

AGENDA ITEM 3: ANNUAL REPORT, 2013/14

PRESIDENT'S COMMENT

I am writing this just prior to attending the County Age-Group Synchro Competition (combined with Hampshire) at Farnborough. It is where my adventure as Vice-President and then President began 12 months ago, so the wheel has turned full circle. At that event, I gained my first glimpse of Synchronised Swimming and I have since come to recognise the wealth of talent and enthusiasm in that discipline, especially amongst the youngest competitors. I was also able to attend the 'recreational' Synchro event at Croydon in October as well as the Multi-Regional Age-Groups at Gloucester. It was enlightening to meet other presidents from the SE and SW and I was privileged to be a member of the presentation party at both events. As well as our usual competitors from Reading Royals, Rushmoor and Portsmouth, the Multi-Regional event was dominated by a large contingent from the Bristol area. I should record my thanks initially to Jean Hulbert and more recently to Bev Skelton for their kind invitations and for their understanding of my lack of knowledge about their discipline.

Also in October I had the pleasure of joining our County Team at the National Team Championships in Sheffield. This involves an overnight stay and is undoubtedly one of the highlights in the presidential year. In 2012 the team had come 10th (out of 39), swimming in Division 1. In 2013 we had a younger and somewhat inexperienced team and, although it was a struggle, we maintained our Division 1 status by 5 points. Leading the team in their yellow and green garb through the streets of Sheffield to the pool made me understand how the Pied Piper of Hamelin must have felt. Joan, Matt and Derek worked tremendously hard throughout the weekend - in particular with the games evening on the Saturday night. My special thanks to them. An enjoyable time was had by all and, as a result, more than 50% of the swims were shown to be PBs.

In November came the one day Development Camp at Ascot. Part of the rationale behind this gathering was to attract volunteers from amongst the assembled parents. A mock gala was set up by Sue Green and this was very effective in demonstrating how many persons are required in order to run it successfully. There followed smaller workshops on aspects of volunteering and officiating. I am given to understand that a few new helpers came forward as a result of this day. Thanks again to Matt and Joan for managing the event, which was helped along by an inspirational talk from the Bulgarian Olympic backstroker Ekaterina Avramova.

Our County Championships this year ran to more than 22 hours. I was there for every minute, as were the members of the Performance Swimming Events Committee. I had listened in on their various meetings prior to these Championships and it really brought it home to me how many people there are behind the scenes who 'make it happen' seamlessly. There will be a few challenges going forward in order to take account of the New British Competition System as well as the integration of the new Wycombe 50 metre pool from January 2016. This could well affect both the timing and the format of these Championships.

On the hospitality front it has been rather a mixed year for me personally. The Sussex Annual Dinner with Karen Pickering went down very well but I had to miss the Hampshire Dinner due to illness. The final blow came when I learnt that the renowned Kent event has been transferred from its June/July slot to a new date in October!!

I should like to thank the Board for giving me the opportunity to represent our County during this exciting first year of its inception. It has given me the chance to meet many new and interesting people, both within and outside our area. I wish my successor John Rowley every success in his new role and assure him of our full support and co-operation.

Bob Odell

DIVING

In all, we have three Diving Clubs within our County Association - Albatross Diving Club are based at Central Pool in Reading, Amersham Diving (part of Amersham Swimming Club) and Chiltern Metropolitan Diving School, both of whom are based at Chiltern Pools in Amersham.

Currently Albatross Diving Club and Amersham Diving hold Swim 21 accreditation. Albatross were the first stand-alone diving club in the country to be accredited with Swim 21. With the support of Helen Mack, our Regional Club Development Officer, it is envisioned that communications will be made with Chiltern Metropolitan Diving School to discuss the benefits open to them, should they achieve Swim 21 accreditation.

I must say that I have been heartened by the warm welcome I have received from all 3 Diving Clubs and I am pleased to report that springboard and highboard Diving is very much 'alive and well' and thriving in our County.

All 3 Clubs experienced a huge interest in Diving following the London 2012 Olympic Games, with many new members joining all 3 clubs Novice and Learn to Dive programmes. Even more encouraging is that an anticipated 'drop off' in enthusiasm post the 2012 Olympics has not been significant. In fact, the diving based television programme 'Splash' served to further increase enthusiasm for the aquatic discipline. Both Albatross and Amersham Diving have long waiting lists to join their 'Learn to Dive' programmes.

Chiltern Metropolitan Diving School operate their own Achievement Award Badge Scheme as an aid to progression and to provide their members with a structured learning pathway. With a membership of around 55, there are two training sessions between 2pm and 5pm on Sunday afternoons. Due to the restrictions with coaching staff, members do not currently compete in many external diving competitions.

Amersham Diving has recently undergone a change in their Dive Team with Robert Metcalfe as Lead Coach and Katie Bell as Dive Team Manager. In all there are 5 qualified coaches with a 6th just about to do a Level 1 course. With current membership around 60, the club continues to grow.

