

## Berkshire & South Buckinghamshire



# ANNUAL REPORT 2019-20



## Contents 2019-2020

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Appendix - New County Speed Swimming Records





## President

I took on the role of County President in September with great trepidation and have

been very grateful for the support of the Management Board and the wider swimming community. The following reports from each discipline are comprehensive and I hope you will find them an interesting read. They show the depth of aquatic sport within the County.

Speed swimming has been very fortunate over the year as the County competition calendar runs over the winter months and was therefore largely uninterrupted by Covid.

As a member of the Artistic Community I came into the speed swimming world with little understanding of the details within the sport. I have been welcomed and given so much advice and teaching about how the sport works in terms of competition and technique so a big thank you to everyone who answered my questions even when they were the simplest!

The Development meet was well supported and provides an opportunity for swimmers who needed qualification times. I was able to attend the County Championships and see the massive amount of work involved in setting up and running such a large competition. Our thanks must go to Stuart Fillingham and Rob Moore who have worked as Swimming Events Manager and Committee member of competitions for many years but have decided to step down. We are however very grateful that they are continuing to deliver the meet technically. We need a new Promotor as soon as possible or these competitions will not continue to be run. Please contact anyone from the committee if you are able to take on this role.

I spent a very enjoyable weekend with the County team in Sheffield as they defended their place in Division 1 of the National County Team Championships. The swimmers were a credit to

the County and thanks to Joan Scarrott who gave up her weekend building the team from different clubs into a unit that swam so well for each other. She was ably assisted by our County Coaches, Alex and Adam.

The Masters meet continues thanks to Bob O'Dell and is well supported; hopefully this discipline will continue to flourish when swimming is allowed again.

Diving has been massively affected by the closure of Central Pool in Reading but continues to excel with divers winning medals at all levels which is great news. Again they were able to hold a range of competitions before lockdown. It is good to see the County clubs working together to provide comprehensive diving to the area including opportunities to move into coaching. We wish the 2 nominees all the best at the Reading Sports Awards in November.

Since the last report Artistic swimming continues, like diving, to use pools that are not completely suitable whilst they wait for a new pool in Reading. 2019 was the Reading Royals's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and it proved to be a highly successful year with club members winning many medals. Reading provided a large number of swimmers into National Squads of all ages with 4 swimmers winning a Silver medal for the team routine at the Senior World Championships in Paris. For the first time in many years the County supported an Under 12 training squad which was very successful and many of these swimmers then fed into the National Training squads. One of our Masters swimmers won a Bronze medal at the World Masters Championships. Most of the competitions would

have been held after lockdown so there has been a huge amount of disappointment having trained for many months on routines that have not been showcased.

2020 has been a very strange year with everything shut. Within all clubs the coaches have, however, been working hard through other means thanks to technology and we hope that when we are allowed back in the pools that swimmers in all areas return with new enthusiasm for the next competitive year. We should pay tribute to those coaches and volunteers that are working in strange environments to keep interest alive so that when pools reopen the clubs can continue with training and are working on training plans that will remain within the guidelines keeping swimmers and staff safe The County has a wealth of talented swimmers within all disciplines. Behind them all is a large group of coaches, volunteers and parents and I would like to recognise the hours given up and thank them all for the dedication to sport that allows children and adults to achieve in the water.

I have enjoyed my short period as President and am sure Andy Mackay will be equally supported and I wish him and the County all the best moving forward.

## Beverley Skelton July 2020



# Crystal Palace National Sports Centre



## Secretary

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## Roger Penfold MBE July 2020



## **Artistic Swimming**

The County comprises of 2 Artistic Swimming Clubs, Reading Royals and Bracknell. I have not had any feedback from Bracknell so I am not able to provide details for Bracknell for 2019 or this year.

With regard to Reading Royals they continue to be Swim Mark accredited. Training is largely in smaller pools leased by schools and remains a challenge in terms of the logistics of moving from pool to pool on training days. More importantly, younger swimmers do not have the opportunity to see more mature swimmers training and performing. This means less developed swimmers do not have the opportunity to visualise first hand what the basic skills they are learning today may be able to equip them to do in the future. There is also the challenge of having competent and qualified individuals in terms of coaching and lifesaving present at all sessions as well as moving around sound equipment to multiple locations.

The shift from Skills to Grades also remains testing, particularly for younger swimmers who are expected to move rapidly through the levels in order to gain competitive status.

Despite the challenges, the coaching team remained highly focussed throughout 2019 which led to some of the best results achieved by Reading Royals in decades (covered below). In addition, the quality of training means that the Club supplies a substantial part of the National squad across the various age ranges and pathways.

The funding provided by Berkshire & South Buckinghamshire ASA for developing some of our younger swimmers has proven invaluable. The swimmers selected were all grade 0 or 1 at the start of the training programme and as a group were provided with four sessions each lasting four hours in order to boost their ability. Every swimmer involved in this programme has moved onto higher level training as a result of the additional coaching. All athletes competed at the Combo Cup in July 2019 and won medals in their respective teams. 5 of the group became part of the 12 & Under squad with 3 selected to be in the team at the National Age Groups competition in March 2020 (silver medal winners). One swimmer also took the bronze medal in the 10 & Under Solo event at the competition. Feedback from swimmers and parents has been largely positive and some suggestions have been incorporated to take forward to the next squad. Recent social distancing policies and pool closures have meant that selecting swimmers for a 2020 programme has not taken place.

