

Charity Channel Swim - Saturday 15th December

Two swimmers from Halesowen Swimming Club swam the English Channel on Saturday 15th December for Children in Need. Swimming as a relay Jess Northall and Roxanne Taylor completed their challenge at Halesowen Leisure Centre and met their target time with room to spare. Congratulations go to the girls for their heroic efforts and work in raising valuable funds for a worthy cause.

On 28th December the girls were presented with certificates of their achievement by Dan Cooper from the Cross Channel Swimming Association - pictured right.



Speedo League Round 3, Coventry - Saturday 8th December

The successes of Halesowen's senior swimmers in the previous rounds saw the team travel to the prestigious West Midlands Speedo League final at Coventry on 8th December. It was never going to be easy with the standard of teams in attendance of the very highest calibre. The team battled strongly throughout and after languishing nearly 20 points behind at the half way mark began to claw their way back but fell just short and ended the night in 6th place. This sees Halesowen finish the League in an impressive 6th place overall.

Second placed individuals were Stephanie Hackett in the Freestyle, Bethany Jackson in the Butterfly and Michael Edmonds in the Backstroke. Second placed relay teams were the men's Medley and freestyle teams including Matt Cherry, Marc Collett, Nigel Gaskin, Adam Hennessy and Jack Watts.

Final points scores were City of Coventry A 208, City of Derby A 192, Leicester Penguins 185, Boldmere A 174, Calverton & Bingham A 148 and Halesowen 141.

Speedo League Round 2, Hucknall - Saturday 10th November Ron Hooper Inter-County Gala, Wolverhampton - Sunday 11th November

Senior swimmers from Halesowen made the long journey to Hucknall, north of Nottingham, on Saturday 10th November. As ever, the competition on the night was very tough with the team languishing in last place by four points after the opening six relay events. After event 20 the team looked to be in for a very tough evening and lay in 5th place but by the halfway mark had clawed their way to within a point of fourth. An excellent sequence of results saw the team in to 3rd place by event 35 and maintain that position through to the final round of relays. After four of the final eight relays Leamington pushed ahead in to third place and fourth position overall beckoned but tremendous swimming saw the team joint second in the penultimate event. A runaway win the very last race saw the team grab the runners-up slot.

Individual wins were, as ever, hard to come by with Laurence Hickin in the Butterfly and Freestyle securing the only first places. Double winning relay teams were the 15 and under team including Oliver Jackson, Richard Phillips and Robert Smith and the Open mens team including Matt Cherry, Marc Collett, Michael Edmonds, Nigel Gaskin, Adam Hennessy and Jack Watts with the winning womens Open Freestyle team of Hannah Cuthbert, Josie Evans, Stephanie Hackett, Bethany Jackson, Leanne Taylor and Louise Williams.

Final points scores were Calverton & Bingham A 225, Halesowen 181, Stourbridge A 178, Leamington Spa 174, Long Eaton A 156 and Camp Hill Edwardians A 133.

The following day eleven swimmers represented Worcester County at Wolverhampton on 11th November, making up an impressive quarter of all Worcester swimmers. Halesowen swimmers were Hannah Cuthbert, Stephanie Hackett, Bethany Jackson, Louise Williams, Ryan Davies, Michael Edmonds, Laurence Hickin, Sam Johnson, Richard Phillips and Robert Smith.

Solihull Junior Relay Trophy Gala, Stechford - Saturday 3rd November

Halesowen's junior swimmers travelled to Stechford to compete in Solihull's Junior Trophy Gala on Saturday 3rd November. It was a real team event as all races were relays in each of the four strokes. With nearly three-quarters of the races finishing in 1st and 2nd places, the junior team showed that they were in fine form.

