



Nottinghamshire ASA 2012 report

Nottinghamshire Swimming Clubs & our Aqua Force Volunteers

President

Bernie Walker

Management Board

Chairman: Brian Barnett

Secretary: Wendy Coles

Treasurer: Kate Bull

Club Representatives

Denniss Bull

Richard Roberts

East Midland Region Reps

Wendy Coles

Volunteer Coordinator

Roy Crampton

Development

Sarah Williams co-opted

Communication Officer

David Fortesque

Committee Secretaries

Swimming - Terry Taylor

Leagues - Maureen Shaw

Water Polo - Chris Freebury

Officials - Anne Morton

Other Officers

Disability - Carol Halpin

Welfare - Wendy Coles on
behalf of Board

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT Brian Barnett

What a momentous year!!!

First of all congratulations to all our Olympians and Paralympians. With such a fantastic year for British sport, its marvellous to know our swimmers have been successful once again. I don't like to single any one out as all the medals were truly amazing, but I must mention Charlotte Henshaw as she was in my squad when I was coaching at Sherwood.

After my disappointment at seeing her come 4th in Beijing, it was rewarding to see her get silver in London which was so nearly a gold had her arms been longer. Also to see a gold post box in Kirkby in Ashfield in honour of Oliver Hinds is fantastic.

Secondly we must congratulate Josie Grange who will be elected ASA President by the time you read this report. Josie has been a great servant of Nottinghamshire, setting up Nova, secretary of this county, Chairman of East Midland Region and more. Josie will only be the third member of Nottinghamshire to become president of the ASA and we wish her a very happy year. We think it's well deserved and our thanks to her from all swimmers, coaches and officials in our county.

The Board and its sub-committees have had a busy year, with some successes and some disappointments.

We had a wonderful Centenary Dinner, well supported by clubs and local dignitaries, also the ASA President, Ray Gordon and his wife. It was especially pleasing to see our life members and past presidents and some past

representatives of our county and Country, my thanks to all those that attended, and our super MC, Freeman of the City and, international swimmer Tim Reddish.OBE.

We had a fantastic Centenary Festival with our very own Green Arrows Synchro team giving 2 excellent displays, the polo lads showing how it used to be played and how it is today, with an open session for any swimmers to participate in - and they did. There were obstacle races, old fashioned strokes, good fun was had by all. Our disappointment was the take up from clubs, in my opinion it doesn't hurt to have fun occasionally, I know how hard they work, swimming needs to be fun as well.

The Board and Nova have put in place a structure, whereby we can keep our coaches, as you will be aware councils have stopped or in some cases cut funding in these uncertain economic times, but we hope our swimmers will be less affected in the future.

Our committees have worked hard as you will see from their reports, so on your behalf I thank Terry Taylor (swimming) for his leadership of the Youth and County Championships. Also taking us back to the first division of the inter counties, well done Terry and team.

Maureen Shaw (swimming leagues) this being the first year of the re-vamped leagues that we have just tweaked again having listened to club suggestions. Thanks for a wonderful job Maureen.

Our officials committee has been at a disadvantage this year, as our secretary Ann has been ill. We all wish her

a complete recovery. In the meantime, Wendy is spending loads of time sorting out exam books, certificates etc. If you have completed your books or haven't had them back, please let Wendy know as she is doing her best to sort things out. We set up 2 years ago in the constitution, a formula for a coaches committee, but at this moment in time we have no reports, so I would like to see some progress.

Polo committee is working well now Chris Freebury has taken over, with more courses and seminars taking place, thanks Chris, (also for a nice musical interlude at the Dinner).

Green Arrows is thriving, bringing out an enjoyable magazine of all their activities, they are always looking for new talent, what an opportunity for new swimmers.

My thanks go to all board members and secretaries for your hard work in a very busy year.

What would we do without our treasurer Kate and secretary Wendy, Kate has dealt with every aspect of the job in a very business like way and has produced updates at all committees when required, despite I may add without the co-operation of the Bank, but that's another story, thank you Kate.

We are fortunate in this county to have what must be, the best secretary in the country, Wendy works tirelessly for Nottinghamshire and has had an exceptional amount of work to sort out, representing us at regional and ASA level also with a wealth of knowledge, keeps us well

up to date with ASA matters, she deserves all our heartfelt thanks from everyone at Nottinghamshire Swimming. This will be my last report to you; I now feel that I am past my sell by date, as the label says. Looking back to old days when executive meetings ran long into the night, I hope members think as I do, that having a Board has proved a success. Nothing will run smooth all the time, it never does, but the set up now has proved it can cope with anything. After all, it's the swimmers and clubs that count. My gratitude goes to all those in clubs, who team manage, officiate, record, coach and do all the menial tasks. It really is appreciated.