#### Competitions

#### Domestic

#### March 2019 – National Age Groups

Reading Royals - 4 silver medals and 4 bronze medals

#### April 2019 – National Championships

Reading Royals - 5 gold medals, 1 silver and 1 bronze. Winners of the Redwood Trophy with highest routine scores on record for the competition and winners of the Spencer Trophy for best duet.

#### July 2019 – Combo Cup

Reading Royals - Overall competition winners with 3 gold medals, 1 silver and 2 bronze.

#### March 2020 – National Age Groups

Reading Royals - 4 gold, 2 silver and 6 bronze medals

#### International

In 2019, the year began with 6 Reading Royals swimmers in the National Senior Squad with one leaving during 2019 due to a persistent injury.

#### March 2019 - Senior Worlds in Paris, France

3 Reading Royals swimmers in team, silver medal

#### May 2019 – LEN Senior European in St Petersburg, Russia

3 Reading Royals swimmers in team and team personal best in 2 routines.

#### May 2019 Senior Worlds in Barcelona

3 Reading Royals swimmers in team and team personal best in 3 routines

#### June 2019 – Junior Europeans in Prague

4 Reading Royals swimmers in team and team personal best in 1 routine

#### August 2019 Junior Worlds in Slovakia

4 Reading Royals swimmers in the team

In 2020, the number of Reading Royals swimmers in the Senior squad has expanded to 8

#### March 2020 – Senior Worlds in Paris, France

4 Reading Royals swimmers in team and highest score for routine performed for the first time and a silver medal.

Also in 2020, the talent pathway to the national squad currently has 4 swimmers with another swimmer due to join Reading from an Oxfordshire based club.

Additional highlights in 2019 were the Reading Sports Awards where Reading Royals swimmers won numerous awards including best team and best club.

#### Post Covid-19

Pools generally remain closed, therefore water training not possible at this time. We anticipate that some form of water based training may be allowed from September but it is likely that there will be constraints on numbers that can train at any one time.

Although the social distancing rules have been relaxed, land training outside in smaller groups, as per guidance at time of writing, is considered to be unfeasible. Therefore looking to set up on line sessions focussing on strength training.

Those swimmers that are part of the GB and England Development training squads do have regular training sessions via the internet with the national coaches. In addition, the swimmers that were in the silver medal winning team at the French Open in 2020 were also part of a GB team that delivered a national workout session via Zoom Conferencing to 300 girls and boys from England, Scotland and Wales in late May.

## John Blinkhorn June 2020

(Reviewing January 2019 to June 2020)

## Diving

#### Programme

There remain just two ASA Diving Clubs within the county boundaries:

- Amersham Diving Club who are part of Amersham Swimming Club and are based at Everyone Active operated Chiltern Pools in Amersham
- Albatross Diving Club who, since the closure of Central Pool in Reading now operate primarily out of The Abbey School, but also use other pools including Amersham.

Albatross is a SwimMark accredited club with reaccreditation submitted to the next SwimMark Board. Amersham Diving Club is part of Amersham Swimming Club so will be reaccredited with their submission.

Amersham run a primarily skills (novice) level competitive programme and have a flourishing Masters section. In addition to Skills, Albatross also have Age Group, Elite and Senior divers competing at national level and a growing Masters programme.

Programme	Amersham	Albatross
Learn to Dive	74	40
Pre-Skills/ Novice Divers	21	15
Age Group Divers	0	6
Elite Divers	0	3
Senior Divers		4
Masters/ Adult Diving	13	4
Level 2 Coaches	4	7
Level 1 Coaches	0	7
Young Leaders	0	2

#### **Competitive Calendar**

Clearly due to the Covid-19 crisis the competitive calendar for 2020 has been disrupted, but since the last report there has been several open competitions at all levels. At Novice level Albatross had success at the Gavin Brown Love to Dive competition in February with 3 gold, 1 silver and 3 bronze medals and Amersham 2 gold medals at the Surrey Skills event in January. At Age Group, Elite and Senior levels medals were secured on all 3 podiums in both Southampton and Plymouth by divers competing from Albatross.

National events with divers from Albatross were the National Age Groups in Sheffield last July with the county represented by 7 divers including Edward Beal who won gold medals on all 3 boards; the Scottish Nationals held in Edinburgh in December with the county represented by 4 divers who returned with a silver and bronze medal; the English Schools Diving Championships held at London Stratford, again in December, with the county represented by 3 divers in the Southeast Divisional Schools Team and the British National Diving Championships that were staged in January, squeezed in to the schedule before pools were closed.

This latter senior event, held in Plymouth, saw 2 Albatross divers representing Berkshire and South Buckinghamshire, compete against the top divers in the country. It is thanks in no small part to Amersham for their support in allowing pool training time, that one of the Albatross boys ranked 5<sup>th</sup> junior on the 3m springboard at this competition. It is both a massive achievement to be eligible to compete at this event and an honour to be amongst such a talented group of dedicated sportsmen and women, some of whom were using the event as part of their Olympic selection campaign.

Just the fact that the divers reached the qualification scores puts them within the top 12 of their age band and is testament to the dedication and focus given by the team of diver, parents, and coaches. The event is screened live on YouTube and watched not only by the whole diving community but also by many young aspiring divers who see the sport in action and join the club waiting lists. The 2 divers representing the county have risen steadily through the age and competitive levels to reach this point with 2 more years remaining as juniors. I make no apology for repeating my words from last year that the respect



afforded Albatross club and its divers across the country is tangible; diving is a sport which crosses club boundaries in the divers and coach support for one another, something that remains hugely beneficial in Albatross's search for pool space during this challenging period before the new pool opens.

