

SEASON REVIEW 2011

JUNIOR LEAGUE

After last season's glory in winning Division 2, this year we competed in Division 1. Our aim was to stay in the top division for more than one season, but once again we were relegated after just one year.

With only five teams in the division, we had to win two of the four gala's to stay up. However, we could only manage one victory which was against Dukinfield. That mean that we finished fourth in the league and next year we will compete in Division 2.

One encouraging sign during the year was that our best age group were the under 10's. Hopefully this group of swimmers can remain together at the club and achieve much more success in the future.

RESULTS

Jun 16 th	Away to Radcliffe	lost 59-47	swimmer of match Rory Lees
Jun 28 th	Home to Dukinfield	won 58-49	swimmer of match Josh Meredith
Sep 13 th	Away to Howe Bridge	lost 61-47	swimmer of match Rory Lees
Jun 21 st	Home to Ramsbottom	lost 64-42	swimmer of match Sam Bennett

We achieved medals in the following events:

WINNERS – 14 BOYS: Sam Bennett, Jordan Shepley, Callum Quigley, Harley Tennant, Robert Gourley and Ben Jansen – won all 12 races during the season and many in convincing style.

RUNNERS UP – 10 MIXED : Mia Rowbottom, Maia Webster, Sophie Quigley, Hannah Smith, Michael Haughton, Sam Jansen, Rory Lees, Charlie Hobson and Josh Meredith – won 9 out of 12 races and with several still able to compete in this age next year, the signs are good.

JOINT RUNNERS UP – 10 BOYS: Lewis Cooper, Michael Haughton, Rory Lees, Josh Meredith, Charlie Hobson and Sam Jansen.

In the age groups:

<u>Girls(max 12)</u>	<u>Boys(max 12)</u>	<u>Mixed(max 12)</u>	<u>Total(max 36)</u>
10/u 6 wins	6 wins	9 wins	21 wins
12/u 2 wins	6 wins	2 wins	10 wins
14/u 2 wins	12 wins	6 wins	20 wins
16/u 0 wins	1 win	1 win	2 wins

It is now eleven years in a row now that the Boys have won more races than the Girls!

As you can see we really struggled in the eldest age group and the 16 year olds picked up just two wins all year. Overall a lack of swimmers to choose from in several age groups and the small number of Girls in the squad meant a season long struggle for the Club this year.

Attendance has also been a factor (see next page) and this has to improve next year season.

That said, the last time we competed in Division 1 we averaged a total of 12 wins per gala. This season we averaged just over 13 so not all bad news.

ALL SWIMMERS WHO COMPETED DURING THE YEAR (WINS IN BRACKETS)

BOYS

Lewis Cooper (0)
Michael Haughton (6)
Sam Jansen (8)
Charlie Hobson (5)
Josh Meredith (10)
Rory Lees (13)
Jack Spence (2)
Luke Worthington (7)
William Dinsdale (8)
Darshan Chiba-Lad(0)
Rahul Patel (0)
Cameron Willis (0)
Garrett Tennant (6)
Alex Meredith (4)
Harley Tennant (16)
Ben Jansen (9)
Sam Bennett (13)
Jordan Shepley (9)
Robert Gourley (5)
Callum Quigley (9)
Chris Kinsey (0)
Dane Lees (0)
Kyle Newton (1)
James Maksym (2)
Joseph McCue (2)

GIRLS

Elise Donohoe (5)
Oonagh Morton (0)
Maia Webster (9)
Sophie Quigley (10)
Melissa Larkin (2)
Hannah Smith (15)
Mia Rowbottom (2)
Ella Green (4)
Rebecca Cooper (4)
Lucy Cooper (1)
Olivia Shepherd (0)
Abigail Lockett (2)
Holly Carley-Hannan (0)
Zoe Standing (1)
Victoria Smith (1)
Emma Nathaniel (2)
Emily Mason (0)
Darcy Hobson (8)
Jessica Willis (8)
Rebecca Kinsey (0)
Tenneil Davies (1)
Helen Gourley (1)

Well done to Harley and Hannah for gaining the most wins in a season for the first time.

The last five years leading winners were:

2006 – Helen Gourley and Jack Corbett
2007 – Lucy Johnson and Robert Gourley
2008 – Darcy Hobson and Daniel Briggs
2009 – Tenneil Davies and Daniel Briggs
2010 – Lucy Cooper and Joseph & Stephen McCue / Callum Quigley

The following swimmers deserve a mention for competing in all six Junior Galas this year:
Rory L / Sam J / Charlie H / Jack S / Luke W / Sam B / Harley T / Dane L / Kyle N / James M / Joseph M
/ Maia W / Hannah S / Sophie Q / Rebecca C / Lucy C / Victoria S / Jessica W / Darcy H and Tenneil D

Attendance – Last year a total of 23 swimmers competed in every single Junior Gala. This year saw a drop to 20 swimmers (named above) who competed in all four Gala's. For each Gala there was an average of 5 swimmers missing, compared to 3 per Gala in 2010, so a definite worry and something that needs to be addressed.

Final Season – amongst others, it was the final year in the Junior League for both Helen Gourley and Joseph McCue. Both swimmers have been regulars in the team for over six years and can be proud of all they have achieved.

Joseph made his Junior League debut in September 2004 and only missed one gala since then. Helen made her debut in March 2004 and also had an excellent attendance record for the club.

