



■ ALL TOGETHER NOW – Shaun Murphy shows off the world championship trophy surrounded by family and friends at the Diamond Centre on Wednesday evening

Murphy tribute to family and friends

SHAUN MURPHY paid tribute to his family and friends as they gathered to celebrate his rise to the top of the snooker world.

The Irthlingborough-born-and-bred star brought the trophy he

won as Embassy World Snooker champion to the Diamond Centre at Nene Park on Wednesday to show off to a crowd of delighted family and friends.

The 22-year-old, who marries

■ Snooker

fiancee Clare Llewellyn this summer, claimed the world crown with a sensational string of perfor-

mances in Sheffield earlier this month. And as Murphy partied with dad Tony, family and friends, he showed them the trophy and said: "You are all a part of this. I couldn't have done it without you,

and all your support and help."

Murphy now plans to concentrate on his wedding and honeymoon before returning to the snooker table to continue his chase for further honours.

TRAMPOLINING special



All the latest news from the Northants Trampoline Academy

Moore and Walsh at double for Academy

JAIME MOORE and Steve Walsh led the way at last weekend's grade one event, both taking home first place in another successful weekend for Northants Academy.

The Academy picked up 10 medals at the competition in Huddersfield, and Moore said afterwards: "I was really pleased with my performance. I've been working on new routines throughout the season and raising my skill level, and everything went to plan"

Moore led from start to finish to beat her nearest rival by 0.8, collecting her third first-place finish of the season, and the 26-year-old said her confidence couldn't be higher.

"My confidence has been building up slowly over the season," said Moore. "I'm really enjoying my trampolining and looking forward to the rest of the year."

Walsh also led from the start to take victory in the over-18 men's event, beating Bedfordshire-based rival Phillip Dodson by 0.6 with a superb performance.



■ ALL SMILES – Jaime Moore and Steve Walsh both won

The youngster now aims to take his sparkling form into the later stages of the season.

"I felt it was a really good performance and if I can carry that on then I'll be there or thereabouts in the remaining competitions," said Walsh.

But the Parklands-based ace was quick to stress that it's the performance rather than the result that matters most.

Walsh said: "Positions aren't that important at the moment, that's for future years. The most important thing is working my

way up to the top of the tree, which I'm slowly doing."

Walsh was joined on the podium by team-mate Danny Creedon, who finished in third. Creedon's score of 95.6 sees him in good shape to qualify for the forthcoming World Championships in September.

The academy secured team gold in the under-18 girls competition, winning by a massive 23.5 points. Yazmin Gumbs led the way, coming home in second place, followed by Katie Mitchell in 8th and Amanda Harris (9th).

The under-15 girls also left with team medals, narrowly being pushed into third. Victoria Payne finished in 14th place, beating team-mate Katie McKenzie who finished in 15th by just 0.4. Faye Kopkas settled for 20th while Penny Mitchell was 30th.

Erin Basford was the Academy's sole representative in the under-13 girls. The youngster put in a creditable performance to finish in 16th position.

Delighted coach Tracy Whittaker said: "The results have been good, especially for the elite group of Jaime, Steve, Yazmin and Danny who are having a great season."

"Jaime and Steve both raised their level of difficulty and to win after doing that is awesome," added Whittaker, who recently turned down a national role to stay coaching in Northampton.

"The results bode well for the future of the Academy and if we keep putting in good performances then I think we'll definitely be in contention for places on the podium at the National Championships in July."

Town destroy opposition at Worcester

■ Swimming

NORTHAMPTON Swimming Club's A team hardly dropped a point in amassing a fantastic total of 287, 110 points clear of their nearest rivals in the second round of the Nuneaton and District Junior League competition at Worcester.

And to cap it off for the town's swimmers Northampton B team finished a superb third.

The club's director of swimming Mark Perry said: "The support from the balcony was fantastic throughout the evening for both teams with many parents having made the journey west

"Parents, swimmers and team staff were proud to be part of the team and watch Northampton out-swim their rivals.

"They were better in every area of preparation, proving that they were fitter, better skilled and more focussed than the other teams.

"Better prepared swimmers with better skills always out-perform their rivals and both teams from Northampton were superb.

"Coaches Julia Evans, Rachel Gunn, Andy Sharp, Rob Sharp and Lisa Bates and their team managers, Denise Johnson, Rob Allen, Jeanette Clarke, Gill Broughton and Sue Dennis, did a great job with the team poolside."

Northampton scored a number of one-twins.

Ella Thompson and Ailish Rigdon started it with the girls' and boys' 11/under medley and freestyle teams, Lizzie Funnell and Sophie McBain, Emma Herd and Jasmine Clarke, Amelia Jane Hicks and Maddie Martin, Jade Willis and Natasha Blackford, the girls' under-10 freestyle relay team, Charlotte Milligan and Jessica Morris, Ellis Johnson and Sophie Blackford, the girls' eight-by-one freestyle relay team, Lauren Betts and Sarah Roberts, the girls' under-12 freestyle and medley relay teams, Danny Wilkin and Tim Broughton, Zak Allen and Alex Marriott and Freddie Little and Jonathan Chin all following suit.

There were also wins from Lewis Mooney, George Willis, Oliver Allen, Zoe Gidden, Myles Crouch Anderson, Danny Barber, Jade Willis, Jack Perry, Sophie Cardwell, Oliver Martin, Oliver Thompson, Jack Howarth, Helen Proud, Spencer Bovey, Amelia Newell, Abigail Perry and Georgie McManus.

Northampton also won every relay event.