

# Andover Swimming and Water Polo Club

[www.andoverswimming.co.uk](http://www.andoverswimming.co.uk)

Chairman: Don McEwen  
Secretary: Vacant

Affiliated to ASA South East Region

## Chairman's Report 2009

Once again we have reached that time in the year where I have the pleasure of telling you what you already know. Our club has gone from strength to strength this year across all aspects of our activities, including the club administration.

More on this in a moment, first I would like to thank our swimmers. Without their commitment, motivation, enthusiasm and sheer hard work we could not achieve what we do, be this in competitions or in lessons.

Similarly a big thank you to all our teachers and others who spend hours on poolside every week working with the swimmers to develop their skills and abilities which I believe not only makes them great swimmers but stand them in good stead across all aspects of their lives today and into the future.

If you consider where our successes over the last few years have come from you could quickly highlight a number of factors which when taken together have allowed us to achieve. One vitally important piece of this puzzle that we all tend to forget when making such a list is the development of a good sound technique base. Without this base any development into competitive swimming is significantly harder and longer. The lessons we hold on Monday nights are designed by Cheryl to develop this strong skill base and I'm sure you will agree about how well this area of the club is developing.

We are now seeing a movement of swimmers up through the classes to Junior Squad and from Junior Squad to senior Squad.

There are a lot of new faces in the lessons and I would like to welcome you all to the club. Welcome to all our new members across all of the age ranges, we look forward to training with you all in 2009.

Every class is taken by a level 2 Swim teacher, supported by level 1 teachers in most cases. (Please remember that every person working within the club is a volunteer, no one gets paid, the only thing they get out of it is satisfaction that the kids are having fun. So please next time you talk to one of the teachers please make a point of thanking them for all they do).

We had more swimmers from the lessons and Barracuda's competing in our Age and Aggregate's this year which was great to see. This shows that not only are their skills growing but also their self belief and confidence. Well done to all those who took part.

We are continuing to look for new teachers so come on parents let's get you involved. We can give you all the training you need.

On the competitions front we have had great success. We started the year by being promoted in the NSLS Galas (was Speedo League) and we have held that position. The NSLS galas are one of three of our principle external competitions for the year and I would ask you all to check the club calendar and put the dates for 2009 in you diaries now. We really need to field the strongest team possible and need every swimmer to be available for selection for these events. Please get the dates in your diaries NOW. The other events are of course the Hampshire County Championships and the County Development Meet. The County's and the Development Meet across 5 weekends and are the primary event of our Calendar. It is a primary aim of the club to take full squads to these events in 2009 so please make sure it's in your diary.

Once again we have had a fantastic year where clubs records have fallen and PB's smashed repeatedly.

Here is just a selection of our competition successes:

### **OPEN MEETS**

OPEN MEETS ENTERED: 9          NUMBER OF SWIMMERS: 58

3 Long Course - 2 at Aldershot, 1 at Millfield

12 new long course club records went to:-

Sam Winchcombe  
Thomas Hunt  
Phoebe Rochford  
Jenna Cannon  
Jack Bayliss  
Alex Lee  
Charlotte Crosby  
Natalie Thomas  
Chris Lee

### **HAMPSHIRE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS**

We had 7 swimmers who qualified for 29 events – Chris Lee/Mathew Dewey/Alex Lee/  
Jack Bayliss/Natalie Thomas/Charlotte Crosby/Alice Sims

We were in the medal positions with Natalie Thomas coming 1<sup>st</sup> in both the 200m Freestyle and 200m IM, 2<sup>nd</sup> in 1500m Freestyle and 50m Freestyle and 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 100m Freestyle. Charlotte Crosby came 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 200m Freestyle and Jack Bayliss 1<sup>st</sup> in the 50m Breaststroke which qualified him for the Open Final where he came 4<sup>th</sup>. He was also 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 100m Breaststroke.

Jack and Natalie both qualified for events in the South East Championships.

## **HAMPSHIRE COUNTY DEVELOPMENT COMPETITION**

We had a big turnout of 24 swimmers competing this year.

The final BAGCAT positions for swimmers up to the age of 14 years, medals were awarded up to 15<sup>th</sup> place which included 12 of our swimmers. These were:-

Phoebe Rochford	Callum Scott
Jessica Matthews	Will Henshaw
Hayley Smith	Alex Lee
Megan Young	Chris Wiseman
	Chris Lee
	Thomas Hunt
	Mat Dewey
	Sam Hunt

Will Henshaw came first overall in the 11yrs age group.

## **CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS**

In January we applied for licensing of our internal Club Championships. By doing so all swims are recorded on the British Swimming Rankings and enables swimmers, with the qualification time, to enter Hampshire County Competitions. This has involved a lot of work but has been successful.

200m Championships	<u>2008</u>	38 Swimmers Entered
	<u>2007</u>	37 Swimmers Entered
400m Championships	<u>2008</u>	19 Swimmers Entered
	<u>2007</u>	15 Swimmers Entered
Age & Aggregate Championships	<u>2008</u>	70 Swimmers Entered – 275 Swims
	<u>2007</u>	80 Swimmers Entered – 299 Swims

Although no Championship Records were broken in 2008, there were a number of swims that were very close and I suspect that at the 2009 championships we may well see several records broken

We also had several swimmers at the National Masters Championships again this year with personal successes in many events. As a Club we would like to see even more swimmers at this event next year, especially as our Masters Squad continues to grow in numbers.

