

## **Sharks top Deva League**

Sandbach Sharks rounded off a good first half of the season by topping their Division of local swimming's Deva league. Despite tying the final gala of the event held at Neston this was enough to ensure that their aggregate points score left them top of the pile and ensure promotion in to a higher division for next year. In a remarkable finale to this year's event Sandbach and their closest rivals Buckley amassed totals of 125 points each however it was Sandbach's previous good results that secured overall top slot. On their way to securing overall victory at Neston there were wins for Sarah Mullings, Megan Friel, Leanne Mather, Francis Carson, Fraser Schurer-Lewis, Alex Joines, Ben Buckley and Mathew Joines in their individual events. In addition to these fine individual performances the relay teams consisting of Anna White, Sarah Mullings, Megan Friel, Francis Carson, Emily Jevons, Jayne Taylor, Stephanie Eccles, for the girls and Elliot Barton Henry Jones, Ben Buckley, Fraser Schurer-Lewis, George Jones Rory Barton, Mathew Joines and Rory Schurer-Lewis, secured much deserved wins for the boys relay team. The team are to be congratulated on their success in their new head coach's (David Hyde) first season.

## **Sharks at Sheffield**

Swimmers from Sandbach Sharks recently took part in a "B" graded Gala held at the Ponds Forge International Sports Centre in Sheffield, having gained entry to the meet by bettering the qualifying standard there were some fine swims in a type of event unfamiliar to most who took part. Personal bests were lowered by all which was a remarkable achievement given that the event was held in the much more difficult arena of the fifty meter "long course" pool, which again was a first for many. Twelve Year olds George Jones, Mathew Joines and James Bottomley were the first off in the 100 meters free, recording 11<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> places. Tom Bottomley 14, also in the 100 Free almost made the podium with a fine fifth place, whilst young Ben Buckley (ten years old) made thirteenth place his own in the 50 meters free. George Jones' second event was the difficult 100 meters butterfly and a thirteenth place was recorded by the twelve year old, though he went one place better in the 50 free later in the meet. Tom Bottomley again went into the top ten finishing in sixth place in the 100 meters backstroke. George Jones and Mathew Joines both took part in the 100 breaststroke placing sixth for George and twenty-sixth for Mathew. Ben Buckley had another fine swim buoyed by his previous efforts managing twelfth in the 50 back. For the girls Francis Carson swam exceptionally well for eleventh place in the 13-year-old 100 butterfly and Megan Friel fourteenth place in the 50 freestyle and twenty-ninth in the 50 fly. It was a very successful outing for those who took part and they should be congratulated on their efforts.

## **Final Speedo Round**

Sandbach Sharks brought their participation in the autumn series of galas to a successful conclusion at the weekend with a second place in the final round of the Speedo league held at Wrexham. Although first places were hard to come by it was the teams consistent placing in the top three that earned them a well deserved second place twenty points behind the eventual winners Buddulph but ahead of their Deva League rivals Buckley. Sarah Mullings and Casey Lee, both of whom won their individual backstroke and freestyle events, posted first places, each recording impressive doubles. Helen Cooke in the Open age Breaststroke also led the other five swimmers home for victory. Further firsts were posted by the girls in the 13 and under free style relay which saw sisters Hannah and Sarah Mullings aided by Rachel Havalock and Anna White bring home maximum points. It was a busy evening for the elder Mullings, Sarah, as she again featured in the clubs two remaining wins in the Open Medley and Freestyle relays teams where she was joined by the two previous victors Casey Lee and Helen Cooke as well as Elanor White for another impressive double.

Second place in this the final event of the year brings a very successful conclusion to the start of the season which has seen promotion in the Deva league, progress in the Speedo League and individuals representing the club at a good quality meet in Sheffield. All of the swimmers are to be congratulated on their efforts both s

individuals and as a team and they can look forward to a well deserved break over Christmas before events resume in the New Year.