The 9 and the 10 year old boy's team of Connor O'Grady, Nathan Appanna, James Benson, James Westwood, Max Rollason, Matthew Scrivens, Jamie House and Daniel McComb won the Freestyle. The 12 year old boys of Harry Cowley, Daniel Johnson and George Turton came first in the Butterfly and Backstroke. First places went to the 11 year old boys and the 12 year old girls in 3 of their races; Jack Slattery, Jacob Darby, Thomas Taylor, Ryan Davies and Nicholas Borghesi won the Breaststroke, Backstroke and Freestyle. Abigail Hughes, Kathryn Smithson, Lilian Parsons, Emily Homer and Georgia Bird won the Butterfly, Freestyle and Backstroke. The Final race, which included Chloe Bate and Megan Willets, was just as fast and furious as the rest of the evening and ended in a win. Special mention goes to Nathan Appanna, Daniel McComb and Katie Howell who represented the club for the first time. Halesowen's final place was a very comfortable second and an excellent result.

Final scores were Solihull 126, Halesowen 107, Lichfield 75, Camp Hill 65 and Perry Beeches SSS 54

Speedo League Round 1, Leamington Spa - Saturday 13th October

Senior swimmers travelled to Leamington Spa in the knowledge that yet another tough draw would make for an interesting gala. Despite numerous swimmers being under the weather the team did not disappoint with battling performances throughout the evening resulting in a creditable 4th place overall.

Individual wins were hard to come by with Leanne Taylor in the Individual Medley, Louise Williams in the Butterfly and Stephanie Hackett in the Freestyle leading the way. Second placed individual swimmers were Michael Edmonds and Sam Johnson in the Backstroke and Bethany Jackson and Laurence Hickin in the Butterfly. The relay teams put in solid performances with the 15 and under boys Medley team including Oliver Jackson, Richard Phillips and Rob Smith, the Open Ladies Medley Relay team including Josie Evans and the Open Mens Freestyle and Medley teams including Marc Collett, Matt Cherry, Adam Jackson and Jack Watts.

Final points scores were City of Coventry A 242, Boldmere A 209, Leamington Spa 164, Halesowen 158, Braunstone 142 and Chesterfield 135.

VIP Visitors See Pool at Halesowen Leisure Centre Converted to 25 Metres - 11th October

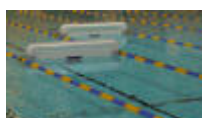
VIPs visited Halesowen Swimming Club on Thursday 11th October to see new equipment in action at Halesowen Leisure Centre that enables swimming lanes to be used in flexible and innovative ways.

Visiting VIPs from the Amateur Swimming Association were Chief Executive David Sparkes and Facilities Officer Noel Winter, from the British Swimming Coaches and Teachers Association Brian McGuinness and from Kirby Swim UK Pat and Lisa Kirby. All were in attendance to see the Turnmaster Pro in action as Halesowen Swimming Club are the first recipients of this equipment in the UK.

The pool at Halesowen Leisure Centre is 36 & 2/3 yards long and was amongst the last of the imperial measurement pools to be built in this Country. As such the pool falls between the standard 25 metre and 50 metre pool sizes. While this offers additional pool space it means that competitive swimmers have less opportunity to practice all important turning skills that are vital in racing. The Turnmaster Pro are portable bulkheads that can be suspended at any point along the lane cables and allow more flexible use of the pool for skill development. Four bulkheads were bought with support from an Awards for All Lottery grant through Sport England.



VIPs from left to right are Noel Winter, Brian McGuinness and David Sparkes with Club Chairman Duncan Edmonds



Turnmaster Pro shown in position in swimming lanes



Also shown is the Swim Island bought for Community use. The Swim Island is a stable platform that allows children learning to swim to use deeper water than normal by providing a safe refuge. The swim Island will allow for more flexible use of the pools at Halesowen in learn to swim lessons.

Club Chairman Duncan Edmonds said "The Turnmaster Pro and Swim Island are valuable additions to the equipment available for our swimmers. We were delighted to work with Kirby Swim to be the first UK recipients of the Turnmaster and to showcase the equipment to the ASA and BSCTA."

Braunstone Sports Trophy Gala, Braunstone - Saturday 22nd September

Senior swimmers travelled to Braunstone for the Braunstone Sports Trophy Gala on Saturday 22nd September. The swimmers were in fine form after the summer break and produced numerous PBs to finish the gala in 2nd place overall. The team look forward to the first round of the Speedo League at Leamington on 13th October.

