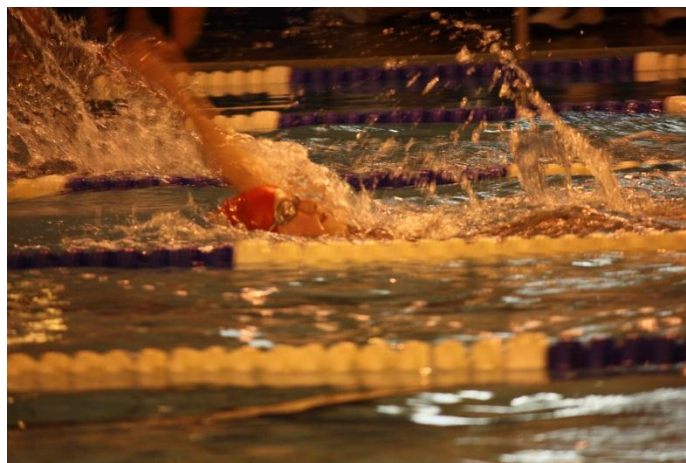


# Hoddesdon start 2012 in style



**Eleanor Turpin**

**HODDES**DON swimming club started 2012 in style with fine performances after the Christmas break from their team in the first round of the Herts Major League gala held at Hitchin pool on Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> January.

The Hoddesdon team compete in Division One, there are three rounds of galas and the first round is usually a hard gala because it is so soon after the holiday break, however, there were still personal best times recorded by Emma Longden, Ralph Davies, Max McCusker, Ryan Brewster, Cerys Edwards, Elise McCusker, Keira Sullivan, David Kelleway, Matt Harris, Eleanor Turpin, Sam Richards, Jessica Callaghan, Daniel Cole, Joel Crouch, Kane Hagley-King, James Narengian, Chris Smith, Sam Longden, and Ben Warrington.

Division One has two galas running at the same time and Hoddesdon were competing against: Berkhamsted Barracudas, Harpenden, Hatfield, Hemel Hempstead and Hertford. Hatfield led from the start, as expected with Hoddesdon in second place throughout the gala and at the finish.

Team Manager for the gala, Janet Warrington told the *Mercury* "The team worked hard and there were some impressive performances especially from the girls under 14 freestyle relay (Amy Godsave, Kaitlyn Walsh, Georgie Pryor and Georgina Fisher) winning in a time of 1.59.28 breaking the club record by 3 seconds. The boys Open (Karl Batorski, Matt Harris, Paul O'Doherty and David Kelleway) and u16 freestyle relays (James Narengian, Sam Longden, Chris Smith and Kane Hagley-King) also making a great impression and winning their races in 1.42.87 and 1.50.32 both club records, the u16's record was broken by 15 seconds. We are now looking forward to the second round which will be held on the 28<sup>th</sup> January, 2012 it is a great start to the new year."

## **Final positions:**

Hitchin Gala : 1<sup>st</sup> Hatfield, 2<sup>nd</sup> Hoddesdon, 3<sup>rd</sup> Hemel Hempstead, 4<sup>th</sup> Harpenden, 5<sup>th</sup> Hertford, 6<sup>th</sup> Berkhamsted Barracudas.

Borehamwood Gala : 1<sup>st</sup> Watford, 2<sup>nd</sup> City of St. Albans, 3<sup>rd</sup> Potters Bar, 4<sup>th</sup> Bishop's Stortford, 5<sup>th</sup> Stevenage, 6<sup>th</sup> Cheshunt.