

## HAMPSHIRE SYNCHRO REPORT 2008/9

Last year we re-introduced the Hampshire synchro competition, which both of the Hampshire clubs were delighted about, this year we are introducing some routines.

The Hampshire Residential camp again took in place August. A coach from Canada was the lead coach and although very good, was not as popular as the coach the previous year. During the camp the routine that was swum in the Hampshire Centenary display was choreographed. Only a few hours were spent in putting it together and training the routine so as not to deflect from the purpose of the camp, which is development. However the girls did swim it fairly well in the September at the centenary display. Again grateful thanks must go to the volunteer coaches at the camp, Julie Andrews, Lisa Andrews, Jan Mattinson, Samantha Mattinson (Rushmoor) and Chris Martin (Portsmouth Victoria) without them giving a up a week of their holiday, we would not be able to run the camp

There were good results in the Multi regional competition for the Hampshire clubs. At the national championships there was some disappointment, although still a number of golds for Hampshire. With Rushmoors top swimmers in the GB squad not being permitted to take part, due to an international event. this meant the British Championship duet and solo title went out of Hampshire for the first time in seven years. The senior team title, also went to a northern club on a technicality. Rushmoor won the Combo competition comfortably with a very inexperienced team and did get the highest marks for their free and technical team routines, but their walk onto the deck was judged to be overtime which meant they were awarded penalty marks and went down to second place. Gold medals went to Portsmouth in the 19 & under age group competition, and the team medal went to Rushmoor. There were many excellent individual performances which resulted in a number of Hampshire swimmers being invited to join the selection for the GB development squad and the junior squad. At the Nationals the ASA presented the Mary Black award to Janet and John Selley (Rushmoor) for their services to synchronised swimming.

The first six months of the year have been very quiet for synchronised swimming, with clubs concentrating on the skill levels required for entry in this years National Championships and Age group events.

On the international scene, Hampshire swimmers have been busy representing Great Britain. Sadly in September Ellie George (PV) was dropped from the GB squad, but Cherry Wilson, and Victoria Lucass (Rushmoor) were invited to join the squad. Abigail Lawrence was also invited (Rushmoor) but declined to concentrate on her school work. The senior team of 11 has 7 Hampshire swimmers in the squad, all from Rushmoor. This year they have competed in the Bonn Open and The European Cup in Andorra. Jenna Randall and Olivia Allison continue to climb up the world rankings, and following a brilliant swim in Andorra in which they finished 6<sup>th</sup> are closer to the target countries which have been set for them.

The Junior European championships were held in this country in April. Four girls from Hampshire, three from Rushmoor and one from Portsmouth were in the squad, three other swimmers from Hampshire were selected but withdrew from the squad due to the timing of the event and their school exams. Unfortunately one of the Rushmoor swimmers had to pull out just before the competition with an injury. Cherry Wilson swum the solo and the duet for GB. Cherry is still only 15 and continue to train full time with the GB senior team, juggling her school work around her training.

We are very pleased to report that Mike Firmin, of Rushmoor was awarded at the Hampshire and Isle of Wight awards evening the Long Service Award for Services to Sport.

.Janet Selley

Synchro Secretary.