Individual event winners were Stephanie Hackett Taylor in the Individual Medley and Freestyle, Louise Williams in the Butterfly and Backstroke, Laurence Hickin in the Butterfly and Breaststroke, Chloe Robbins, Ryan Davis, Michael Edmonds and Sam Johnson in the Backstroke and Leanne Taylor in the Breaststroke. The ladies Open relay teams proved unbeatable in both the Freestyle and medley relays with the team including Hannah Cuthbert and Josie Evans.

Final points scores were Walsall A 297, Halesowen 272, Braunstone A 235, Camp Hill 179, Coalville 140, Walsall B 137, Enderby 131.

Leicester Penguins Presidential Trophy Gala - Saturday 7th July 2007

On Saturday 7th July Halesowen Swimming Club took part in the Presidential Trophy Gala held at the beautiful Braunstone Leisure Centre. With the sun shining and the music playing, it seemed like summer had finally arrived. Everyone enjoyed the relaxed atmosphere and it was certainly a Gala with different styles of relay such as the 10 x 25m Fly and the 10 x 25m Breaststroke. All of the team swam their hardest and they stayed in a good third position right to the very end with a third of swims finishing in the top three.

First places went to Laurence Hickin in the 15/U 100m Backstroke, Jack Slattery in the 11/U 25m Breaststroke and Chloe Robbins in the 13/U 50m Fly. The mixed Freestyle Relay team of Roxanne Taylor, Grace Emms, Sam Johnson and Robert Smith also came first, as did the 10 x 25m Breaststroke Relay Team which included Jamie House, Nicholas Borghesi, Daniel Johnson, Daniel Thomas, Anthony Hackett and Greg George.

Final scores were Moderians 290, Leicester Penguins White 284, Swadlincote 246, Halesowen 241, Kettering 229, Kingsbury Aquarius 216, Etwell Eagles 195 and Leicester Penguins Black 194.

Worcester County Inter-Club Relay Championships - Sunday 1st July 2007

On Sunday 1st July, Halesowen Swimming Club took part in the Worcester County Inter-Club Relay Championships. Performances from every relay team were excellent and resulted 17 out of the 20 teams reaching finals.

Two county records were broken. The Ladies Open Freestyle record was broken twice by Josie Evans, Stephanie Hackett, Leanne Taylor and Louise Williams; once in the heats and then again in the final with the team also winning the Open Medley. The boys 15/16 Medley team of Michael Edmonds, Laurence Hickin, Adam Jackson and Robert Smith set a new Medley Relay mark and then also went on to win the Freestyle Relay.

In 13/14 girls team of Hannah Cuthbert, Maria Goodwin, Bethany Jackson, Kimberley Mack and Chloe Robbins were unbeatable in both the heats and finals and only narrowly missed out on County records. Freestyle relay first place went to the girls 15/16 team including Rikki Ashman and Roxanne Taylor with the Mens team including Marc Collett, Jack Watts, and Matthew Cherry bringing the house down with the narrowest of winning margins in the Open Freestyle relay.

The girls team won the overall County trophy with the club finishing in second place overall. Final point scores for the top three teams were Stourbridge 80, Halesowen 72 and Worcester 68.

Halesowen Swimming Club Fun Biathlon – Sunday 24th June 2007

One hundred and eleven family members, friends and local schools took part in the ninth Halesowen Swimming Club Fun Biathlon on Sunday 24th June. This year saw a change in venue with the teams enjoying the facilities at Halesowen Cricket Club for the morning run. The damp start to proceedings did not deter the early runners with the Spartans still prepared to bare nearly all! Contrary to the weather forecast, proceedings brightened and the impressive array of fancy dress costumes were run round the course in some style. The new mini Biathlon was a huge success with 15 'minis' going under, over and through the obstacle course and local school Tenterfields entering a record breaking 6 teams. The afternoon swim was enjoyed by all from the youngest 'mini through to our more 'mature' parents with both impressive times and costumes on display.