Many of our swimmers take part in other activities ranging from Hockey and Rugby to Triathlons and Biathlons very successfully and still find time to support the club fully when asked to and I thank you all for that. I would like especially to mention Margaret Smith who has the somewhat questionable honour of being our oldest competing member.

Margaret is a fantastic role model for us all. She competes very successfully in her Modern Triathlons, once again coming 1<sup>st</sup> in the National Masters Competition, she is always ready and willing to help out on poolside timekeeping etc., and her training ethic is amazing. She attends almost every session going when not competing and trains hard for the whole session. (Younger members take note).

Well done to all of you.

Overall we should be very proud of how competitive our swimmers now are. I cannot think of many events in any gala where we have not been in contention to win. A few years ago there used to be quite a difference in the points between us and the first placed team. Not any more. This is reflected when any of the poolside staff talk to their opposite numbers at other clubs. Andover are seen as a club 'on the up'.

As an average if we look at the individual swims in any gala or competition, 57.3% of them are PB's, evenly split between the junior and senior members of the team. Both swimmers and coaching staff should be congratulated on this achievement. Keep it up.  
(Thanks to Betsy for all the facts and figures).

We have an increasingly urgent need to develop new poolside staff. All of those who work on poolside are volunteers. We are all parents who started when their kids joined the club and have attended training courses and developed our skills. Some of us no longer have children in the club and it is time for new parents to get involved. The club is based on volunteers and we need you. Without more parents getting involved the club will ultimately fail. We will give you all the support and encouragement you need and promise not to push you past your comfort point, but we need you NOW. You do not need any experience to help on pool side, we can teach you all you need to know, all you need is a willingness to learn and a sense of humour. Be sure, we won't leave you on your own.

We also need to develop some new officials for Galas, Timekeepers, Judges, Starter, Referee, etc. One thing that never ceases to surprise me is the number of people it takes to run a club or gala, we need all your help. We are currently relying on the goodwill of people whose children have long left the club and we need to replace these with new parents whose children will be with the club for the next few years, so please don't be shy, let's hear from you. Your Club Needs You!!!

The Water Polo section of the club is growing well, coached by James Ross with new members in both the junior and senior squads.

Anyone interested in Water Polo please see James or Roger.

Financially the steps we put in place last year have worked well. Jon will explain more but in short, we were able to meet the increased costs we expected through the year. In fact due to the expected increase in pool fees being delayed we are in a position to replace some of our older and potentially unsafe equipment around the pool. Many of you will have noticed that we have changed the anti-wave lane ropes used in competition already, and we are now considering other things such as a new starting system, refurbishing the water polo goals along with some new water polo balls, new backstroke flags and even possibly ASWPC team clothing. Watch this space.

As you may be aware we have been looking at achieving Swim 21 accreditation for a few years. IT became fundamental to do so this year as without it we would not receive any more funding from the ASA or HCC. DJ took onboard the challenge of driving this through for us and collating all of the information from various sources. Many people were involved in generating the evidence required to support our bid, including most members of the committee. A large part of this evidence needed to come

from Cheryl and Nigel, showing that our teaching activities were in line with the ASA requirements and I would like to thank everyone who was involved in gathering this evidence but particularly Cheryl and Nigel for all the work they put in.

Our submission has been passed by the regional audit group and has been presented for formal approval which we should hear about soon, so fingers crossed. Many thanks to DJ for taking on this challenge as without him I don't believe we would have been able to get it ready for submission in the time that we did. If we had not we would have very little funding for 2009.

Finally I would like to thank everyone who has worked hard this year to make the year a good one. In no particular order:

The Teaching Squad led by Cheryl of Nigel, Colin, Alex, Don, Yvette, Cynthia, Charlotte, Samantha and Mo. (Assisted by Lauren and Kathryn)

Junior Squad coaches Cheryl, Nigel and Cynthia.

Senior Squad coaches Don and Colin (And many thanks to DJ, Neil, Cheryl and Nigel who have stood in when we've needed them, often at short notice).

Water Polo would not run without James, Roger, Katie, Stacey, Julia, Graham and Angie

The people who do the admin which makes everything possible, Jon, Natalie, Glen, Chris (our stalwart team managers who also put in a lot of time poolside), Betsy, Anne, Charlotte, Cheryl, Helen, Roger and Angie.

The officials who come back year after year for our home gala's, Don and Phyl Kemp, Lynda Flinn, Ian Crabb, Barrie, Martin, Gary, Janice and Alan.

All those who help at galas and other events, whipping, timekeeping, recording, door and other logistics, etc., I thank you all; we really could not manage without you.

If I've forgotten anyone I'm sorry, it's totally unintentional.

As a club, our aim is to develop a county level squad by 2009 with half the squad being Finalists. We have shown performance improvements across the club and all of us, committee, parents and swimmers need to continue the good work with commitment, hard work and enthusiasm. I know that as a club we can count on you to help us make it happen.

To close, we need your help. Without new volunteers we will not be able to run the club for your kids indefinitely. The more help we can get the easier it is for everyone.

Don McEwen