

Ellesmere College Titans Swimming Club Press Release – 11th April 2011

British Record Holder - Chris Walker-Hebborn Joins Titans

2012 Olympic hopeful and 200m backstroke short course British record holder - Chris Walker-Hebborn has become the latest top British swimmer to join the Ellesmere College Titans elite swim programme. He joins Sydney and Athens Olympic finalist and British 50m breaststroke record holder Darren Mew; European Championship and Commonwealth Games gold medallist Stacey Tadd; Commonwealth Games finalist Jessica Dickons; and 200m butterfly specialist James Faure.

Chris, age 20, has a proven pedigree as a junior having claimed seven medals in total at the World and European Junior Championships, six of which were Gold. He enjoyed an impressive debut in the senior ranks by breaking the British Record at the 2009 World Championships and then represented Europe against the USA at the Dual in the Pool. In 2010 he won a bronze medal competing for England at the Commonwealth Games in Delhi.

Chris will represent the Titans next year in the National Arena League and all major championships & meets. He will also assist in the development of some of the Titans young backstroke prospects – through a series of specialist backstroke clinics.

Commenting upon the move Chris said: "I'm delighted to be swimming for a team with such big ambitions. The Titans already benefit from having some of the fastest and most exciting young backstroke swimmers in the UK and I know that my experience can really help make a difference to their future. I'm really looking forward to the challenge."

Titans head coach Jon Pardoe commented "The Titans are all about giving young swimmers the maximum opportunity to fulfill their potential. Chris's experience and know how should really help develop some of our young backstrokers".

On Sunday 19th June 2011 the Titans Foundation and Junior Development Squads will be holding an Open Day and Pre-Olympic trial to which all enthusiastic and ambitious young swimmers aged 6-11 are invited. Swimmers can register online at www.ellesmerecollegetitans.co.uk.

Photograph: Chris Walker-Hebborn poolside at Ellesmere College.

Further details about joining the Ellesmere Titans can be found on their website www.ellesmerecollegetitans.co.uk or by telephoning Jon Pardoe on 07903 641668. Further details on scholarships and places at Ellesmere College can be obtained from the College Registrar on 01691 622321 or by email at registrar@ellesmere.com.

Notes to Editor

The Ellesmere College Titans Swimming Club was established in 2008, as a meeting of minds, between Ellesmere College – a school with a great sporting heritage and the parents of some of the top young swimmers in Shropshire, united in their desire to create an ambitious, positive and competitive swimming club.

The result: A centre of swimming excellence in the heart of the North Shropshire countryside.

To maintain this standard the Club adopts and implements a selective membership policy, to ensure that all swimmers share the same goal of achieving swimming success at the highest level. The emphasis is on quality not quantity of swimmers, with the Club limiting its total swimming membership to 40 - ranging from children as young as 8 upwards.

In such an environment a great deal of one to one coaching can be given to individual swimmers, and productive use can be made of underwater video analysis and specialist training equipment.

Ellesmere College was founded in 1884 and is part of the Woodard Group – the largest grouping of public schools in the UK. Over the years it has been responsible for producing some of the British sporting greats including ex-England Rugby captain Bill Beaumont. It is hoped that it will produce the next generation of British swimming greats.

Issued on behalf of Ellesmere College Titans Swimming Club (The Titans). For further details please contact Jon Pardoe on 07903 641668 or email jonpardoe@hotmail.co.uk. Further details on scholarships and places at Ellesmere College can be obtained from the College Registrar on 01691 622321 or by email at registrar@ellesmere.com

www.ellesmerecollegetitans.co.uk