

Annual Reports 2007/8

Message from the President

I have now been your President for 6 months and I am finding it most interesting and very rewarding. So far I have attended quite a few competitions which include, speed swimming, synchronised swimming, diving, masters swimming and disabilities. Each is entirely different and it is most enjoyable to see the different aspects of the sport in Hampshire County. We certainly are a very active County Association and great credit should go to the competitors, officials and all the organisers of these events. WELL DONE. I look forward to attending more events in the second half of my year which promises to be very busy. Unfortunately we have lost two our most respected members this year, Mary Howe and Eric Ransley. Both of these contributed to the county in many ways for very many years and they will be sadly missed. I would like to wish GOOD LUCK to our county swimmers who will be representing GB in the Olympics in August:-

Gemma Spofforth	Swimming
Julia Beckett	Swimming
Jenna Randell	Syncro
Olivia Allison	Syncro
Peter Waterfield	Diving

As you all know it is our Centenary Year and we are holding an event on Saturday 27 September at the Quays. Many thanks to Cathy Beer, who has been, and still is, researching our history. The Annual County Dinner Dance will be on Saturday 22 November at Langstone Hotel, Hayling Island, and I hope that you will all be able to attend these two events.

A very big THANK YOU to all members of the Management Committee for your many hours of hard work over the last 18 months, it has been a very long year! We say goodbye and a special thank you to those who are standing down this year, after several years on the committee.

ANNE WHITE

General Secretary's Report

Following the change of the County's 'year', it seems a very long time since the last ACM! As always, it's been a very busy time, with many ups and downs, many of which are reported in other places. Changes to the Constitution have meant that our open meetings have been less regular, but have hopefully been relevant to the activities taking place in the county. Some have been poorly attended; the Management Committee has thought long and hard about how to encourage more people to come along, mostly without success. However, we continue to try and are grateful to those who attend regularly and offer their help and advice.

One meeting which was very well attended was our first County Training Day and Conference which was held at Southampton Solent University on 30th September 2007 and was attended by more than 80 people, some of whom have never attended a County meeting before. The day consisted of a comprehensive set of courses, some CPD, some not, but all very relevant to the running of aquatic sport today. Tea and coffee was available throughout the day and we were provided with a tasty lunch by the University catering staff which set us up well for the second round of courses in the afternoon. At the end of the day, we were able to introduce those taking part to the President, John Davies, to other members of the Management Committee and to our Regional Development Officer, Alex Message. This was a good opportunity for those new to the workings of the ASA to find out a little about how the system works and who does what in both the County and the Region. Past Presidents were invited to join us for tea and chat at this session. As this was the first day of its kind in the County, we decided to encourage people to attend by making it free to members of clubs in the County. Funding was provided by HCASA and by South East Region. We were a little disappointed that some people booked places and didn't turn up and that others did not attend

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the courses they had booked. With this in mind, we will make a charge for this year's Conference, in the hope that people will value more that for which they have paid! We aim to learn from experience! Although many people had input into the day, either beforehand or by running courses on the day, the bulk of the work was undertaken by our Partnership Swimming Development Officer, Lee Spindlow. We are very grateful to Lee for his work in putting together the day and are looking forward to this year's Conference which takes place on 12th October at the same venue.

This brings me nicely on to another 'first' for the County. 2008 saw the introduction of an affiliation fee which was collected by ASA alongside its own fee. The reason for this levy was simple. We need to raise funds to increase our contribution to the funding of our PSDO. In the years since we have had the services of the post, we have received exceptionally good service. In fact, without it, many of our activities would not have happened. We have found that having the services of a professional has released our volunteers to work on the things they are good at while still providing for swimmers, particularly in the area of development. Since Lee has been in post, his work programme has become wider to include all disciplines and we feel we really get value for money.

We are also grateful for the input given by our Regional Development Officers. We have had 3 during this period – Alex Message is on maternity leave and has been covered first by Helen Beckley, and now by Karen Woolland. All have made themselves available to us, attending meetings and giving valuable input.

As mentioned by our President, some people are stepping down from their posts this year. Some vacancies have been filled, but as always, we have vacancies both on the Management Committee and for other roles that do not involve attending Management meetings. Please look to see if you or anyone you know would be able to fulfil these roles. Some are more time consuming than others, but all are vital in keeping our sport moving forward in the County.

Sue Lambert,
General Secretary

Swimming Technical Officials Examinations

We have now entered a new era for Swimming Technical Officials.

