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Swimmers enter the Arena with stunning results

SWIMMING

By JOE COY

IT was the first round of the National Arena Swimming League on Saturday with 10 of our clubs in action.

In the Premier League, Southport travelled to Macclesfield, finishing in eighth place with Mia Robinson taking first place in the breaststroke and second place in the butterfly. Finlay Byrne touched second in the backstroke.

The City of Liverpool rejoined the league after a five-year absence and stormed to first place in the Division 2 gala at Kendal, winning 27 of the 32 individual events and 17 of the 19 relay races. Bebington took fifth place.

At Darwen, a tremendous team performance by Halton saw them take second place, just eight points behind a very strong Biddulph team. Joshua Howard-Hughes, Bethany Howard-

Hughes and Dylan Taylor all took maximum points from their races, with Anthony Wawrzyniak taking first place in the 50m freestyle in his first Arena League gala.

Freya Karaski, Bella Mai Fishwick, Jacob Agate and Taylor Fishwick also secured victories. Prescott held off the strong challenges of both Copeland and Carlisle to secure third place.

At Ellesmere Port there was an exciting tussle with Garston

taking fifth, one point ahead of Hoylake.

In the Minor Division at Connah's Quay, Bootle & North Liverpool overcame a spirited Liverpool Penguins for fourth place, chased all the way by Ellesmere Port.

There was Masters action at Llandudno, with Warrington Masters' Ben Harkin taking four golds, whilst Chris Rix picked up three golds and a silver.

There were three golds for Mark Jones with two golds and

three silvers for Carl Barkley to finish top in his age group. Martin Holmes ended the day with two golds and two silvers.

Spencer Glover took gold in both the 100m and 200m freestyle events with Mike Rimmington and Lindsay Houlston both picking up a gold and two silvers. Jessica Law of Southport picked up four golds and a silver with club colleague Elena Priestner securing three golds and two silvers.