

## Down on the Farm

The fun has begun to for the 2017 Rockshire Sharks. Over the winter, the shed behind the starting end of the pool was painted a bright red color, leaving many Sharks feeling like they were swimming at a farm. On this farm, Old MacDonald clearly needs to have some polar bears and penguins, given the freezing temperatures that plagued both swimmers and coaches over the first two weeks of practice. It is unclear what noises any of the animals on the farm actually make, as all anyone could hear was the 8&unders giving a "Red Hot" here, a "Go Sharks" there, and replacing E-I-E-I-O with V-I-C-T-O-R-Y.

## Time Trials (?)

The *Review* sent a reporter to cover Time Trials. However, Time Trials may not have actually happened, as there appeared to be no one at the pool (although the murky water made this difficult to confirm). Rumors of a last-minute, but highly successful Time Trials taking place at Fallsmead did eventually reach the *Review's* ears.

## Old Farm Meet

On Wednesday, the Sharks *kicked off* the dual meet season by taking on the Old Farm Eagles at home in the Shark's New Farm. Connor Combs, Erik Lieske and James Lieske joined Andy in assuming that the cold waters would have frozen the pool, and came dressed for a hockey game. After discovering that there was still water in the pool, Connor got to work and led the Sharks with 5 best times. Time Trials must have actually taken place somewhere because many other Sharks dropped time as well. Shayna Kreiser, Smiles Ledoux, Alexander Lopez, Alex Okun, Andrey Tarapunov, Lucy Villiers, and Felicia Wang were not far behind Connor with best times in 4 events. Eshann Mishra dropped an unbelievable 28 seconds, which was the biggest drop of the night, but (spoiler alert), was somehow only tied for the biggest drop of the week. Anton Obolensky also dropped over 10 seconds in a single event. Mason Aarhus, Nicolas Cheng, David Fan, Max Fuster, Michael Johnson, Nick Kim, Aregline Lee, Melissa Lopez, Vikram Mishra (twice), Maxwell Scherr, Yamei Usui, Lucy Villiers (twice) and Santi Villiers all dropped at least 5 seconds in an event. David Fan, Nick Kim, James Lieske,

Dominic Oertel, and Felicia Wang won events. David and Dominic combined with ageless (but finally truly 15-18) Albert Tang to sweep the 15-18 Men's IM and Breast (as an ageless swimmer, maybe Albert can go back to 9-10 practice to learn how to do a flip turn).

## Pasta Night

On Friday night, the Sharks enjoyed their first pasta night of the season, thanks to many hard-working parents. The Sharks had a great time hanging out with their friends and receiving their ribbons from the Old Farm meet.

## Lakelands Meet

The Sharks traveled to Lakelands to swim against the Lionfish on Saturday morning. The Sharks swam lights out all day. Jordan Kelly won the first the event and the Sharks never looked back. Two events later, Eric Lu, Daniel Wang, James Lieske, Albert Tang, David Fan, William Wong, Dominic Oertel and Hank Breen took 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Men's Open Age Medley. The Shark's relay prowess continued as Jingjing Wu, Sidney Thompson, Cate Ledoux and Hawie Abera touched first and Madison Kelly, Grace Zhang, Da-Young Kim and Mia Coven grabbed

third in the Girl's Graduated Free Relay to finish the meet. Keon Gray cut his butterfly time almost in half and dropped 28 seconds to tie fellow 8&under boy Eshaan for the biggest drop of the week. Nicolas Cheng, Fuster Kyle, Max Fuster, Laila Kreiser, Charles Liang, James Lieske, Jocelyn Merkin, Anton Obolensky, Stefan Tabakov, Sidney Thompson, Daniel Wang, Jingjing Wu, Summer Yao and Grace Zhang also dropped a lot of time in a single event. Max Fuster, Jordan Kelly, James Lieske, Sidney Thompson, Jingjing Wu and David Yune all got best times in 4 events. Hawie Abera, Fuster Kyle and Dominic Oertel dropped time in 3 events. Hawie Abera and Alex Thompson won their first events at Saturday meets. Hawie then proceeded to sweep her events and earn her first ever all-star nominating time. Jordan Kelly and Jingjing Wu also swept their events. Madison Kelly completed the sweep of the 9-10 Girl's events. The Sharks' spirit was outstanding all day and, as a result, the *Review* will award multiple spirit superlatives. Mia Coven and Jordan Kelly win best dressed people. The Combs' minivan wins best dressed car. The cowbells and duck quackers win loudest instruments. Daniel Wang probably should have worn a neon suit the *Review's* reporter missed his 100 Breast. Maybe he also needs to go back to the

10&under practice to learn how to use the clerk of course. It's too bad that Mrs. Fuster wasn't timing in lane 4, because based on what happened at last year's team picture, she could have helped Daniel get started with his race. Many Sharks made sacrifices to help the team. Helen Duan gave up her spot as an 11-12 to swim-up and compete against older girls with the 13-14s. 12-year-olds Helen and Grace Zhang also swam on the Open Age Medley. Grace, Jane Lee, Andrey Tarapunov and Lucy Villiers jumped in to fill empty lanes. Nicolas Cheng, Nathan Hunt, Da-Young Kim, Laila Kreiser, Alana Lamb, Jane Lee, Haile Ma, Madison Manne, Alex Obolensky, Anton Obolensky, Lucy Stanton, Stefan Tabakov and Joe Waldron competed in their first Saturday meets for the Sharks. The Sharks celebrated their great swims at the Fallsgrove Shopping Center along with most of MCSL.

### Best Times Update

The Sharks got an impressive 113 best times against Old Farm on Wednesday night and followed that up with 79 best times at Lakelands on Saturday morning. Therefore, their current season total is 192 best times. If the Sharks can break last year's record total of 913 best times, Andy will jump into the pool with his clothes on at the last practice (thanks Ethan Mahoney for the suggestion)

### Upcoming Events

On Wednesday night, the Sharks will act like grown-ups as they take to the road to battle the Montgomery Square Seahawks. On Saturday morning, they will host a luau with the Tanterra Tarpons. The Tanterra meet will be followed by a BBQ at the pool.