Out goes the old instructional course, theory exams and practical assessments in exchange for the less formal but more challenging, for the individuals and the qualified technical officials/assessors, of the 'Workbooks' and Final practical assessments.

Although, this was seen as a less than satisfactory way forward by some, it has proved very popular with the volunteers and to date the results of using the workbooks have been positive.

Last year saw the 1st new Referee candidate workbook, theory course, exam and final assessments. We had a number of people start the course, but only a few individuals sat the theory exam in November 2007. Mark Randles is the 1st newly qualified Referee in the County having completed his practical assessment earlier this year. Pam Mattos has passed her theory exam and awaits the opportunity for her practical assessment. Congratulations to both these individuals.

Applications for technical officials training have been:

Qualification sought	2007	2008	Comments
Judge Level 3 (Referee)	4 (*)	5	(*) – 9 candidates started the workbooks but did not complete in time for exams. They will have the opportunity to complete and sit exam this November 2008.
Judge Level 2S (Starter)	0	1	Mick Campbell only applicant – passed.
Judge Level 2	0	0	No individuals have qualified as Judge L1 to undertake this training yet.
Judge level 1	6	46	1st Candidate passed – Andy Whitehead. Large number from Channel Islands
Club Timekeepers (courses)	0	62 (7*)	(*) – completed or scheduled. Maximum of 10 candidates per course. Thus far 31 newly qualified timekeepers

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Whilst this has been a change for all, especially the introduction of 'mentors' for workbook candidates, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Course Leaders, Mentors and Practical's Assessors for their support. They have all done an excellent job.

We always need more assistants, so step forward if you're interested.

Particular thanks to Sue Lambert, Graeme Lowe, Mark Randles, Linda Charlesworth and Anne Perriam for undertaking the 1st Club Timekeepers courses, together with myself. We have all learnt from the experience and I am sure we can improve the delivery in the future.

I'd like to recommend that my title is changed to reflect the new format of training and education to something more in line with this – such as Technical Officials (Swimming) Training Co-ordinator.

VALUING VOLUNTEERS

As we try to improve the options for volunteers within the County, can I encourage clubs to undertake/arrange 'non-technical' official's training/education, and share this with clubs around them. Courses such as ARES21 (timing kit), Recording (computer/non-computer), announcing, team manager training (we have the tutors) or even just general introduction to what galas/competitions are all about. There are always opportunities for formal courses which are published to club secretaries and Swim 21 co-ordinators, but unfortunately these are not always being well disseminated.

George Adamson
Swimming Officials Examinations Secretary
& County Workforce Volunteer Coordinator

Swimming Report

Summary

This has been a challenging period for swimming in Hampshire.

The highlights are clearly the selection of Gemma Spoforth (Portsmouth Northsea) to compete in the 100m and 200m backstroke in the Beijing Olympics and the start of construction of the new 50m pool at the Mountbatten Centre in Portsmouth.

Apart from this, swimming at the highest level has been in the doldrums this year, with a disappointing result in the annual Inter County competition in Sheffield and no team from the county in the Speedo League Final.

Results at the County Championships, especially in younger age groups, continue to improve year on year. This period has seen two championships each of which has resulted in tens of new championship best performances. Our main problem is that we have nothing in the county to compete with private schools like Plymouth, St, Bede's, Millfield that offer bursaries to promising swimmers and no sports oriented university courses to compete with Universities like Bath and Loughborough, which means that our best swimmers tend to move out of the County in their mid teens.

Competition

In this 18 month period, the county has organised two County Championships and one Development Competition.

The 2007 Championship followed the pattern of previous years. The number of entries in the Youth age groups was disappointing, but the BAGCAT competition was fully subscribed.

In 2008 some changes were made. The distance events were held long course for the first time (because swimmers must have long course times to qualify for the national championships). There were problems with this event. The management of Aldershot Garrison managed to lose our confirmed booking. After extensive negotiation we were able to reinstate the booking, but with a reduced amount of time. The number of entries in the 800m and 1500m is extremely high. Neighbouring counties expect 1 or 2 heats, we had 8 heats of each!

Secondly, entry times for the older age groups were softened to encourage more entries. There were more entries in these age groups compared to 2007, but still not as many as we would like.

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Subject to availability of pools, we expect to operate more or less the same pattern in 2009 and to set entry times are around the same levels.

The Development Competition in 2007, like the previous year, was held over 2 weekends. The four day format resulted in a low pressure competition and virtually no rejections other than for swimmers who had already swum faster than the limit times. However, the increased number of entries did not cover the increase of costs. To address this, the 2008 competition has been opened to swimmers from outside the county. (If the event is oversubscribed, priority will be given to swimmers from Hampshire.