#### **Administration & Coaching**

Both clubs remain committed to supporting past divers who wish to remain in the sport. Amersham has a thriving Masters section diving at National, International and World events and Albatross now have 4 Masters divers with 2 winning gold and silver in the Novice Women's category of the Winter Masters held in Southend in November. Over the past few years 4 divers from Albatross have taken the opportunity of full scholarships to universities in America. 3 have now graduated, but one of these is returning to take a Master's degree course whilst coaching the university dive team in Kentucky alongside pursuing a high diving stunt career. This university opportunity affords the diver both a chance to carry on in their chosen sport whilst studying and gaining a debt free degree, something the UK cannot yet match.

Albatross have part funded (along with utilising SE Regional bursaries) 3 divers to achieve their Assistant Coach (old Level 1) qualification this year and a further ex-diver his Diving Coach (old Level 2) qualification. A further diver will be utilising the new virtual learning course offered by Swim England to gain the theory element of his Assistant Coach qualification this month with the practical being completed once pools reopen. Albatross currently has a further 2 Assistant Coaches looking to gain their Diving Coach qualification and are in contact with the Institute of Swimming to see whether there may be a possibility of following the same idea as the Assistant Coach course to complete the theory element of this qualification online and the practical once pools reopen. Both clubs operate a Young Leaders scheme which encourages divers to assist gualified coaches from age 14 to maintain low coach to diver ratios. These Young Leaders are then encouraged to complete the Assistant Coach gualification at 16. Those Albatross coaches with Safeguarding training renewals this year have all completed the virtual course available during lockdown and the club are currently renewing the theory element of their life saving certificates.

SwimMark support Albatross in its operation and, during 2019, it was again recognised by Swim England as a Diving Development Centre (DDC) with funding offered to build sustainable, competitive, clubs for the future of the sport. Both county clubs are non-selective in their Learn to Dive programmes with Amersham offering local competitions for whole club participation. Both clubs are looking for their new pools to grow the clubs further and introduce Talent Identification progression (TID).

Both Amersham and Albatross have divers involved with the SE Region ACE Diving Network and the SEEDS Talent Scheme. Amersham continue to have difficulty in resourcing regional camps with coaches when there are clashes with the home programme. Albatross utilises CPD sessions offered in Southampton as part of these programmes. 2 SEEDS regional diving training sessions have been run virtually during the lockdown period and an overnight camp was run for the first time in October last year with coaches from Albatross and Southampton.

#### **Facility Development**

The redevelopment plans at Amersham have continued through the lockdown period and the new centre is still planned to open in late 2021. The current pool will remain open during the build period, but the Operator has changed from GLL to Everyone Active.

Albatross continues to train locally at the Abbey School during the week and travel at weekends to Hemel Hempstead, the London Aquatic Centre, Southampton and Southend. During the winter and spring before the pools closed Albatross were also training at Amersham once a week in support of, principally, their elite divers who needed more 3m springboard training time. As seen at the British Championships and the early open events this time was extremely beneficial and the club is hopeful that it can continue this arrangement once pools reopen. Albatross is also aware that Amersham will have a desire to develop their Skills divers further and have offered their expertise in growing from a Novice club to include Age Group diving as part of the Amersham programme should it be wanted.

The signing of the contract between Reading Borough Council and GLL has been delayed due to the Covid-19 lockdown which may well lead to a delay in build.

At this time we await the report from Swim England on June 15 that will give guidance on the reopening of pools for training, but we hope that we will be back in the water by September albeit in small groups. Both Amersham and Albatross have been providing regular training through the Zoom app to their divers during lockdown and whilst it is clear that strength and conditioning fitness is being maintained, and in some instances improved, both clubs are yet to realise the full impact of our divers being away from the boards for this significant period of time. Amersham has concerns that their older Skills divers have lost their opportunity to compete in this year's Nationals and they will be too old next year so may leave. Albatross do not have any divers in this category but recognise that it is possible that not all their Learn to Dive divers will return as they may have lost interest in the sport. Promoting diving and the clubs will be essential once we can resume but recognising that reduced numbers in the pool may be needed for safe social distancing which will put pressure on finding pool time and the economics of running a financially viable session.

#### **Local Recognition**

Albatross has 2 nominees proposed for the Reading Sports Personality Awards which will now take place in November this year.

## Emma West June 2020



## Masters

#### November 2018 - November 2019

In November 2018 the Inter-County event was hosted by Surrey at Haslemere. BSB came second locally and fifth nationally of 28 competing districts with 1365 points. Local winners were Hampshire with 1423 points, so it was quite a close encounter. 6 districts in SER came in the top 12 nationally, evidence of high calibre competition. Kirsty Johnson (50bk) from Bracknell was our sole overall winner although we had many second places.

Later in the month the Barnet 1500 (SC) drew only 3 competitors from BSB but one of those, Glen Hall (Reading), retained his title from the previous year in almost the same time. Whilst this was going on Russell Simpson (Amersham) was flying the BSB flag in The Pan Pacific MASTERS Games at the Gold Coast, Australia, competing in a in a unique 400m breaststroke (!) event.

16 of our swimmers took part in the SER MASTERS (LC) at Crawley in January 2019, gaining a total of 18 Gold medals. This year the competition was dominated by the Spencer club with 36 Gold medals, closely followed by Kent Weald on 33 Golds. Amanda Heath (Maidenhead) and Guy Emerson (Amersham) swimming with 2 others in Spencer Swim Team posted the world"s 6th fastest time ever of 5min 26.28 secs in winning the 4 X 100m mixed medley relay (240-279 years).

