

## **HECTOR STUNS SWIMMING WORLD – CHASING TARZAN**

At a prestigious Open Swimming Meet held last weekend, young Ellesmere College Titan swimmer Hector Pardoe, age 9, stunned the swimming world by breaking 4 Championship records and storming straight into no 1 position in the UK rankings.

The Open Meet which was held at Millfield School's Olympic size 50m pool in Somerset, on Saturday 17th and Sunday 18th April was attended by some of the best swimmers from all over the UK.

Despite only just having turned 9 at the end of March and being by far the youngest swimmer in the 10/u age category in which he was competing, Hector won 5 gold medals in the 200m freestyle in 2:32.57; the 400m freestyle in 5:15.02; the 200m butterfly in 3:06.52; the 800m freestyle in 11:01.29; and the 50m butterfly in 0:37.48.

As a result he is now ranked 1<sup>st</sup> amongst all 9 year olds in the UK in the 200m, 400m & 800m freestyle and the 200m butterfly events. These official rankings are compiled by the ASA, the sport's governing body, and consist of in excess of 600,000 recorded times over the last twelve months.

Titan's assistant coach Darren Pugh commented "To put the magnitude of Hector's achievements into some form of context - his times in most of these events would have won him the gold medals at this year's Shropshire County Championships not only in the 9/u age category but also in the 10/u and 11/u age categories".

"His time of 5:15.02 in the 400m freestyle is only a few seconds slower than the 5:04.20 time recorded by Johnny Weissmuller (aka Tarzan) in 1924 when he won the Olympic gold medal".

Commenting upon his success Hector said "I know I can swim even faster. To be honest I was upset that I didn't beat that man Tarzan. Next time I will".

Other Titans swimmers competing at the meet included Elliot Hughes age 13, Alfie Pardoe age 12, and Michael Doyle age 10.

Further details about joining the Ellesmere College Titans can be found on their website [www.ellesmerecollegetitans.co.uk](http://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 Admissions Secretary on 01691 622321 or by email at [admissions.secretary@ellesmere.com](mailto:admissions.secretary@ellesmere.com)

## **Photo: 1) Hector Pardoe at Millfield Open Meet.**

### **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](mailto: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](mailto:admissions.secretary@ellesmere.com)

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