During this period, we have asked different clubs to provide non-technical officials (door, competitors stewards, etc.) and recruited additional volunteers to operate the electronic timing and meet management systems. This has to some extent addressed the increasing difficulty in getting sufficient technical officials to run events.

Swimming will be celebrating the centenary of Hampshire County ASA by hosting an Inter-County swimming competition at Southampton in September.

Facilities

Currently, the County has three facilities available to it that are more or less suitable for competitions at County level:

- Aldershot Garrison (8 lane 50m). It is getting more and more difficult to book events at Aldershot because the National Synchro Team has taken up residence. As a County we need to rejoice in the success of our Synchronised Swimmers and the selection of our County as the HQ for Synchro in the UK, but it does mean that it is difficult to book the only 50m pool in the county for competition.
- Waterlooville Leisure Centre (8 lane 25m). Horizon Leisure continues to support competitive swimming; the staff makes it easy for us to arrange competition.
- The Quays, Southampton (8 lane 25m). This remains a frustrating pool to use. Much of the equipment on which we are dependent, such as the electronic timing and PA system are prone to failure.

After many years of talk, work has started on the new 50m pool at the Mountbatten Centre in Portsmouth. This promises to provide the premier facility in the county, if not the Region, with warm-down pool and plenty of space and facilities off poolside. We look forward to the opening in the middle of next year.

Development

The County continues to support the development of swimming in the County.

At the elite level, we provide special training facilities for the 20 top senior and junior swimmers in the county (below those selected for National and Regional trainings schemes).

Thanks to support from Hampshire County Council, we are able to provide these swimmers with a programme of training camps, special events and physiotherapy support. In particular, a weekend camp was held at Crystal Palace (lead by Stewart Crowe from Fareham and Karen Marchant from Hart) with intensive pool training supported by a full programme of land training.

Squads for 2008/09 have been selected, based on the National Rankings at the end of August 2008 on Olympic events.

At lower levels, the county provides financial support for the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Partnership Development Officer, who organises training for teachers, coaches, events for those youngsters considering competitive swimming and building links between schools and clubs.

Mike Lambert,
Swimming Secretary

Masters Swimming Report

The year 2007 commenced on a sad note with the deaths of popular master swimmer Chris Hunt. Havant and Waterlooville club were very shocked he collapsed while training and died shortly afterwards at the age of only 41. Chris was a strong pool and open water swimmer and has been very sadly missed by his club. His funeral was attended by many master swimmers and a trophy in his name was awarded at the Isle of Wight Sandown to Shanklin sea swim in August and presented to the winner by Chris's mother at Shanklin.

Three of our older swimmers have also passed away since early 2007. Tony Weston from Romsey and Totton, Jean Cameron, a founder member of Isle of Wight Masters and more recently, Ron Kimber, Royal Navy, who had bravely fought cancer for many years. All were regular county competitors.

Competitions held both in 2007 and 2008 within the county included Guernsey, Isle of Wight and the County Championships. The popular Royal Navy meet, though held at Yeovilton, is organised by Gary Thomas who is based at HMS Temeraire, the 2008 meet being particularly successful and competitive. Numbers have dropped a little at both Guernsey and the Isle of Wight in the last two years, reasons including clashes with, or proximity to, other meets and no doubt the escalating cost of travelling to the islands.

British Masters Records were broken at the first SER Long Course meet which was held in 2007 at K2 Crawley, by Jo Corben, Fareham Nomads, Neil Jackson, Basingstoke, Sue Price, Hampshire North and Joan Kidd, Isle of Wight in backstroke and breaststroke events.

The move to Waterlooville for the **County championships** proved popular as did the inclusion of 25m. events which attracted many new Category 1 swimmers who are eligible for the Championships. Winners of the top club trophy were Winchester City Penguins. Our 2007 County President John Davies was very supportive and encouraging throughout the year. The 2008 event will be held again at Waterlooville in July.

The late summer of 2007 was busy with **Open Water** events and the introduction of the South Coast Grand Prix which attracted Hampshire swimmers some of whom also competed in the 5K Open Water event in Lake Bled at the **European Masters** Championships in Slovenia. Joan Kidd, Isle of Wight, Diane Ford and Geoff Stokes, both Rushmoor Royals all broke British Masters records in the pool at these championships.