It has been a great experience to be part of it all. Many thanks and every success in the future.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Bernie Walker

2011-2012 has been an exciting year for the County. We celebrated our Centenary in style with an enjoyable dinner and a Festival of Aquatic Sport, but more we celebrated at the London Olympic Games with 1 gold, 2 silver and 3 bronze medals well earned by Ollie Hynd, Charlotte Henshaw and Rebecca Adlington. I thank all the committee members for their hard work (often unseen by many in the County). Finally, I wish to thank the Clubs for making my wife and I so welcome when I visited them. I gained much pleasure in being able to talk with the swimmers involved, and make the presentations to them in front of their friends in their own clubs.

SECRETARY

Wendy Coles

Our Committees continue to work well on their own specific disciplines. The Board are indebted to them for keeping the activities within the County running smoothly and efficiently.

The Board meets on a regular basis but we can also communicate via e mail and phones if the need arises.

As the County Interim Welfare Officer, I have had a busy year. However Welfare Officers within clubs have made this somewhat easier; they do a fantastic job.

In swimming we believe that the welfare of children and vulnerable adults is everyone's responsibility, particularly when it comes to protecting these people from any form of abuse.

Everyone in swimming, - administrator,

children themselves, everyone - can help.

In 2009 the ASA produced Wave Power, the file with all the information and answers to the difficult questions. It is currently being reviewed, and an updated version will be available to all clubs shortly.

I have for many years worked alongside Brian Barnett as the Chairman of the Association, Brian has decided it is time for new blood, but I personally I want to thank Brian for all the hours he has put in over the years sitting at meetings, listening and where required giving constructive guidance, without Brian I would not have been able to carry out my many duties—thank you Brian I wish you a happy retirement but you will be missed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Kate Bull

In general I believe that the finances of the Association are very healthy and believe that the controls in place are good and fit for purpose.

We have set up a special account for the Nottinghamshire Swim Squad in order to keep the finances totally separate; the bank caused us many problems but these are now, thankfully resolved.

We faced VAT increases on pool hire which did not help with the cost of holding our Youth/Open events separately from the AGE Group Championships.

Our club affiliation fee to the county is to be collected by the ASA on our behalf which will mean that all three fees, ours, East Midland Region and the ASA fee will be collected in one payment. The Notts fee going up by 5p to £1.05 per club member.

OFFICIALS COMMITTEE

This committee only met once this year however, it became obvious that some of the officials passes have been omitted in our return to the ASA and as a result of this we held a meeting where the clubs officials mentor was invited and a seminar on mentoring officials was held. We have now got (hopefully) a definitive list of persons who are in training and have issued the procedure that club mentors are to take when recruiting trainee officials. We are very conscious now of the added burden of finding licensed officials for the galas. It is **essential** now that Clubs take on the responsibility for recruiting officials so that we can fulfil our commitment to the swimmers.

We wish to thank all who turn out regularly to help at galas without them the events would not be able to take place.

SWIMMING COMMITTEE

Terry Taylor

The Swimming Committee has met regularly to deal with all matters related to Speed Swimming in the County.

As usual we have had our County championships and BagCats and Youth competitions and all praise must go to all the persons responsible for the success of the running of the Meets and to our officials for taking on the huge task of officiating at these events. Far too many to mention but a "Big Thank You" to you all.

Our Centenary Festival of Aquatic Fun was a great day and our thanks are indebted to our Synchronised Swimming and Water Polo sections in bringing alternative activities for our swimmers to participate in.

We were delighted to finish 8th at the 2011 Inter Counties keeping us in Div. 1 and our team for 2012 has been selected.

Finally, the Swimming Committee offers its congratulations to our County swimmers who achieved International success this year, as listed below:-

**Rebecca Adlington –
Nova/Nottingham Leander –
Olympic Games,
Two Bronze Medals**
**Oliver Hynd –
Nova/Sutton – Paralympic Games,
Gold, Silver & Bronze Medals**
**Charlotte Henshaw –
Nova/Sherwood—Paralympic
Games, Silver Medal**

Jess Sylvester – Nova/CABS – Flanders Cup, Antwerp

Harry Needs – Nova/Nottingham Leander – Flanders Cup, Antwerp

Georgia Hohmann – Nova/Nottingham Leander – Flanders Cup, Antwerp &

U.S. Open, Indianapolis
Fiona Donnelly – Nottingham Leander – Swim Cup Eindhoven

Natasha Hofton – Nova/Bramcote – Canada Cup, Ontario

Faye Henesy – Nova/CABS – Open Water Tour, France

Francesca Hay – Nova/Arnold – Open Water Tour, France

International Staff Selection

Bill Furniss – (coach) – Olympic Games, London

Mike Peyrebrune – (sports science support) – Olympic Games, London

Glen Smith – (coach) – Paralympic Games, London

Jamie Main – (coach) – Flanders Cup, Antwerp * Aspiring World Performers, Edinburgh

MASTERS SWIMMING

Masters Swimming in the County has gone from strength to strength in the last year.