Although absent from ASA national events until recent times, the dedication of the new team of coaches has enabled Amersham Diving to, this year, produce a silver medallist in National Skills, an SER silver medallist and 5 divers ranked inside the top 10 in National Skills. The club also have an 11yr old girl who has been selected to the National Talent Team.

Building on their success, Amersham Diving have aspirations to develop dry land training, run strength and conditioning sessions for their athletes and invest in poolside training equipment.

Albatross Diving Club members range from complete beginners, through to Novice, Intermediate and National Level. Their full time, fully qualified coaches are trained to Level 1 or Level 2 and are lifeguard qualified too. Some of the coaches have additional qualification in Gym, Trampoline and Rigwork to enhance the dry land training for their athletes. Assistant coaches are qualified to Level 1. Albatross divers train up to 5 times per week with sessions to accommodate the different levels and abilities.

In July 2013 divers represented Albatross at the British Gas ASA National Age Group Diving Championships at Ponds Forge. Both boys and girls excelled with a number achieving top 10 placings in the particular event rankings.

So far this year Albatross divers have successfully competed in a number of competitions including our own regional ASASER Diving Novice (Level 2) Skills Competition at K2, Crawley in March and the ASASER Diving Age Group (Level 3) Competition at the Quays in Southampton in May. In each competition the consistency of Albatross divers again yielded a significant number of top 10 finishes across the 4 age groups for both boys and girls.

Albatross also run their own Inter-Club Competition which always draws a large entry. This year, their 25th Inter-Club Meet took place Sunday 22 June at Central Pools, Reading. Amersham Diving were represented by their divers at this meet.

In January this year, the ASASER Management Board announced the formation of the South East Region Diving Talent Programme, based at Southampton. The Region will provide funding for this programme up to June 2017 (subject to regular review). Talent camps have taken place monthly between Jan to April and Albatross had a number of their divers attending on each of the camps. Coaching staff from Albatross also attended the camps as part of their CPD.

These Diving Talent camps ran just ahead of the 2014 National Skills Finals held at Ponds Forge on the 3 and 4 May. Amersham Diving had 5 divers qualify for the National Skills Finals and Albatross had 4 divers qualify. The standout performances came from Amersham's Katie Burton who won silver in the girls 11yrs age group and Billy Minns (age 14) from Albatross who was 4th in the boys 14/16yrs age group.

Our South East Region was very successful at these Nationals with 19 divers from South East Region Diving Clubs finishing in the top 6 places in their events. All of

these divers had attended the ASA South East Region Diving Talent scheme camps in Southampton.

Whilst evolving my working relationship with our County's diving clubs, it has become apparent that our 3 clubs would welcome the opportunity to have a County Diving Competition. 'Discussions' are at a very early stage but there is a definite enthusiasm for this level of competition watch this space!!!

Nigel Brand

MASTERS

Each of the 11 major clubs in the sub-region has a masters' (or at least 18+ year old) section. Other sub-regions within SER have more such clubs (e.g. Sussex 19, Hampshire 23) and hence more swimmers at their disposal. The same, of course, applies to age-group and youth categories, so, as a county, we always have to "punch above our weight".

The principal event in the year is the SER Inter-County Masters' gala which this year (Nov 2013) took place at Horsham. Our team came 5th out of 7 - on the face of it a disappointing result, as we had won the corresponding gala the previous year at Maidenhead. However, our team at Horsham comprised only 16 persons taken from 4 Clubs and some people had to compete in up to 12 events. In reality 30 - 35 swimmers are required in order to field a proper team.

In an effort to improve the availability of masters and thereby the overall team performance, it is necessary to establish a reliable and responsive contact with each club. Duncan McCreadie (Maidenhead) remains available as team captain and will be assisted by Sasha Forster (Windsor) as team manager.

With regard to actually financing our participation in the annual SER Inter-County Masters' gala, it is clear that income in the past from our County Masters' Open Meet would have more than covered the costs. Regrettably, there has been no such event since November 2011, but there is an aspiration to resurrect something similar for 2015.

Bob Odell

PUBLIC RELATIONS

County Championships 2014

The County Championships are probably the busiest time as far as public relations is concerned. All of the initiatives developed in previous years were deployed again with some new ideas introduced.

The covers for the four programmes were designed using images taken at the 2013 Counties. These were used by Rob Moore and printed in colour.

Photographs were taken of all the 2014 winners as in previous years. Using last year's newsletter template which featured pictures of all the podium successes, this year's crop of winners were dropped into last year's design. This sped up the design process considerably. This was uploaded to the County Website in three instalments. It was well received by swimmers, parents and coaches. Many clubs made links to the document from their club websites.

There was some interest from parents in acquiring high-resolution copies of specific images of swimmers receiving awards. These were sent by e-mail free of charge.