Events returned to the Cricket Club after the swimming event and such was the 'unseasonable afternoon sunshine' that the presentations took place outside. The family trophy went to "Fast, Past and Last", the HalesMix & Friends top team was "The Peter Pan Clan" and the Schools trophy went to "The Dementors" of Lucy Adderley, Keren Allen and Ryan Quek who retained the trophy for Tenterfields. The Club is grateful to all at the Club for making this year's Fun Biathlon a great success.

Nuneaton Junior League Round 3 - Saturday 23rd June 2007

The junior team's performance on Saturday 24th June was fantastic. Every swimmer gave 100% in all of the races and the team stayed in a strong second place throughout the third round of the Nuneaton Junior League. This tremendous result has ensured Halesowen Swimming Club a place in Division 1 next year.

First place went to Megan Willets in the 9 year olds 1 length Backstroke. Twelve year old Sam Johnson came first in both the Butterfly and Backstroke. Max Rollason came first in the 9 year olds 1 length Breaststroke. The boys were joined by Connor O'Grady, Nicholas Borghesi, Ryan Davies, Jack Slattery, James Wheeler, and Harry Cowley as they won the Boys Freestyle Relay.

Special Mention goes to Emily Homer and Harry Cowley who have been superb captains of the junior team and to all the volunteers at the Club for hosting 2 of the 3 rounds on behalf of the League.

Final point scores Boldmere A 272, Halesowen 177, Stratford Sharks 171, Stourbridge A 163, Oakengates 143, Perry Beeches & SSS A 133

Wolverhampton Interclubs Friendly B Gala - Saturday 9th June 2007

Halesowen Swimming Club travelled to Wolverhampton on Saturday 9th June looking for a good opportunity for inexperienced swimmers to get some valuable gala experience and for others to try their hand at different events. The gala did not disappoint with many excellent swims and personal best times from the swimmers.

Individual first places came from double event winners Natasha Bird in the Freestyle and Breaststroke, Matthew Scrivens in the Breaststroke and Butterfly and Aimee Field, Sam Bradley-Wood and Thomas Clarke in the Backstroke. The age 9 girls relay team proved unbeatable in both the Freestyle and Medley events with team members Kathryn Brammer, Victoria Homer and Elizabeth Smyllie.

Special mention goes to Georgina Barnsley, Kathryn Brammer, Jessica Gould, Tabatha Trigg, Thomas Clarke, Jack Johnson and Jonathan Kelly who were representing the Club for the first time.

Final point scores were Stourbridge B 153, Halesowen B 135, Haden Hill B 104 and Wolverhampton masters SC 78.

Warley Wasps Friendly Gala - Saturday 19th May 2007

Swimmers from Halesowen Swimming Club met up with 5 other teams to take part in the Warley Wasps Friendly Gala on Saturday 19th May. The events were varied with some mixed team relays and some of the

older swimmers swimming 3 lengths of Halesowen pool. Almost two thirds of the swimmers and relay teams finished in the top 3 positions and the team finished a satisfying second place overall.

First places were won by Megan Willetts and Ryan Davis in the 9 years 2 length Backstroke and by Grace Emms in the 14 years 3 length Backstroke. Other swimmers that swam 3 length races and came in clear second places were Anthony Hackett and Richard Phillips in the Butterfly, Fraser Pressdee in the Backstroke and Maria Goodwin in the Freestyle. Aleksandra Wiatrowska came second in the 12 years 2 length Backstroke. All of the 8x1 relay teams came second and included Natasha Bird, Isobel Hughes, Lauren Garbett, Isabella Piggott, Elizabeth Edmonds, Gareth Bayley, Thomas Taylor, Haron Gill, Daniel Thomas, Adam Jackson, Nicholas Borghesi, Abigail Hughes, and Celeste Collins.