Autumn for masters began with SER Short Course competition at Guildford followed by the ASA National Masters at Ponds Forge in October where **William Felgate** broke the 50 fly record for the 25-29 years age group and **Diane Ford** the 100m. breaststroke. **Joan Kidd** broke her own 50m. breaststroke record, her fifth short course record in her new 80- 84 years age group. This led to Joan becoming the first Master swimmer to be awarded the **Napier Trophy** following successful nomination by her club.

In November the County team, though somewhat depleted from the 2007 squad, came third in the **SER Intercounty competition** and were placed 7th. Nationally out of 26 counties. As always team spirit was excellent.

The New Year 2008 started on a very positive note with a group of hardy Hampshire swimmers taking part in the **World Winter Swimming Championships** at Tooting Bec Lido. The day was bright and frosty and the water temperature was a bracing 6 degrees Celsius! It was the first time the Championships have been held outside Scandinavia and with competitors from all over the world taking part in the two-day festival. **Alistair Garmendia**, Eastleigh and Oaklands, was world champion in 25m. breaststroke 25-29 years. **Rory Fitzgerald** 45-49 years claimed bronze in 25m. breaststroke and was champion in 50m. freestyle. Jane Dodd and Jenny Ball took to the water in the non-competitive freestyle event. Wet suits were definitely not allowed!

British Masters Records have continued to be broken by Diane Ford, now in her new 65-69 years age group and Joan Kidd including their successes at the World Masters Championships held in Perth, Australia just recently. Other medal winners included Geoff Stokes RR, Morris Dick BBF and Jenny Ball IW who all

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enjoyed the event Down Under, though there were aspects of the organisation which Hampshire ASA do much more efficiently!

Jenny Ball
Hampshire ASA Masters Secretary

Diving Report

Although diving in Hampshire is progressing well there have not been any County Diving Competitions as there is still only one active club within the County.

The major focus of the diving within Hampshire for the last few months has been qualifying GB and the divers places at the Beijing Olympics. Peter Waterfield has qualified for a place in the 10m Platform event and Stacie Powell, Blake Aldridge and Monique McCarroll have all qualified GB for places at the Olympics. They yet have to qualify themselves, which will hopefully happen at the British Trails in mid June.

The major achievements of divers from Hampshire:

In 2007 Southampton Diving Academy won the Dawdon Trophy which is awarded to the club scoring the highest team points from National Age Group Competitions which included both the National age Group and Junior Elite events. Due to a change in the National Diving Competition structure the Junior Elite Diving Competition is now a GB event so Southampton will retain the Dawdon Trophy as they scored the highest team points at the National Age Group Competition 2008 hosted at the Quays in Southampton in March.

Hampshire divers claimed 2 gold, 8 silver and 3 bronze medals at the Winter Nationals held in Manchester with the Juniors winning an additional 3 gold and 2 silver medals.

At the Fina World Series in Beijing Peter Waterfield was placed 8th on 10m Platform, Blake Aldridge with Tom Daley won Bronze on 10m Synchro, Stacie Powell 8th on 10m and Monique McCarroll (with Sarah Barrow) 7th on 10m Synchro.

Chris Mears (15) and Max Brick (16) have represented GB at senior level at the XIV Diving Grand Prix 2008 in Moscow in April.

Masters Diving

In January Hampshire Masters Divers took part in the European Diving Competition, coming back with a haul of ten medals between them. In the

Mens 45-49 yrs Tony Hunter: 1m Gold, 3m Silver, Platform Gold.

Mens 40-44 yrs Peter Nicholson: 1m Bronze

Womens 16-24yrs Kim Purkiss: 1m Bronze, 3m Bronze, Platform Gold

Womens Novice 16-24yrs Christine Aukett: 1m Gold, 3m Gold, Platform Gold

In April the Master competed in the XII FINA World Masters Diving Championships in Perth with Lindsay Dibden Mens 45-49years winning Gold medals on 1m and Platform and a bronze medal on the 3m springboard.

Coaches

Charley Tomkys was chosen as a GB coach for the XIV Diving Grand Prix 2008 in Moscow in April and was recognised as the Sports Coach UK Young Coach of the Year.

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Volunteers

Annie Clewlow, Chair of Southampton Diving Academy was selected as one of four special volunteers who were invited to attend the BBC Sports Personality of the year awards as a guest of the ASA.

Clubs

Southampton Diving Academy is the first performance diving club to be awarded Swim 21.

