers with the Worcester team finishing in fourth place. Halesowen swimmers were Leanne Taylor, Louise Williams, Matt Cherry, Simon Crowe and Philip Harrington.

Worcester Winter League Round 3 – 18th April 2004

On Sunday 18th April the Club put out two teams in the 'A' and 'B' finals of the Worcester Winter League at Droitwich. The Club continued its policy of using the League to give opportunities to a wide range of swimmers and many enjoyed a successful afternoon in the pool.

The 'B' team found the going tough as expected with only John Pridden enjoying victory in the Open Backstroke. Second place winners were Richard Dunn and Amy Piper in the Butterfly and Stuart Brown in the Breaststroke. The Open relay teams achieved 2nd place in both the Freestyle and Medley events with the team including Isobel Bruce, Verity Emms, Phillipa McAndrew and Greg George. The team also achieved 4 third places.

Final point scores were Redditch 197, Haden Hill 173, Oldbury 135, Broadway 120, Wombourne 108 and Halesowen 'B' 99.

The 'A' team achieved a creditable fourth place in the 'A' final. First places were hard to come by and the team was made to wait until event 22 when Hannah Cuthbert cruised to victory in the Butterfly. Richard Spoor in the Breaststroke and Josie Evans in the Freestyle were also event winners. Individual 2nd places came from Conor Carey in the Freestyle, Scott Morris in the Breaststroke and Louise Williams in the Backstroke. The 11 and under relay team of Hannah Cuthbert, Grace Emms, Kimberley Mack, Conor Carey, Richard Phillips and Richard Spoor grabbed 2nd spot in both the Freestyle and Medley events.

Final point scores were Worcester 181, Stourbridge 'A' 150, Wyre Forest 142, Halesowen 'A' 132, Bromsgrove 129 and Perry beeches and Triple S 'A' 102.

Worcester County Championships – March 2004 Nuneaton Junior League Round 1 – 3rd April 2004

March has proven to be a very busy time for swimmers at Halesowen Swimming Club. 40 swimmers took part in the Worcester County Championships during two complete weekends in the month and completed over 250 events altogether. Over two-thirds of the swimmers finished in the top 6 in their age group with the same proportion achieving personal best times.

Leanne Taylor retained her 200m Individual Medley title and added the 400m IM crown. Richard Dunn took the 200m Freestyle junior trophy with Philip Harrington becoming 200m Breaststroke champion. Josie Evans excelled in the Freestyle events and almost completed a clean sweep with only the 1500m eluding her. However, Hannah Cuthbert did manage to capture all three Butterfly titles at 50m, 100m and 200m. Louise Williams grabbed four golds with wins in the 200m Butterfly, and 400m, 800m and 1500m Freestyle events. Philip Harrington snatched a brace of titles in the Breaststroke with Michael Edmonds achieving the same in the Backstroke and Simon Crowe winning the honours in the 100m Butterfly and 100m Backstroke. Individual event winners were Maria Goodwin 100m Backstroke, Richard Dunn 200m Freestyle, Greg George 200m Butterfly, Scott Morris 50m Breaststroke and John Pridden 200m Individual Medley. County Championship records were also set by Philip Harrington (200m Breaststroke) and Louise Williams (1500m Freestyle)

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 13 of our swimmers have achieved 29 District standard times in and demonstrates the broad base of talent that is being developed within the Club."

On Saturday 3rd April the Junior team had a tough time on their return to Division 1 of the Nuneaton Junior League. At a packed Halesowen Leisure centre the team were restricted to a single event win all night courtesy of Hannah Cuthbert in the Butterfly. Roxanne Sweeney and Conor Carey achieved well-deserved 2nd places in the Freestyle with Grace Emms also securing 2nd spot in the Backstroke. The boys relay canon of George Turton, Sam Bainbridge, Andrew Baker, James Bayley, Liam Garbett, Stefan Ashman, Conor Carey and Richard Spoor finished a close 2nd to the hugely impressive City of Coventry team. The team amassed a creditable total of 129 points and some tremendous individual performances in the face of fierce competition. The team looks forward to the second round on Saturday 8th May.

Special mention goes to Sophie Braznell, Rebecca Thurgood, Esther Turner and Henry Gwynn-Thomas who were representing the Club for the first time.

Final point scores were City of Coventry 256, Leicester Penguins 166, Bilston 158, Stafford Apex 148, Camp Hill 145 and Halesowen 129.

Warley Wasps Perpetual Trophy Gala – 6th March 2004 & Worcester County Long Distance Events – February 2004

Halesowen Swimming Club's junior team were in action on Saturday defending last years trophy win at Warley. The team put on a tremendous performance but the trophy was snatched from their grip by 8 points. After a slow start the team quickly got into its stride and pulled back the early deficit to lie 12 points behind the leaders by event 27. A series of terrific swims saw the gap narrow to just 2 points at event 38 before slipping away despite a dramatic victory in the final event of the evening.

The team notched up an impressive 19 victories which outstripped the winners on the night. Individual event winners were Conor Carey and Liam Garbett in the Backstroke, Roxanne Taylor and Graham Harrington in the Breaststroke and Richard Spoor in the Freestyle. Double event winners were Hannah Cuthbert, Maria Goodwin and Rebecca Spoor. Winning relay teams included; age 9 Sam Bainbridge, Harry Cowley, Daniel Johnson and George Turton, age 11 Stefan Ashman and Richard Phillips, age 12 Grace Emms, Isabella Piggott and Aiden Kealey. Emily Homer and Andrew Baker also joined the final event winning relay.