Final scores were Stourbridge 250, Halesowen B 160, Warley Wasps 124, Blythe Barracudas 113 and Fox Hollies 105

Nuneaton Junior League Round 2 - Saturday 12th May 2007

Round 2 of the Nuneaton Junior League was not an easy draw but junior swimmers once again gave sterling performances throughout. By heat 12 Halesowen held a comfortable 4th place position and were only 2 points behind 3rd place. This they held with ease until the final quarter when tremendous swims from everyone saw the junior swimmers climb to 3rd place by 5 points. This lead was held on to and the team finished in 3rd place overall, cheered on by proud coaches, friends and family.

Individual wins were from 9 year old Max Rollason in the 1 length Backstroke and a double victory for 9 year old Megan Willetts in the 1 length Backstroke and 1 length Freestyle. Ryan Davies came second in the 10 year olds 2 length Breaststroke, as did Sian Carey in the 11 year olds 2 length Breaststroke and Connor O'Grady in the 9 year olds 1 length Freestyle.

Special mention goes to Gareth Bayley who represented Halesowen Swimming Club for the first time.

Final scores were Leicester Penguins 254, Leamington Spa 251, Halesowen 159, Chase 152, Haden Hill 136 and Brierley Hill 100.

Warley Wasps Friendly Gala - Saturday 5th May 2007

Saturday 5th May saw club members competing in The Warley Wasps Friendly Gala held at our home pool. The team swam well all evening and points announced half way through, showed that Halesowen were in the lead. The gap between Halesowen and Warley Wasps did begin to close during the second half but the team continued to swim superbly. With a cannon team swimming just like the name suggests, Halesowen held on to their first place position right to the very end.

Individual first places went to Elizabeth Edmonds in the Girls Open Backstroke and to Celeste Collins in the Girls Open Fly. Nine year olds Sarah Turton and Max Rollason won the 1 length Breaststroke and Chloe Bate the 1 length Butterfly. There were first places for Adam Jackson and Devon Collins in the Butterfly and Zach Collins in the Backstroke.

The relay teams were in fine form too with double wins for the Masters' team of Andy Papworth, Claire Collins, Beckie Piggott, Fraser Pressdee and Matt Cherry. Jessica Northall and Connor Carey helped their Open Relay team win both the Freestyle and the Medley. The Cannon Team including Kathryn Smithson, George Turton and Lauren Garbett finished the gala on a winning note.

Special mention goes to Elizabeth Smyllie, Aleksandra Wiatrowska and Jonathon Kelly who were representing Halesowen for the first time.

Final points were Halesowen 120, Warley Wasps 119, Wombourne 95 and Oldbury 89.

Nuneaton Junior League Round 1 - Saturday 21st April 2007

On Saturday 21st April our junior team travelled to the Pingles Leisure Centre in Nuneaton. The team draw facing them in the first round of the Nuneaton League was a difficult one but this did not put them off and

everyone was determined to do their best. This they did with over half of the individual swimmers achieving PBs. All of the team showed a great sporting spirit as they cheered and supported one another.

First places went to the nine year old 1 length Backstroke swimmers Megan Willets and Max Rollason. The Boys Freestyle relay team including Connor O'Grady, Nicholas Borghesi, Matthew Scrivens, Thomas Taylor, Jack Slattery, Harry Cowley and Sam Johnson came second as did Chloe Bate in the nine year old girls 1 length Butterfly. Special mention goes to Beatrice Cowley, Sophie Robinson and Harry Johnson who were representing the club for the first time.

The final scores were Leicester Penguins 225, City of Coventry 212, Nuneaton and Bedworth A 198, Phoenix Youth A 175, Walsall 137 and Halesowen 120.

Konica Minolta Inter-County Gala - Saturday 21st April 2007

On Saturday 21st April nine Halesowen Swimming Club swimmers represented the County at the Cheshire Inter-County Gala at Stockport. Halesowen had the largest contingent of any club in the County with 9 of the 32 swimmers coming from the Club. Swimmers selected were Hannah Cuthbert, Josie Evans, Stephanie Hackett, Leanne Taylor, Louise Williams, Michael Edmonds, Laurence Hickin, Oliver Jackson and Robert Smith.