Frank Clewlow,
Diving Secretary

Synchronised Swimming Report

As Synchro Secretary I am delighted to inform the membership of a successful year for synchronized swimming In Hampshire

At the National Age Group Championships and British Championships in December, the senior titles were a clean sweep for Rushmoor, who won the Team Title, the solo title (Jenna Randall) and the duet title (Olivia Allison & Jenna). It was a clean sweep of medals Bronze, silver & gold for Rushmoor in the solo event, and Silver and Gold in the duet event. Lauren Smith won the Holland Trophy with the highest number of aggregate marks and together with Olivia Allison the "Swimmer of the year" Title

The National Age Groups was equally as successful for Hampshire, with golds, silver and bronze medals going to Hampshire clubs in all age groups and particularly pleasing gold for Portsmouth Victoria in the 19 & under team competition.

At the selections for Great Britain 7 swimmers were selected for the GB senior squad and 7 were selected for the junior squad. The senior squad athletes are no full time working at the Centre of Excellence in Aldershot. The improvement in these swimmers has been incredible and once again we are competing on the world stage with Jenna & Olivia qualifying last month for the Olympics in China this year.

The junior GB squad have just returned from the Junior European championships, and the team finished in 10th place and will shortly be going to the world championships.

The Hampshire residential camp, was again a huge success and the girls rally benefited from this years coach which was Amy Casey. Her coaching skills were excellent, earlier in the year the GB duet had gone to her in Canada for extra coaching, and were very lucky to have her. She had the skill to work with youngest swimmers 10 years old to the GB junior swimmers. Importantly the girls really enjoy the fun and camaraderie side of the camp which we was always the aim. Grateful thanks must go to the volunteer coaches, Julie Andrews, Vicki Levold, Emma Mattinson, Kathryn Pounder, Jan Mattinson and Lisa Andrews (dryland coach) they too benefited from working with a top international coach and without their input the camp would not be so successful.

Janet Selley
Syncro Secretary

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Water Polo Report

Hampshire League

Hampshire League 07/08

Teams Entered: City of Southampton, Bournemouth, Weymouth A, Weymouth B, Basingstoke Bluefins, Andover, Southampton University

Not yet concluded.

Bournemouth has as good as won the league with Southampton just missing out on goal difference. Weymouth entered a second team for the purposes of development, Southampton likely to enter a second team 2008/09

Pauline Lipscombe has continued as league secretary.

Lady Richmond Brown Tournament

Basingstoke winners of this year's tournament which was held on Sunday 9th March 2008.

	Played	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Basingstoke	4	4	0	0	41	30	12
Bournemouth	4	3	0	1	21	16	10
City of Southampton	4	1	0	3	20	24	6
Weymouth	4	1	0	3	20	27	6
Southampton Uni	4	1	0	3	22	27	6

Women's Water Polo

Basingstoke and Southampton University continue to develop their teams with entries into London League and friendly regional competition.

Inter-County Competitions

Hampshire fielded a young team in the U16 tournament in October. Hampshire finished in 5th place.

Development

Development sessions continue to be hosted at the Basingstoke Aquadrome on the 2nd Sunday of each month. These are funded by the SE Region. Boys and Girls are welcome to attend.

Hampshire teams continue to support the South East Regional Leagues.

A Level 1 coaching course has been held in Basingstoke. This was well received although further Level 1 courses and Level 2 courses are still required.

Referees courses are being run annually by the south east region and these are being supported by Hampshire.

A short series of Water Polo sessions were run by Toynbee and Hampshire to introduce young people into sport. This was very successful and similar schemes should be run throughout the area. Credit to Jo Cridland and Lee Spindlow.

Water polo shall also feature for the first time in the 2008 Hampshire Youth Games.

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Summary

Hampshire water polo continues to provide a fun and friendly set of competitions aimed at the level of the people involved. The goals of Hampshire water polo continue to be getting people to play water polo and enjoy it.

Please visit www.hampshireswimming.org/waterpolo

Trevor Jones
Water Polo Secretary

Financial Statement

The counties finances remain in a healthy state despite a shortfall this year. This can be explained by a number of factors – the introduction of a County Conference, the increased costs of pool hire and catering and the expansion of activities in water polo and disabilities swimming.

Despite the success of the swimming championships it is clear that once again there has been a decrease in income from them, which will need to be considered for next year.

Generally all of the disciplines should be congratulated for staying largely within the budgets that were set.

Unfortunately I am unable to be at the ACM and so will not be able to answer any questions. If there are any unresolved questions after the meeting please feel free to contact me by e-mail at pagehouse@ntlworld.com

Mike Page
Treasurer