We have hosted the East Midlands Masters Inter-County Competition, which our A team won, but just as pleasing was the fact that we were also able to field sufficient swimmers to also fill a second lane with a B team.

One of the Clubs in the County successfully held a Masters Open Meet, and this is now established as an annual event. We held our first Masters Swimming Clinic for current Masters Swimmers, initially limited to those who have represented the County at previous events. Many more Clubs within the County are setting up Masters Sections, with dedicated Masters sessions, which is reflected in the County Team being drawn from Swimmers from Clubs across the County.

I still regularly receive requests for information on training opportunities for Masters who are moving in to the County, and I try to direct them to those opportunities that will be local to where they will be. To do this I do need all clubs to let me know if and what Masters provision they currently or will shortly offer, so that I can respond fully to enquiries.

SYNCHRONISED SWIMMING Elaine Walters

What a year! With Britain's Got Talent in May and the Olympics in August we've had 15 new swimmers interested in Synchro this year alone, that brings us up to 29 swimmers - only problem is we now don't have enough coaches, but we are working on it.

The swimmers have done really well in the two competitions they entered. Firstly, the Robin Hood, which was a great success, they came away with 1 Silver & 1 Bronze medal. (Our thanks to Bernie Walker for presenting the medals. We have already booked the pool for next year - 5th May 2013). Then there was the Birmingham Novice competition at the end of September where they left with a Gold & 2 Silver medals out of four events.

They also enjoyed showing off their skills at the Nottinghamshire ASA Centenary Gala - It made a nice change for our younger swimmers to be able to show what they are capable of.

The girls also completed 20 ASA awards, and are working to increase their stamina and basic skill levels. We have 8 swimmers training with the East Midland Region Synchro Squad for swimmers aged 14 & under.

With the continued support of our parents & supporters, we are hoping that Synchro in Nottingham will progress further.

WATER POLO Chris Freebury

The problems in the running of the Water Polo League have now been resolved satisfactorily and we are about to complete our first season under the new administrative procedures. These have involved a few changes both to protocol and to personnel. The League is still run by a Committee whose principle officers meet to determine functional issues which are later ratified by the League Committee. This system seems to have worked admirably.

We are very grateful for the help we receive from the Notts A.S.A and some of their Committee members-Brian Barnett, Kate Bull and Wendy Coles in particular have been a great help to us.

We are now featured on the new Website which includes our Handbook and League Tables. We hope to include the League Rules also in due course.

This season has been very successful and the League has run very smoothly indeed in comparison to previous years. There have been very few re-arrangements and the two Cup competitions have run well and on time.

Our **Cup Finals** will be held **5th November (K/O Cup) at Hucknall 9pm** and the **8th November (H/C Cup) Bechdale 8.30 pm** and we hope to have the Notts. A.S.A President to present the medals.

The latest League table will be completed by the end of October and it is very likely to come down to goal difference between two or three of the teams.

We made a useful contribution to the Notts. Centenary celebrations and we were very pleased to be invited to stage a demonstration match and a session of Junior Water Polo which went down very well and served to demonstrate that Water Polo is not the brutal sport it once was but a skilful and fast moving game which will appeal to competitive swimmers of both sexes. We were also present at the Centenary meal and were pleased to be able to invite some of our former luminaries.

Our new administration recently succeeded in increasing the enthusiasm and participation of the Clubs in the Regional Training Centre now that the coaching issues there have been sorted out and we are indeed very grateful to Tim Dunsbee for his assistance in this regard. Tim took over from April and our figures went up from 10 or 15 people to about 30/40 people for that term. This is excellent and bodes well for the future.