Worcester Winter League Round 3 – Sunday 15th April 2007

Senior swimmers from Halesowen Swimming Club were in action in the 'A' final in the last round of the Worcester Winter League at Droitwich. The gala was a closely fought affair as expected with deafening support for all teams throughout. Winners on the day were Worcester A with Halesowen finishing the gala in third spot and fourth overall in the League

Individual event winners were Josie Evans in the Freestyle, Hannah Cuthbert, Bethany Jackson, Louise Williams and Laurence Hickin in the Butterfly, Stephanie Hackett in the Breaststroke and Michael Edmonds in the Backstroke. The 15 and under relay team including Robert Smith proved to be unbeatable again in both the Freestyle and Medley relays.

Final points scores were Worcester A 172, Stourbridge A 172, Halesowen 157, Perry Beeches & SSS 141, Worcester B 99 and Bromsgrove 97.

400m Relay Challenge - Friday 6th April 2007

A brilliantly simple idea - get 4 swimmers and try to break the 400m world record and raise money for the "Susan Kathleen Wright" fund. In 2006 the team of Andy Papworth, Matt Cherry, Greg George and Nigel Gaskin did just that, set an incredible time of 3.25.51 and raised almost £500 on the night. This year Rob Smith had already shaved his head in March for Cancer Research UK in memory of his Auntie Kim so why not challenge the "old guys" and get a ladies team to set a record at the same time?

Good Friday 6th April 2007, 3 teams; The "old 'uns" Matt Cherry, Greg George, Andy Papworth and Jamie Roome; the 'young 'uns' Michael Edmonds, Laurence Hickin, Rob Smith and Jack Watts; the ladies of Josie Evans, Stephanie Hackett, Leanne Taylor and Louise Williams. And what a race. 20 seconds head start for the ladies and deafening support for the teams and the closest of finishes. Who really won? Well that'll be debated for some time but what counts are the times set. 3.24.84 for the "young uns" setting a new impressive record for the men and 3.46.29 for the ladies setting an equally challenging time for the future. Over £500 raised to date - thanks to everybody at Halesowen Swimming Club.

Solihull Junior Trophy Gala - Saturday 31st March

Junior swimmers from Halesowen Swimming Club travelled to Stetchford for the Solihull Junior Trophy Gala on Saturday 31st March for their first gala of the year. The team put on a battling show and from early on established a strong third place position and finished the night just behind Solihull.

Chloe Bate was an individual double event winner in the Freestyle and Butterfly with Imogen Davies and Lauren Garbett finishing first in the Breaststroke and Megan Willets in the Backstroke. The relay teams were also on form with the 12 year old Freestyle and Medley team members of Emily Homer, Abigail Hughes

and Kathryn Smithson pulling off double victories, the 11 and under team of Georgia Bird, Sian Carey, Isobel Hughes and Lilian Parsons winning the Freestyle, Aimee Field, and Emma Wheeler helping their 9 year old team-mates to a Medley victory and Sara Turton joining the winning girls Freestyle team. Particular mention also goes to James Benson, Nicholas Borghesi, Sam Bradley-Wood, Connor O'Grady and James Westwood who were representing the Club for the first time.

Final points scores were Leicester Penguins 256, Solihull A 226, Halesowen 200, Perry Beeches & SSS 144, Kingsbury Aquarius 134, Solihull 98.

Worcester County Championships - February & March 2007

During the course of three weekends in February and March 45 swimmers from Halesowen Swimming Club took part in the Worcester County Championships and produced an impressive haul of six senior and ten junior championship titles between them.

The swimmers took part in 473 events with 120 of these in finals. The Club produced 30 age group first places and 7 open titles with an impressive total of 90 swims meeting the higher regional standard. 56 Halesowen swimmers were placed in the top 6 of the Open category - almost one-third more than any other Club in the County

Double senior championship titles were secured by Leanne Taylor in the 200m Backstroke and 400 Individual Medley and Louise Williams in the 100m and 200m Butterfly with Jack Watts in the 800m Freestyle and Michael Edmonds in the 200m Backstroke grabbing both senior and junior championship crowns. Stephanie Hackett enjoyed her first Worcester championships by winning junior titles in the 50m and 200m Freestyle and the 200m Individual Medley, Josie Evans took the junior 100m and 400m Freestyle titles, Hannah Cuthbert the junior 100m and 200m Butterfly titles, Roxanne Taylor the 800m Freestyle junior title and Robert Smith the junior 200m Butterfly title.

