

Team Managers' Report for Nov. 2012- Oct. 2013

This time last year Ware Swimming Club began their season by competing in the National Arena League, London, Division 3. As always these galas proved tough competition with Ware coming 6th out of 8 teams in the first gala and a 'virtual' 7th place in gala 2 following a last minute cancellation due to light failure. These results meant we qualified as one of the bottom 8 teams for the final gala in which we came 5th, leaving us 13th out of 16. This compared to an 8th place finish out of 15 the previous year. Special mention goes to Beck Grover who in round 3 of the competition improved his U14 100m backstroke club record to an impressive 1.12.64. December also saw us hold our annual Christmas gala, this year against Hertford and Hoddesdon. We once again fielded two teams with team Holly finishing in 2nd place and Team Ivy in 4th. It was great to see the gala giving so many members of Ware Swimming Club the opportunity to compete; the intention is to continue with this format in the future.

January saw the start of Ware's participation in Division 2 of the Herts Major League. This year our results of 5th, 4th and 2nd meant we finished in 8th place out of 12 which was enough to retain our place in division 2 for another year. The third gala was of particular significance as with one event to go we were winning, unfortunately a disqualification in the last event led to a loss by a single point. Special mention also goes to Ben Ruddock, Rye Grover, Charles Sinclair and Harry Burtenshaw who in round 1 of the competition improved the Open boys 4x25m freestyle relay club record to 51.07.

March saw us competing against Broxbourne, Letchworth, Buntingford and Royston in a new competition, the Brock/ Badger gala at Fanshawe pool. This ended up being the highlight of our season as we came away as winners bringing home our only trophy of the year. Special mention in this gala goes to Lewis Elliston as his performance in U14 100m freestyle (1.03.05) was a new club record. It was then off to Wulfrath where despite one of the closest ever finishes we were narrowly beaten into 2nd place by 10 points. It was a great effort from everyone but ultimately our lack of swimmers in the younger age groups allowed our German friends to get the better of us. However the majority of those swimmers will be with us again next year so we expect to be in a good position.

The final part of the season saw our younger swimmers compete in Division 2 of the Herts Peanuts League - galas for 9 to 12 year olds. The first point of note was we able to field 9 year old relay teams in both the boys and girls events for the first time in several years. This was particularly pleasing because it was noticeable that whilst many other clubs are struggling in this area, Ware continues to successfully attract new members. However we encourage all parents to continue to promote the club wherever possible. In terms of the competition Ware held on to their position in division 2 with 5th, 6th and 4th place finishes. The results placed us in 10th place out of 12 teams, one place below our 2012 position. Special mention also goes to Boys Team Vice Captain, Charles Sinclair whose exploits in the pool in this period led to two new club records, in the U17, 50m butterfly (29.05) and Open, 200m freestyle (2.10.54). The year closed with the 2013 club championships where once again we saw numerous PB's together with three new Championship records from Charles Sinclair in the Open 200m freestyle (2.05.54) – also a new club record – 100m butterfly (1.04.19) and 4x25m Individual Medley (1.05.53).

Finally we would like to thank Claire Matthews for all the time she has given to Ware Swimming Club this year, together with the older swimmers who have helped out pool side. Thanks also to the Team Captains and Vice Captains for all their efforts, and not forgetting the swimmers and their parents/guardians who make Ware Swimming Club what it is.

Julie Brindley and Will Osterburg