

Ellesmere College Titans Swimming Club Press Release – 29th June 2009

HECTOR STAKES CLAIM TO RECORD

Hector Pardoe, aged 8, a pupil at Ellesmere College School, won the much coveted Ellesmere College Titans Age Graded 800m Freestyle Challenge last Saturday 20th June in a new 9/u boys club record time of 12:36.26.

Despite only having just turned 8 years old, and therefore not permitted to enter the official ASA national rankings - his time represented the second fastest recorded by a 9/u boy anywhere in the UK over the last 12 months and the fastest in the West Midlands..

As part of the Ellesmere College Titans impressive coaching set up, Hector spent several weeks at Easter last year training at one of the top US training facilities - the Race Club in Florida – where he swam alongside 5 times Olympic Gold Medallist Gary Hall Jnr and Nathan Adrian - the current world Championship Gold medallist and former world record holder in the 100m freestyle. More recently Hector has been receiving tips for his future success from British Olympic swimmer Darren Mew who coaches at the club.

Commenting upon Hectors swim Darren Mew said “I think it highly unlikely that even Grant Hackett the current 800m world record holder would have been swimming faster than this when he was 8. It is going to be amazing watching him develop over the next few years”

After the swim Hector exclaimed “I kept thinking that I was swimming next to both Gary Hall, Nathan Adrian and Darren Mew and all I could think about was beating them and winning the Shield. I kept imagining that they were about to overtake me!”.

Commenting upon Hector’s swim his Dad and head coach of the Titans said “From start to finish this was just an excellent swim. Everyone who was poolside was aghast at Hector’s ability to maintain the pace.”

In addition to Hector’s remarkable success other competing Titan swimmers notched up a total of 10 Personal Best (PB) times and 2 Club Records.

The other swimmers who secured PBs were Annie Jones (10:12.01), Hannah Greene (10:15.76), Otilie Fairhurst (13:21.61), Natalie Greene (14:01.26), Thomas Holland (14:23.73), Ryen Spencer-Wolfe (12:29.45), Sam Holland (12:34.54), Jimmy Kershaw (10:58.78) and Annie Mellings (11:17.54).

Further details about joining the Ellesmere College 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 at admissions.secretary@ellesmere.com.

Photos: 202 = Hector Pardoe holding 800m Championship Shield; 207 = Hector Pardoe held high by fellow Titans Hannah Greene, Annie Jones and Alfie Pardoe.

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 – open to both pupils and non pupils of the school.

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 24 - 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