Whilst their final year proved to be the toughest for both, the victories they have accumulated over the years mean both are in the top six of all time winners. Joseph finishes with 135 wins and 5th place overall, with Helen on 127 in 6th place. (This list is headed by Catherine Broadbent who won 177 Junior League races)

IN OTHER COMPETITIONS

The format of the **Jubilee** competition is that the first three rounds are a random draw with teams then graded and placed in the appropriate final. Finishing 2nd, 3rd and 2nd in the opening galas meant that we once again qualified for the B Final.

Last year we finished joint winners, but this year with the team we had, I did feel that it would be a difficult ask to replicate that achievement.

The final proved to be very tough and we once again competed against last year's joint winner's Bury & Elton for the Shield. After a few races, it became apparent that we were never really competing for the win. And at the end of the gala we had to settle for a creditable 3rd place, with Oldham emerging victorious.

The final team was: Sophie Quigley / Elise Donohoe / Hannah Smith / Oonagh Morton / Lucy Cooper / Rebecca Cooper / Ella Green / Rebecca Kinsey / Darcy Hobson / Sam Jansen / Rory Lees / Josh Meredith / Garrett Tennant / Ben Lawton / Cameron Willis / Luke Worthington / Alex Meredith / Matthew Weekes / Jonathan Oswald / Harley Tennant and Callum Quigley

Full results:

Gala 1) Radcliffe 142 / **Ashton 131** / Rochdale 100
(swimmer of match Garrett Tennant)

Gala 2) Royton 142 / Chadderton 117 / **Ashton 112**
(swimmer of match Ella Green)

Gala 3) Oldham 128 / **Ashton 121** / Droylsden 87 / Stalybridge 72
(swimmer of match Sam Jansen)

B Final) Oldham 115 / Bury & Elton 112 / **Ashton 97** / Chadderton 90
(swimmer of match Callum Quigley)

All the swimmers who managed 4 wins or more during the season are shown below with the percentage of wins in brackets.

Callum Quigley	15 wins (83%)	Hannah Smith	6 wins (32%)
Garrett Tennant	9 wins (39%)	Jonathan Oswald	5 wins (71%)
Harley Tennant	8 wins (57%)	Rory Lees	4 wins (36%)
Luke Worthington	8 wins (57%)		

In October, we competed in the **Manchester & District Vice President's Gala** again. We had won this event in 2004, 2006 & 2007 and were looking to better the 2nd place we achieved last year.

Due to their being fewer number of entries than usual, we did not have to compete in a heat and went straight through to the final.

The young team put in a good show and we did win 5 of the 13 races. However 2 DQ's cost us valuable points and once again we had to settle for being runner's up again!

Final) Saracens 62 / **Ashton 53** / Romiley 49 / Swinton 31 / Horwich 29 / Radcliffe 24

The team was: Leah Worthington, Olivia Bell, Sophie Quigley, Maia Webster, Bethany McKnight, Elise Donohoe, Oonagh Morton, Hannah Smith, Charlotte Houston, Lucy Cooper, Rebecca Cooper, Olivia Shepherd, Rory Lees, Charlie Hobson, Ben Haughton, Lewis Cooper, Sam Jansen, Michael Haughton, Matthew Smith, Cameron Willis, Josh Meredith, Luke Worthington, Ben Lawton, Garrett Tennant, Alex Meredith and Rahul Patel.

PERSONAL BESTS

As an indication as to which swimmers have improved their times the most during the year, the swimmers with 12 p.bs and more are noted below.

Excluding the final Inter Town Gala of the season (Marple at Home), Sam Bennett leads the way with a total of 23 personal best times. Followed by: Rebecca Cooper 22, Lucy Cooper 21, Hannah Smith 19, Ella Green 18, Joseph McCue 18, Alex Meredith 17, Sam Jansen 17, Garrett Tennant 15, Callum Quigley 15, Rory Lees 14, Mia Rowbottom 14, Luke Worthington 14, Darcy Hobson 13, Sophie Quigley 13.

Last year's top three were Hannah S, Callum Q and Lucy C

Just like last year, the girls beat the boys with an average of 8.73 p.bs per swimmer compared to 7.71 p.bs for the boys. Well done to the Girls!

SUMMER FUND RAISING SWIM

Over 80 swimmers competed in the fun event to raise money for the club in what was an excellent competition. A total of £1,690.60 was collected and well done to the following swimmers (and parents!) who were on the winning team:

Gareth Unsworth / Ben Jansen / Charlotte Houston / Conrad Brooks / Darcy Hobson / Faye McMahon / Gareth Oakes / Thomas Cochrane / Jason Worthington / Rahul Patel / Robert Gourley / Emma Nathaniel / Andrew Cochrane / Stephen McCue and Luke Worthington

SPECIAL MENTIONS

Congratulations to the following swimmers, who have attended every single gala the club has competed in during the season (21 in total up to and including 6th Nov)

Lucy Cooper and Luke Worthington. This is the second year in row that Lucy has competed in every single gala for the club!

An excellent effort from both swimmers and parents I'm sure you will agree.

As ever, a big thank you to all those who help with the running of the galas, from taking money on the door, setting up the equipment, scoring, announcing, the runners, raffle donators, timekeepers, those who send up, look after the blocks, takeovers and those who cheer on the swimmers.

There is no room for complacency though and we do need as many parents and senior swimmers to continue to help out in gala's whenever possible. If you do not currently get involved and wish to take a more active role, please see me or any of the coaches (this will be much appreciated!)

I have said this before, but I have no doubt that we run the most professional galas of all clubs and they nearly always run without a hitch. Thanks for your support from both myself and the swimmers and I look forward to this continuing in the future.

Mark Clough
Team Manager
December 2011