Bracknell MASTERS meet again included the 'no hat/no goggles' fly relay in memory of the late much respected Mike Daniell. There were no disqualifications! It was good to see Dave Milburn (Newbury) back in winning form after injury.

Only two swimmers, Bridget Bewick and Holly Moore, attended the inaugural SSE 1500 (LC) in April at Crawley but both struck Gold. Our competitors (especially the Inter-County team manager) covered more miles than usual in this period, attending events in Edinburgh, Norwich, Swansea and Guernsey. Bracknell swimmers were outnumbering Wycombe, probably as they are preparing for their 'Silver' anniversary event in March 2020.

There were 18 entries in the British MASTERS (LC) at Swansea in June, where Gregory du Tertre (Wycombe) made a clean sweep on breaststroke. Other winners were Jack Endersby (Reading) with 2 Golds, Amanda Heath and Guy Emerson with one each. Amanda and Guy achieved 3 and 4 more Golds respectively in relays.

In July Maidenhead Marlins held their second Summer MASTERS event, which was not over subscribed but did unfortunately seem to impact on our County MASTERS event held later in the year in the same pool.

We had 8 competitors at the World Championships in Korea. At the same time a couple were competing in the European MASTERS Games in Turin, which included a swim section.

The County Open MASTERS took place in September for the last time at Maidenhead Magnet Centre. This year there were 150 swimmers from 47 clubs - 29 persons alone from Wycombe District, but alas only 2 from Maidenhead itself.

Not to be outdone Bracknell fielded a good number at the SSE (SC) at Guildford but it was Amanda Heath who swept the board with 8 individual Golds followed by Charlie Messenger (Wycombe) with 4. On the same day Amy Vaal (Bracknell) pocketed 3 Golds in the SW Regional MASTERS at Westonsuper-Mare.

The National MASTERS (SC) in Sheffield in October saw good numbers from Bracknell and Wycombe (ca 40) but it was again Amanda Heath who was dominant - this time with a mere 4 Gold medals but 2 were GB records. Fittingly, in almost the final event, Wycombe team captain and all-round action woman Pip Williams took Gold on 50 Breast with a life-time best swim.

Although in principle it was this year the turn of BSB to host the Inter-County MASTERS event, sadly we were unable to negotiate appropriate pool time and it is therefore being held at Horsham (Sussex) instead. Hopefully we shall have more co-operation next year!

Events for 2020 - Bracknell MASTERS Saturday 7 March (Silver Anniversary); County Open MASTERS Sunday 13 September (tbc); SE Inter-County MASTERS Saturday 7 or Sunday 8 November (tbc)

Bob Odell - November 2019

## **Performance Swimming**

For the 2019/20 swimming season, the Committee has constituted the following members: Stuart Fillingham; Rob Moore; Jonathan Mills; Sue Green; and Gary Shields. Most of the Committee Meetings were also attended by the President of the County Association in an ex-officio capacity. The Committee has also been supported by Diana Kennedy in connection with the organisation of volunteers. All members and attendees have made an active and important contribution to the smooth running of the Committee and the events that have been organised.

As Performance Swimming Events Manager, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Committee for their ongoing support and dedication to the County.

The following four sections of this report respectively cover the key areas of responsibility of the Committee:

#### **Development Meet:**

The Committee organised and ran the eighth County Development Meet on the 13 October 2019. This was once again a successful competition, aimed at and provided for those swimmers who did not have, on entry, a County Championships qualification time in the strokes in which they were to compete. The Committee continue to re-emphasize that this meet is not a feeder meet for the County Championships and is aimed at those swimmers that do not regularly achieve County Championship consideration times.

There was a modest increase in swimmer numbers compared to the 2018 competition. As in the prioryear, the meet was run over three sessions to allow for the participation of more clubs and swimmers. This format continued to prove successful. The meet ran well on the day and had an appropriate number of entries. The sessions ran close to time and the meet finished just ahead of the scheduled time. The Committee received no complaints in connection with this meet.

From a financial perspective, the meet total income of **£6,581** showed an increase over the previous year (2018: £6,244; 2017: £8,520; 2016: £9,357; 2015: £7,178; 2014: £7,423; 2013: £7,248) as a consequence of an increased number of entrants. Expenditure decreased to **£3,119** (£3,535 in 2018; £3,836 in 2017; £3,716 in 2016; £3,071 in 2015; £1,817 in 2014; and, £1,785 in 2013) with the main variation in costs coming from the cost of medals.

Consequently, although it is never the intention for this meet to be profitable, a surplus of **£3,462** was earned (2018: £2,708; 2017: £4,685; 2016: £5,641; 2015: £4,107; 2014: £5,606; 2013: £5,463 the latter two years excluding medal costs). This surplus has been remitted back to the County for investment as the Management Board consider appropriate.

The Committee has agreed that since the meet was well supported, was not massively oversubscribed, and continues to appear to fulfil a need within the County that it should continue. The meet also remains consistent with the aims of the ASA in their competitive pathway. Accordingly, the meet will run in 2020 and has been scheduled for 11 October 2020. It is currently the plan to hold this meet at the new pool in Maidenhead at Braywick. As this is a 10-lane pool, the meet will most likely move to a two-session competition format and will likely include additional (200m) events.