In addition to their senior championship titles Leanne Taylor added age group first place in the 100m Freestyle, Louise Williams the 100m Backstroke and Jack Watts the 1500m Freestyle. In addition to her junior titles Stephanie Hackett added the overall 50m Butterfly first place and age group first places in the 100m Freestyle, 100m and 200m Backstroke, 100m Butterfly and 100m Individual Medley. In addition to their junior titles Hannah Cuthbert added age group first place in the 50m Butterfly and Robert Smith the 200m Butterfly. Swimmers also achieving age group first places were Laurence Hickin in the 200m Freestyle and 50m and 100m Butterfly and Sam Johnson the 50m and 100m Backstroke.

Special mention also goes to Michael Edmonds for breaking the competition 100m Backstroke record and Leanne Taylor beating her own previous best competition record in the 400m Individual Medley. With congratulations also going to Zach Collins and Sarah Watts in achieving regional qualifying times.

Worcester Winter League Round 2, Wolverhampton - Saturday 18th February 2007

Senior swimmers travelled to Wolverhampton for the second round of the Worcester Winter League on Saturday 17th February. The team were expecting tough opposition and were involved in a tight contest with Perry Beeches & SSS A all evening. After the initial 10 events Halesowen trailed by 8 points which was reduced to 4 by the halfway mark. Despite winning the final 3 relays Halesowen were unable to close the gap and ran out as runners-up by just 3 points which sees the team into the A final on 15th April.

Double individual event winner was Stephanie Hackett in the Breaststroke and Backstroke. Individual event winners were Josie Evans and Zach Collins in the Freestyle, Hannah Cuthbert, Laurence Hickin and Richard Phillips in the Butterfly and Louise Williams and Michael Edmonds in the Backstroke. The 13 and under Freestyle relay team including Devon Collins, Beth Jackson, Chloe Robbins and Sam Johnson ran out winners and both the 15 and under and Open relay teams were in impressive form winning both Freestyle and Medley relays including team members Greg George, Andy Papworth, Robert Smith and Jack Watts.

Final point scores were Perry Beeches & SSS 'A' 185, Halesowen 182, Worcester 'B' 140, Haden Hill 133, Wyre Forest 107 and Perry Beeches & SSS 'B' 93.

Worcester Winter League Round 1, Halesowen - Saturday 20th January
Brierley Hill Open Meet, Wolverhampton - Saturday 20th & Sunday 21st January

Senior swimmers from Halesowen were in action at home in the first round of the Worcester Winter League on Saturday 20th January. Many of the team were also in action earlier in the day at Wolverhampton and bravely made the dash back to Halesowen for the gala to help the finish in an excellent 2nd place.

Double event winners Laurence Hickin in the Freestyle and Butterfly and Beth Jackson in the Backstroke and Butterfly. Individual event winners were Josie Evans in the Freestyle, Richard Phillips in the Butterfly and Leanne Taylor and Oliver Jackson in the Backstroke. The relay teams were also in fine form with the 13 and under team including Devon Collins, Chloe Robbins, Sam Johnson and Zach Collins winning the Freestyle and the 15 and under team including Grace Emms, Kimberley Mack Roxanne Taylor and Robert Smith winning both Freestyle and Medley relays.

Final Point scores were Stourbridge A 183, Halesowen 175, Haden Hill 161, Worcester A 157 and Redditch 120.

Over the same weekend 32 swimmers were in action at the Brierley Hill Open Meet at Wolverhampton and completed 160 events and 37 finals with swimmers coming away from the Meet with a total of 59 Regional Qualifying Times.