

Ellesmere College Titans Swimming Club Press Release – 13th December 2010

Titans Win Promotion to National Premier League

Just two years after establishing an elite swimming programme - Ellesmere College Titans have secured promotion to the National Arena Premier League.

In the final of the first division - which took place in Kendal on Saturday 11th December - the Titans secured third place - beating City of Stoke, Warriors of Warrington and Everton; and finishing just behind Ulverston and Cockermouth. Having finished in overall third position in a division of 18 teams - the Titans achieved promotion to the Premier League for next season.

Inspired by the real life events depicted in the 2007 film *Pride*, which documented the trials and tribulations of establishing a swimming club in 1970s Philadelphia, a group of 10 young Shropshire school children decided back in June 2008 to embark upon the same track.

Two years on and with a team of just 28 swimmers, many having to swim up a full two age groups and compete in up to 8 events, the Titans achieved the remarkable and unprecedented achievement of becoming the first club in the Leagues history to have ever reached the Premiership in less than three years and one of only a handful of clubs to have been promoted in consecutive back to back seasons.

The final team points were as follows:

Cockermouth 225
Ulverston 199
Titans 188
Warriors of Warrington 163
City of Stoke 149
Everton 123

Over the course of the 50 events, Titan swimmers secured a remarkable 15 first places and broke 5 club records.

Titans Head Coach Jon Pardoe said "the night was a demonstration of team spirit, sheer grit and determination and above all what can be achieved against the odds when there is a collective desire to go for it and the sights are set high. We are very confident that we have developed some of the best of most exciting young swimming talent in the UK. Today they lived up to that billing and I was extremely proud of what they have achieved in such a short space of time."

On the 29th January 2011 the Ellesmere College Titans will be holding an Open Day to which the best young local and national swimmers will be invited. Swimmers can apply for an invitation by registering online at www.ellesmerecollegetitans.co.uk.

Photograph: Titans National Arena League Final team.

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 Admissions Secretary on 01691 622321 or by email at admissions.secretary@ellesmere.com

www.ellesmerecollegetitans.co.uk