#### **County Championships:**

The Committee again organised and ran the annual Performance Swimming County and Age Group Championships; for the fourth year to the new timetable prescribed in the ASA competition Pathway. The Championships took place on the weekends of 11/12 and 25/26 January 2020. The 2017 championships were the first organised under the new ASA competition Pathway and had resulted in several significant changes.

Some refinement to the format was required in 2018, primarily to transition all the competition to the 50M pool at Wycombe which had amongst other things entailed a full re-work of the programme. Less substantial, further changes were incorporated into the 2019 and 2020 Championships. The most significant of these changes was to re-instate the 800M for male swimmers and the 1,500M for female swimmers; now that they had been re-introduced at ASA National events. In an endeavour not to increase the number of days of competition, this did make the programme tighter and led to longer days of swimming. A few other changes were made in the current year; mostly reflecting feedback that had been received in the previous year; such as the

introduction of the new online results service and significantly the launch a full accreditation system (a unique pass for everyone on pool-side).

The licensing panel continue to insist that the Championship must have age group finals instead of Championship finals and accordingly the latter were therefore again run on a virtual basis to determine the County Champions. The Committee therefore continue to be disappointed that this meet must effectively be run as an age group rather than a County competition.

The program received very positive feedback from the head coaches representing the performance swimming clubs in the County; and accordingly, the Committee made only limited changes for the 2020 Championships. A review of the entry times was completed, though with minimal changes in the current year. At the request of the County Coaches, the aim continues to be that of reducing the number of swimmers eligible to compete in the Championships so as to reduce the volume of entries. Accordingly, in 2020 on the whole, it again became more difficult to achieve a county consideration time. It is also worthy of note that in some instances, the County Championship consideration entry time is faster that the entry time for the equivalent event at the Swim England South East Summer Regional Championships.

For the 2020 Championships, 3,145 swims were entered into the Championships (compared to 3,385 swims in 2019; 3,372 swims in 2018, 3,509 swims in 2017, 2,856 swims in 2016 and 2,987 swims in 2015). In 2020, relay swims were effectively the same year-on-year, though individual swims were down 141 to 3,046. It can therefore be concluded that the entry times for individual swims remain at an appropriate level in the context of the amount of water time available. The Championships therefore remained manageable in terms of swimmers and available water time; but from a back-office perspective the finals sessions remain administratively onerous. The Committee however do plan to continue with this structure and program for the 2021 Championships given the atmosphere and excitement that the finals sessions bring; compounded by the positive feedback that is always received. All of the County's performance swimming clubs were represented at the Championships this year.

The Coaches in the County, reporting at the annual feedback meeting subsequent to the Championships, expressed their gratitude to the Committee and declared that it had again been a successful and well-run Championship. Albeit, it would have been preferable for more of the clubs to have been represented at that feedback session. Whilst there were some inevitable problems in running a championship of this size and complexity, it did in general run very smoothly across the four days of competition. Particular thanks in this respect should go to Wycombe District SC who helped to ensure that our visit to Wycombe Leisure Centre was very well supported by the local team.

The Performance Swimming Events Committee would also like to extend a formal thanks to all of the volunteers and officials who gave up their time to make this (and the Development Meet) possible. Worthy of particular mention are: Diana Kennedy from Maidenhead Marlins SC (in her role as volunteers coordinator); Bev Skelton (for going above and beyond in managing the trophies table); Eileen and Ken Adams (for announcing and stewarding respectively); John Rowley from Bracknell and Wokingham SC (in his role as County PR Officer); and, Amanda Bond, Terry Wright, and Jo Stewart all from Bracknell and Wokingham SC and Jorge Mateos-Serrano from Maidenhead Marlins SC, all of whom provided additional manpower in the back office meet management area during the Championships.

However, in relation to volunteers, it is unfortunate that for the Championships there was a lack of a trophy secretary present, which did create some issues, most of which were resolved on the day but only with huge effort from Bev Skelton, Gary Shields, and some ad hoc volunteers. However, there are still some missing trophies and a large collection of un-catalogued "surplus trophies" that will need to be reviewed. In the light of the foregoing, the lack of clarity about the trophy secretary role going forward remains a concern.

From a swimming perspective, the Championships delivered one new County Record (down from seven in the previous year) and, alongside this, there were a significant number of Meet Best times.

From a financial perspective, the meet accounts have yet to be finalised, the meet only concluding relatively recently. However, draft accounts indicate that total income of £35,925 showed a small increase compared to the previous year (2019: £33,802; 2018: £32,478; 2017: £33,312; 2016: £23,476; 2015: £21,252; 2014: £24,436) mainly as a consequence of higher entry fees; in part due to the new security levy. Expenditure is currently estimated marginally lower than the prior-year at £17,795 (2019: £18,507; 2018: £18,137; 2017: £15,106; 2016: £13,628; 2015: £9,490; 2014 £7,316, the latter two years excluding the cost of medals); mainly as a consequence of slightly higher pool costs being more than offset by lower printing and PayPal charges. Consequently, a draft surplus of £18,129 is estimated (2019: £15,296; 2018: £14,341; 2017: £18,205; 2016: £13,628; 2015: £12,060; 2014: £16,871, the latter two years excluding the cost of medals) though this is obviously subject to change as the accounts are finalised.