Final point scores were Stourbridge 146, Halesowen 138, Oldbury 112 and Warley Wasps 70. During February swimmers from the Club were in action at the Worcester County Long Distance Championships at Hereford and came away with an impressive 4 age group first places and 11 top 3

finishes. Age group winners were Leanne Taylor in the 1500m, Josie Evans in the 800m and Louise Williams with a double victory in the 800m and 1500m.

42 swimmers from the Club will be in action at the Worcester County Championships throughout March at Wolverhampton and Worcester.

Worcester Winter League Round 2 – Saturday 22nd February 2004

Swimmers from Halesowen Swimming Club were in action for the Club's A and B teams in the 2nd round of the Worcester Winter League last Saturday and is proof positive of the deepening pool of talent at the Club.

The A team were in action at Droitwich and secured 2nd spot after fending off strong opposition from Wyre Forest and Redditch. Individual wins came from Josie Evans and Matt Cherry in the Freestyle, Hannah Cuthbert in the Butterfly, Philip Harrington in the Breaststroke and Leanne Taylor in the Backstroke. The Open relay team of Katie Gilliland, Charlotte Northall, Leanne Taylor, Louise Williams, Matt Cherry, Richard Dunn and Andy Papworth proved too strong for the opposition in both the Freestyle and Medley events.

Final points scores were Stourbridge A 181, Halesowen A 156, Wyre Forest 143, Redditch 140, Droitwich 115 and Orion 101.

The B team were in action at Bromsgrove and took encouragement by outdoing the A team by producing eight 1st place finishes on the night. Individual wins came from Amy Piper in the Butterfly, Kimberley Mack and Verity Emms in the Breaststroke, Maria Goodwin and John Pridden in the Backstroke and Simon Crowe in the Butterfly and Breaststroke. The Open Medley team of Isobel Bruce, Verity Emms, Karen Moore, Simon Crowe, Greg George and John Pridden also ran out as winners.

Final points scores were Broadway 148, Oldbury 131, Wombourne 118, Halesowen B 115 and Ross-on-Wye 80.

Redditch Friendly Gala – Saturday 31st January Staffordshire Inter-County Gala – Sunday 1st February

Junior swimmers from Halesowen Swimming Club were in action for the first time in 2004 at Droitwich on 31st January. Despite being under strength there were some encouraging performances from the team who produced an impressive nine first places on the night.

Individual wins came from Hannah Cuthbert and Rebecca Spoor in the Butterfly, Stefan Ashman and Conor Carey in the Backstroke and Roxanne Taylor in the Breaststroke. Relay winners included Grace Emms, Isabella Piggott, Graham Harrington, Aiden Kealey, Reid Piggott and Tom Sinden.

The 9-year-old boys team of Sam Bainbridge, Harry Cowley, Daniel Johnson and George Turton, who were representing the Club for the first time, produced an impressive win in the Freestyle relay. 9-Year-old girls also making their debuts were Emily Homer, Abigail Hughes, Casey Shaw and Pollyanna Sullivan.

Final point scores were Solihull 236, Stourbridge 184, Redditch 182, Halesowen 158, Bromsgrove 130 and Orion 123.

The following day saw seven swimmers from Halesowen Swimming Club representing Worcestershire County at the Staffordshire Inter-County Gala at Wolverhampton. The competition included Counties from as far a field as North Wales and an impressive array of national talent was on display. Halesowen swimmers were Hannah Cuthbert, Josie Evans, Katie Gilliland, Louise Williams, Michael Edmonds, Philip Harrington and Scott Morris.

Worcester Winter League Round 1 – Saturday 17th January 2004

In contrast to the West Midlands League, the Club policy is to use the Winter League as an opportunity to give places to a wider range of swimmers. The object is not to go for team wins in the League and our success should be judged on the individual performance of swimmers alone. With this in mind Halesowen 'A' were in action at Bromsgrove and Halesowen 'B' at Brierley Hill on Saturday 24th January.

The 'A' team found the competition every bit as tough as expected with Perry Beeches Triple S 'A' and Stourbridge opting to use squad swimmers for the occasion. The team produced three first places on the nights from Leanne Taylor in the Backstroke, Hannah Cuthbert in the Butterfly and Philip Harrington in the

Breaststroke. The strength of the opposition was further demonstrated by the fact that the team was restricted to seven second place finishes all evening.

Final point scores were Perry Beeches Triple S 'A' 179, Stourbridge 'A' 172, Bromsgrove 136, Redditch 133, Halesowen 'A' 130 and Wombourne 83.

The 'B' team had an equally tough time of it at Brierley Hill. The team were denied any first places all night by a very strong Worcester squad. Second places were achieved by Verity Emms in the Butterfly, Simon Crowe in the Butterfly and Backstroke and Conor Carey in the Freestyle.

Final point scores were Worcester 170, Haden Hill 133, Perry Beeches Triple S 'B' 107, Broadway 102 and Halesowen 'B' 82.