

Ellesmere College Titans Swimming Club Press Release – 24th January 2011

Hector Smashes British Records

At last weekend's Liverpool Open swimming meet, Hector Pardoe, age 9, of Ellesmere College Titans, smashed the all time 9/u British 200m backstroke and 400m freestyle long course records.

At the meet which was held at the Liverpool Aquatics Centre between 21st-23rd January Hector broke the British record in the 200m backstroke by 1.91 seconds recording a time of 2:47.07. In the 400m freestyle he took 2.99 seconds off the previous record finishing in 5:01.10.

Incredibly Hector's time in the 400m freestyle would have won him the gold medals at all Olympics up to and including 1928 – beating Johnny Weissmuller's (aka Tarzan USA) 1924 Olympic winning time of 5:04.20 and U.A Zorrilla's (Argentina) winning time of 5:01.60 from the 1928 Olympics.

Johnny Weissmuller is regarded as one of the greatest swimmers of all time. Between 1924 and 1928 he remained unbeaten in official competition, winning a total of 5 Olympic gold medals and was widely regarded as the world's greatest swimmer for a generation. Weissmuller later became a Hollywood legend playing the part of Tarzan during the late 20s and early 30s.

Ellesmere College Titans Head Coach Jon Pardoe said "it's an absolutely remarkable achievement. What is really interesting is the factors at play that have allowed a 9 year old to beat the times recorded by the best open men swimmers of just two to three generations ago. Scale of thinking, diet and training have clearly all played their part".

Hector puts his success down to his Vegetarian (near Vegan) diet and his love of chocolate soya milk. Commenting after the races Hector said: "I'm over the moon. I actually thought I was going too slowly. If I can beat that man Tarzan – Phelps better watch out".

Hector is part of the highly successful Ellesmere College Titans training programme which enables some of the top young swimmers from all over the UK to train together whilst balancing their sporting and educational needs.

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: Hector Pardoe.

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 Admissions Secretary on 01691 622321 or by email 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

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