This increase in surplus is partly the consequence of some specific actions that the Committee has taken and implemented in order to reduce running costs in an endeavour to deliver at greater return to the County Association. For example, weekend rather than daily programmes. However, unlike the Development Meet, this meet is designed to be profitable, as it represents virtually the only source of income to the County for the funding of its wider activities. Accordingly, the surplus has also been remitted back to the County for investment as the Management Board consider appropriate. To date, the Committee has received no formal complaints in connection with Championships and only one subsequent issue has arisen since the completion of the 2020 Championships relating to a lost trophy; which the Committee is still trying to locate. However, changes are currently under consideration ahead of the 2021 Championships following the learnings from 2020. Some of the matters covered in the post Championships review meeting with the club coaches, along with selected responses from this Committee, included areas such as:

- The PA could not be heard on window side of the pool but was acceptable from the other side. The Performance Swimming Events Committee would support a grant application from Wycombe District SC to upgrade the mixing desk and microphone equipment.
- Accreditation why is it required once on poolside?This is the ruling previously agreed by this Committee who feel it should be continued for the security of all involved.
- A suggestion that swimmers might print their own accreditation. Without the ability (which we do not have) to include photographs on the pass, home printing would compromise the integrity of the system.
- 10/11-year QTs are too fast as some finals were not full. Entries of at least 8 swimmers per age group should be allowed to ensure a full final.



Agreed; the Promoter can re-review QTs for 2021.

- Finals session warmup a single (and hence shorter) warmup would be fine and allow an earlier finish. Agreed; the Promoter can rereview for 2021.
- We need an "official" photographer for the presentations for all sessions; which could be an outside company who could also sell swimmer photos to parents. Noted; the Promoter can consider for 2021.
- The final heat of HDW events should be announced in the same way as the finalists. Agreed; the Promoter can re-review for 2021.
- Requested we consider separate distance session(s). Disagreed as this would mean having a 5<sup>th</sup> / 6<sup>th</sup> day and we may not even get additional water time at Wycombe.
- Request for a two-tier closing date, a normal date, plus an extended date (by say a week) with an entry fee triple the normal fee. Disagreed as this will only be practically possible by bringing the normal closing date forward and creates significantly more administrative burden for the group pf volunteers running the meet.

The Committee has agreed that since the meet was well supported, and continues to fulfil a need within the County, that it should continue and accordingly, the meet will run again in 2021. For 2021 the Championships will be run again at the Wycombe Leisure Centre on the following dates in January: 16/17/30/31.

#### **Performance Swimming Records:**

The Performance Swimming Events Committee continues to take responsibility for the administration of Performance Swimming County Records. The Committee also retained responsibility for administering County Championship Meet Best Times. The administration system written several years ago along with a database and reporting mechanism has been maintained throughout the year. This aligns the meet best times and the records into a single database. The system continues to generate a certificate of achievement for records that is presented to the new record holder. The up-todate records list continues to be re-published on the County website each time after a new record has been set. An appendix to this paper sets out all the new County records ratified since the last annual report of the Performance Swimming Events Committee. A listing of new County Championship meet best times is also available on request.

# Performance swimming facilities within the County:

The Performance Swimming Events Committee also takes a keen interest in the facilities available in the county which are suitable for the organisation of galas and competitions. To this end, the Committee notes the continuing development of two new pools in the County. A new ten lane short-course pool is planned to replace the Magnet Leisure Centre in Maidenhead with estimated completion in Q3 2020. Secondly, the development of the new pool in Amersham to replace the current pool.

The Committee has already participated in discussions about the requirements and development of the new pool in Maidenhead and has visited the construction site to see the development and meet the developer. The Committee will continue to note progress with interest to ensure relationships with the operator are maintained. The Committee will consider use of this pool for future County competitions in due course. The Committee has also had some, but lesser, discussions with Amersham SC around their new pool; and remain available for consultation.

Finally, a new short-course pool has also recently opened in Slough. The Committee were not consulted on this pool, nor its configuration. Subsequent to the opening of the pool, the Committee has advised on how it may be further developed in order that it may become more suitable for competition.

# 2020/2021 Performance Swimming Events Committee

Finally, in concluding my report for the current year, it is with some regret that I have to share the news of my letter of resignation from my position of Performance Swimming Events Manager; as communicated to the Officers of the County in January 2020. This resignation and the fact that I will step down from the Performance Swimming Events Committee will take effect from the ACM in the summer of 2020. These are both positions I have held since 2013. At the same time, I also have to share the news of the resignation of Rob Moore from his position as a member of the Performance Swimming Events Committee with effect from the ACM in the summer. Between Rob and I, we have been the Promoter of the County's performance swimming events for the last fifteen years. Rob and I have discussed this position at length and would make the following collective observations:

- The roles had ceased to be "fun". There were a number of situations at the Championships this year and last which a volunteer should not have to deal with, including but not limited to: swimmers blaspheming at volunteers quarrelling swimmers and staff non-compliant coaches complaining club officers complaining coaches
- The attitude of some of the coaches is now uncooperative / demanding / etc.
- The attitudes of some of the swimmers is unacceptable in terms of common decency and manners.
- The role of Promoter is now too large a job for a single volunteer. Everything to do with the meet in all aspects currently channels through either and only Stuart and Rob.

- An expectation that "the County" should solve all of the problems; when in reality there is no "County". The County is just a collection of the Clubs.
- There remains a difficulty to get volunteers to assist.

As a consequence of these resignations, action now lies with the Clubs of the County under the direction of the Management Board to identify a new promoter. Ideally, the role of Promoter should go to an individual who has previous experience as a promoter.

However, to conclude on a more positive note, I can confirm that both Rob and I have indicated that we would be happy, if asked, to continue to deliver the meet from an AoE and results perspective on the days of the Championships / Development meet. I am also reiterating my previous offer to take calls from and advise the new appointee as required.

