

Middlesbrough AA Graded Gala – 3rd Feb 08
written by Glen Fenby.

Glen Fenby took a squad of 15 swimmers from Darlington Swimming Club to the Middlesbrough AA graded gala on Sunday 3rd February and they continued with their recent success gaining 3 bronze medals and 12 other Top Six placings in a highly competitive meet.

For the girls, the only 10 year old, **Grace Carlton**, had an impressive four swims gaining 3PBs in 50 free, 200 free and 100 IM with an excellent swim in 50 fly. The 11 and 12 year old girls continue to go from strength to strength with **Lucy Proctor** achieving 4 out of 6 PBs and **Katriona Ridley** smashing all her PBs in her 6 very determined swims, both just missing out on medals. Also swimming in this age group were **Helen Murray**, **Ineke Van Mourik**, and **Fern Turner** who improved their PBs and are progressively getting closer to the podium. We also saw good performances in the 13 year and over section with **Chloe Shearing** winning 5 Top Six placings in 50 free & 200 free, 50 fly, 100 IM and 50 back and Joanna **Wilson** achieving 3rd place in 200 free and 4 other Top Six positions in 50 back, 50 breast, 50 fly and 100 IM. **Lauren Turner** swam well to take 5th place in her 50 breast and continued to improve her time in 50 free.

For the boys, the youngest swimmer who competed, 9 year old **Jon Van Mourik**, just missed out on medals but achieved top ten status in the 50 back, 100 IM, 50 free and 50 breast demonstrating his all round ability at such a young age. The 10 year boys were led by the talented **Jonathan Teague** who continued to impress with two Bronze medals in 50 back and 50 free. However his best swim of the day was in 50 fly where he was just pipped into 4th place and he achieved another medal in 100 IM. **Kye Cowton** and **Adam Howell** became serious contenders in this age group with some fantastic swims in all their events. Kye swam Personal Best times in all 6 of his swims and Adam qualified for 4 events for the N&D Agegroup competition next month. **Robert Murray** and **Jonathon Keay** had excellent swims and some close-fought races against each other in the 13/14 year old section both bettering their previous times in several events.

Overall another successful and enjoyable day out for Darlington swimmers who continue to improve this year.