During the year we have provided Officials' courses to about 75 people either as referees or table officials- many from outside our County and Region and we have further courses planned for 2013.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

AQUAFORCE WINNERS

Outstanding contribution at club level:

Gren Greaves - Sutton SC

Outstanding contribution at County/Regional level:

No nominations

Long Service Award (25 years or more):

Kath Kemp /Jean Grainger

Young Volunteer - under 18 years:

Amelia Dudley Southwell SC

Outstanding Contribution by an 18 to 25 year old:

Grant Robe - Portland

EAST MIDLAND REGION AQUAFORCE WINNERS FROM NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

**Gren Greaves
Amelia Dudley
Grant Robe**

NATIONAL WINNERS Grant Robe

We have a very large number of referees –perhaps the largest in the country for a League of our size and have piloted Young Officials for some years now in Water Polo. Three of our referees (myself and two 22 year olds-Luke Williamson and Chris Freebury jnr.) were invited to the recent FINA International Referee School held in Loughborough and all have completed their FINA International qualification. We continue to provide referees and officials to the Midland and National Leagues as well as World and European Championships and all of our referees are updated on FINA issues annually.

Our plans for the future include the possibility of a Notts. Junior Competition over the winter months since the East Midlands Competition is now too disparate to serve as a useful development vehicle.

Report of Leagues Secretary Maureen Shaw

First and foremost I would like to thank all our Clubs for their support this year. As you are aware it has been a year of change for the Leagues and generally the changes made were well received. It was stated that the new programme and timetable would not be written in stone but would just be the start of re-organization of the Leagues. After consultation with all the Clubs it was evident that further changes were required to improve the League structure and more opportunity needed to develop our younger swimmers. It was pleasing to receive constructive feedback from the Clubs and the Swimming Leagues Committee would continue to strive to make further improvements as necessary.

It is important that we work closely with all Clubs and Coaches in order to keep the Leagues an important part of swimming development.

LEAGUES 2013

In response to all the feedback received and following a well debated Registration Meeting the changes and amendments to the 2013 Leagues programmes were passed as follows:-

STAGE 1

Gala not available to swimmers who have achieved a Midland District Qualifying time

Relays 4 x 25m for 8/9 years

Relays 4 x 50m for 10/11 years

Additional Gala included for June 29th 2013

STAGE 2

Relays 4 x 50m

Remove 200 I.M.

Age Groups: 10/U 12/U 14/U OPEN

Relays 4 x 50m

Cannon 8 x 50m

STAGE 3

Age Groups: 12/U 14/U OPEN

Events 100m

Relays 4 x 50m

100m I.M. all age groups

Cannon 6 x 50m

It was agreed by all Clubs that the Stage 2 and Stage 3 Galas were at the wrong time of the year for maximizing development of swimmers.

It was passed that the Stage 2 League would be swum in the autumn and Stage 3 swum in the Spring.

Additionally a request was made to spread out the Relay events in all the programmes and was agreed by all present.

All Clubs voted in favour of the changes taking effect from January 2013.

In addition the following points of discussion at the Swimming Leagues Management meetings were as follows:-

LAPTOPS

Problems have arisen at a number of pools regarding the positioning and power of laptops.

Consequently, the League Managers made a request to the Clubs asking them to provide two laptops at each Gala to try and overcome any future issues.

TROPHIES

The Overall League winner's Trophy for 2011 had not been formally presented. After researching its whereabouts and collecting all the results, the Winners were Leander.

It was decided that in future this Trophy would be presented at the County Champs (After the January Stage 1 Gala) and should be returned to the Leagues Committee after 1 year.

The Cranfield Spoons Trophy had been traced and returned and would be presented in the future.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer reported to the Committee that the Leagues had managed to "keep in the black" and a breakdown on all pools had been provided. The following recommendations were passed:-

Registration Fees: These will remain unchanged for the forthcoming year.

Gala Entrance Fees: A slight increase to be made with effect from January 2013 and the new door fees will be:

£2.50

£1.00 concessionary (unchanged)

REGISTRATION LISTS

The League Managers and Gala Coordinators have experienced major issues in checking swimmers registrations against the team sheets. Different formats had been submitted by Clubs and the task of properly checking was impossible in the time allotted before the Gala.

Our webmaster was to ensure that downloads of all the forms to be used would be on the website asap and it was suggested that no other format should be accepted in the future.

Format: First Name/Surname in alpha order

Boys and Girls combined

Age as at last round of competition (not just date of birth)

LEAGUE EXPENSES

The League Managers raised the point that there had been lots of anomalies in the completion of the income analysis sheets. Some of the expenses charged for refreshments and 1 raffle prize had been excessive, therefore, it was decided to impose a ceiling of £15.00 and hoped the Clubs would adhere to this request.

THANK YOU to all the many volunteers who have contributed to the smooth running and success of the Leagues.

To our Swimming Leagues Management Committee for their dedication and support and finally Special thanks go to our League Managers (Alex Bernie & Roy) for their huge commitment and tireless enthusiasm.