**Stuart Fillingham** BSB ASA Performance Swimming Events Manager March 2020



## Water Polo

There is one club in the County where water polo continues to be played at a competitive level - Reading SC, despite there being no suitable pool in the greater Reading area at this time.

The Club's polo team currently trains and plays matches in the pool at Eton College.

The team, of men, continues to compete in the London League.

**Roger Penfold** July 2020 Interim Manager

## **Public Relations**

The County Swimming season was largely completed before the arrival of the COVID-19 pandemic put paid abruptly to the 2020 season at Regional, National, and International level including the postponement of the eagerly anticipated Olympics in Japan.

Just some of the key tasks for Public Relations are the pulling together of the Annual Report, designing programmes for the various swimming events staged throughout the year and keeping a photographic record of key events for use in publicising the work of the County.

#### **Annual Report**

The Annual Report happens in June and July in the run up to the Annual General Meeting. The task has been made easier with each part of the report presented to the Management Committee over the course of the year during its regular cycle of meetings. The 2018-19 report was completed back in July 2019, but because of data issues, the Treasurer's Report was omitted. The final document is usually uploaded to the website for reference and access by interested parties. The finished report was shared with the Committee but has not been published on the website as is the usual custom. The Annual report aims to project an informative and positive image of county activity and is generously illustrated with images from a wide range of events held during the year.

#### Photography

Having a wide ranging photographic record is vital to communicate the successes of the County.

The now well established County Masters meet in September, and 2 of the 4 days of County Competition in January at Wycombe were comprehensively documented in photographs.

The Masters Meet was staged at the Magnet Leisure Centre for the last time. From a photographic point of view the pool with its glass roof makes the perfect location to take great action shots with the ample natural light. Photographs were shared with many of the competing Masters clubs and several swimmers asked for specific images which were duly supplied. The County and Age Group Championships provided another opportunity to capture many of our talented young athletes in action. A comprehensive photographic record was kept of the two Saturdays of competition at Wycombe. All podium presentations were captured along with images of swimmers in action, swimmers preparing for races and general images that captured the atmosphere and excitement of the event. Images were sorted by club and forwarded to the individual clubs for their use. This continued the practice of previous years. Many clubs were delighted to receive the images and pass them on to individual swimmers if they felt appropriate.

The Sunday presentations were covered by photographers from Wycombe and Chalfont. These were also shared with clubs for use on websites and in publicity. Many thanks to those who carried out this role for the County.

#### **Programmes and Design**

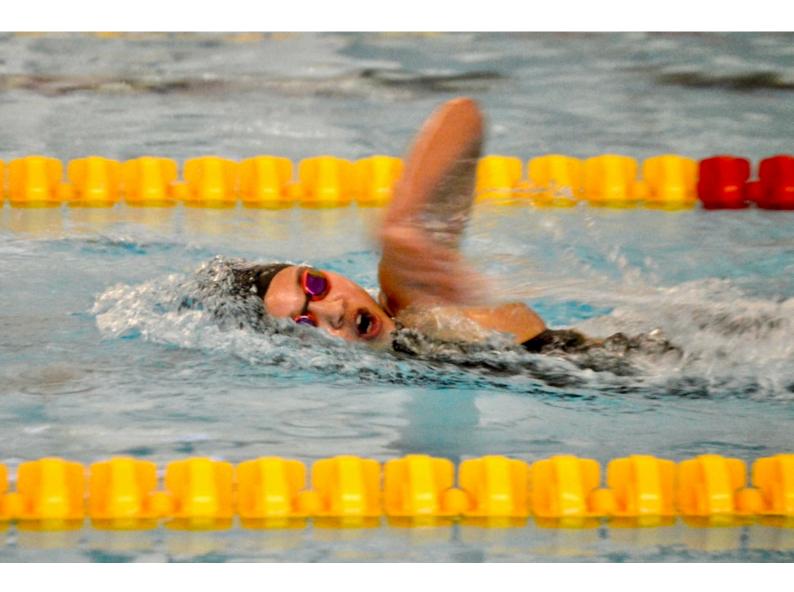
Working closely with the Swimming Events Committee the design of programmes for a range of swimming events has become a key task. Programmes were designed for the County Development Meet, the County Masters meet and the County and Age Group Championships. For the latter a single programme for each weekend was adopted for 2020 simplifying the task immensely. Along with the listing of swims and Promoter's conditions other useful information was included. Along with the Regional qualifying times was a comprehensive guide to the current holders of the County and County Junior Records. Condensing this information into two landscaped pages made for an economical method of sharing. Another part of the programme focused on the County's developmental programme and also how our swimmers got on at the Inter counties event staged annually in Sheffield. The articles are a valuable opportunity to share the tremendous work going on throughout the year.

#### **Final thoughts**

At the time of writing it is hard to foresee what effect this enforced hiatus will be on aquatic sports. Clubs have had to be ingenious in keeping momentum going among members. How events will unfold is anyone's guess. There is no doubt this is a critical and challenging time for clubs in the County. My final task will be collating the material for the 2019-2020 Annual Report which will be considered at this year's AGM later in the year.

I would like to thank Stuart Fillingham and his team on the Swimming Events Committee. They have helped me immensely with all of my activities. And a big thank you to our Chairman Roger Penfold who has kept the County ship on an even keel for as long as anyone can remember. And a big thank you to all of the members of the Management Committee for their support, advice and friendship.

## John Rowley June 2020



## Treasurer

#### Berks & South Bucks County ASA Accounts at 31 March 2020

	Year Ended 31 March 2020	Year ended 31 March 2019
Income and Expenditure Account		
Income		
2020 County Championship receipts	35,557	33,802
2019 Development Meet	7,101	6,244
2019 County Masters	3,716	3,992 425
2018 Development Meet Synchro Receipts	2,700	425
English Programmes Camps	2,700	2,700
Intercounties Gala rebate	1,000	1,000
T-shirts sold	-	100
Interest received	200	132
	52,973	48,395
Expenditure		
2020 County Championship expenditure	18,327	18,507
2019 Development meet	3,119	3,535
2019 County Masters	5,466	2,799
2019 English Programmes	1,502	801
2020 English Programmes	1,226	1,954
Bursaries	2,118	2,531
Diving	840	2,184
Meet Equipment <sup>1</sup>	2,582	-
Synchro Expenses	127	-
Masters expenditure	- 1 450	1 266
2019 Development camp 2019 Regional camp	1,452 4,177	1,266 4,129
Intercounties Gala expenditure	3,370	3,203
Trophies <sup>2</sup>	32	371
Management Board	305	345
Room hire (meetings etc)	24	-
Officials	(37)	59
Website	95	96
Miscellaneous expenditure	-	843
	44,726	42,624
Income over expenditure	5,404	5,770
Balance sheet	Year Ended	Year ended
Assets	31 March 2020	31 March 2019
Closing Cash Balance	133,518	128,786
Debtors	-	-
Fixed Assets <sup>3</sup>	8,410	11,213
Accruals	(22)	(3,607)
Stock	1,424	1,534
	143,330	137,926
Liabilities		
Opening Funds	137,926	132,156
Income over Expenditure	5,404	5,770
•	143,330	137,926

#### Notes to the accounts

<sup>1</sup> Meet equipment describes items used for running multiple meets. Some may be depreciated which is also accounted here

<sup>2</sup> Trophies are the cups etc; ribbon/medals now allocated against the gala

<sup>3</sup> The association owns certain fixed assets, specifically AOE equipment and diving boards. These are depreciated in the following way:

	Year Ended 31 March 2020	Year ended 31 March 2019
Fixed Assets Cost: Diving Board	9,816	9,816
Fixed Assets Cost: AOE	4,200	4,200
Depreciation to Date	(2,803)	-
NBV at Year Start	11,213	14,016
Accumulated Depreciation	(2,803)	-
Depreciation this year: Diving Board	(840)	(840)
Depreciation this year: AOE	(1,963)	(1,963)
Depreciation at Year end	(5,606)	(2,803)
Fixed Asset Value	11,213	14,016
Depreciation	(5,606)	(2,803)
Current Book Value	5,607	11,213

#### Independent Examiner's Report BSBASA Accounts 2019-2020

#### Basis of report

My examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the association and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items in the accounts and seeking explanations from the treasurer concerning any such matters.

The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently I do not express an opinion on the view given by the accounts.

#### Independent Examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records have not been met
- to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

3 garden

Barbara Garden DipPFS

22 April 2020

Appendix - New County Performance Swimming Records since last Annual Report

Sex		Stroke/ Distance	Age	Swimmer/Club	Meet/Venue	Date	Time
Boys	С	400 Freestyle	County Junior	Joshua Williams (Wycombe District)	British Swimming Champs Glasgow	16 April 2019	3:57.83
Mens	С	400 Freestyle	<b>County Record</b>	Joshua Williams (Wycombe District)	British Swimming Champs Glasgow	16 April 2019	3:57.83
Boys	ГC	LC 1500 Freestyle	County Junior	Thomas Sansome (Wycombe District)	Wycombe 4th LC Premier Meet Wycombe	22 March 2019	16:33.84
Boys	С	200 Butterfly	County Junior	Thomas Sansome (Wycombe District)	British Swimming Champs Glasgow	16 April 2019	2:09.04
Boys	С	1500 Freestyle	County Junior	Thomas Sansome (Wycombe District)	British Summer Swimming Champs Glasgow	25 July 2019	16:12.05
Mens	С	1500 Freestyle	County Record	Thomas Sansome (Wycombe District)	British Summer Swimming Champs Glasgow	25 July 2019	16:12.05
Boys	С	200 Butterfly	County Junior	Thomas Sansome (Wycombe District)	British Summer Swimming Champs Glasgow	24 July 2019	2:07.01
Boys	С	1500 Freestyle	County Junior	Joshua Williams (Wycombe District)	British Summer Swimming Champs Glasgow	25 July 2019	16:05.72
Mens	С	1500 Freestyle	County Record	Joshua Williams (Wycombe District)	British Summer Swimming Champs Glasgow	25 July 2019	16:05.72
Boys	ГC	50 Breststroke	County Junior	Nikolai Khutoryanskiy (Reading)	British Summer Swimming Champs Glasgow	24 July 2019	30.28
Boys	SC	50 Breststroke	County Junior	Nikolai Khutoryanskiy (Reading)	Swim England National Winter Champs - Sheffield	7 Dec 2019	29.50
Boys	SC	100 Breaststroke	County Junior	Nikolai Khutoryanskiy (Reading)	Swim England National Winter Champs - Sheffield	5 Dec 2019	1:04.10
Girls	ГC	100 Freestyle	County Junior	Jemima Hall (Wycombe)	County Championships 2020 - Wycombe	12 Jan 2020	57.42