As in previous years, a disk was burnt for each of the 10 participating clubs of all the images taken of the presentations at each of the 3 blocks of racing. Clubs were encouraged to use them for publicity on their website and in the press. The only tricky issue was getting the images of Day 4 to the relevant people after the Counties had finished. It was easy to distribute during the Counties, either through the red trays used to communicate with coaches and team managers or given to a relevant contact by hand. For Day 4, contacting the secretary or chairman through the club websites elicited a name and address to send the images in the days after Counties.

A new initiative at this County Championship was filming all the 50 and 100 metres' finals over the four days of competition. These were edited and posted on YouTube. Eleven videos were uploaded and have been watched by varying numbers.

To get round a possible child protection issue, the announcement of a swimmer's name in the build up to the race was replaced with music. The structure of each video was deliberately kept the same. Our logo began the sequence, followed by the pan along the line of swimmers, the race, the finish repeated again in slow motion, concluding with the scoreboard shot into 2 or 3 still images taken of the presentation of medals and trophies of that event.

Overall the 11 videos obtained a total of 1043 'hits' collectively, which was very encouraging. The initiative was an experiment and would be worth repeating again. Because of some concerns by one club, the 11 videos were taken off 'YouTube' in mid April. Next year's County Championship Conditions will explicitly refer to the use of video, should we want to repeat the successful experiment.

Apparently several swimmers had downloaded their races and were able to use it as evidence in their portfolio in GCSE Physical Education.

After the Counties it came to light that a club had streamed some of this year's County Championships without asking permission of the organisers and a coach at another club highlighted this. Clearly this was wrong, but does point a possible way ahead if we can get the agreement of all clubs.

We could add value to our County Championships in future years if we can solve the technical issues of streaming. Parents sitting in the swimming pool are a long way from the action. As a county we should be looking to assess the feasibility of providing something similar that would add to the experience of the event for all

clubs. It is worth exploring the best way forward to achieve a streaming service that we control.

County Handbook 2014

The County Handbook was updated and published during the year on the County website. Drawing upon the numerous images taken at County events, it provides a useful insight into the work of the County. Like the County Newsletter, it is published electronically and members of assigned clubs have access to a wealth of information. Featured prominently are images of synchronised swimming taken at the joint Hampshire and Berkshire and South Buckinghamshire Synchronised competition held at Aldershot Garrison. Our 2013 championships provided the bulk of the competitive swimming images used.

Other activities

A 2nd County Development Meet was staged very successfully at Bracknell Leisure Centre in the Autumn. In tandem with the meet, another camp was held at Heathfield School in Ascot that featured Bulgarian 2012 Olympian Ekaterina Avramova and was led by Matt Heathcock. The one-day programme, designed for both swimmers and their parents, was well received. The feedback was extremely positive. The event was trailed in an article published in the Development Meet programme and was documented fully in Joan Scarrott's excellent article on the County website

An equally successful two-day camp targeting County and regional swimmers was held at Crystal Palace in January, again led by Matt.

Both camps have emphasised the County's commitment to developing our swimmers by offering high-quality opportunities to all the clubs in the County.

John Rowley

Some excellent colour images were included in the draft report, but are not reproduced here for technical and cost reasons.

SWIMMING

Please find, set out below, the Annual Report of the Berkshire and South Buckinghamshire ASA Performance Swimming Events Committee.

For the 2013/4 swimming season, the Committee has constituted the following members: Stuart Fillingham, Rob Moore; Gary Shields; Sue Green; Jonathan Mills; and, Helen Whittle. The Committee Meetings have also been attended by Bob Odell in an ex-officio capacity. 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 second County Development Meet on the 13 October 2013. This was again perceived to be a successful competition, aimed and provided for those swimmers who did not have on entry a County Championships qualification time in the strokes in which they were competing. The Committee 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 Championships consideration times.

A total of 950 swims were entered into the competition, an increase on 2012. Furthermore, all but one of the County's performance swimming clubs were represented, the missing club understandably being Slough & Eton Dolphins SC, who were at the time undergoing certain difficulties as a club.

The meet ran well on the day at approximately 90-95% capacity. Session 1 ran to time and session 2 was slightly quicker due to a larger number of withdrawals from this session, finishing about 15 minutes ahead of the scheduled time. The Committee received no complaints in connection with this meet and only one matter was raised before the day, in relation to the entry of swimmers who change age groups between the Development Meet and the County Championships. This query has been raised a number of times and on each occasion a standard response has been provided explaining that this is a condition of the meet.

From a financial perspective, the meet total income of £7,248 showed an increase over the previous year (2012: £6,128) as a consequence of a greater number of entrants. Conversely, expenditure fell from £1,915 in 2012 to £1,785 in 2013; the main variable being the relaxation of the requirement in 2013 for an "ASA levy" which was waived by the region. Consequently, although it is never the intention for this meet to be profitable, a surplus of £5,463 was earned (2012: £4,213) which 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 it should continue in its current form. Accordingly, the meet will run in 2014 (and has been scheduled for 12 October 2014).

County Championships:

The Committee organised and ran the annual County Championships on the weekends of March 8/9, March 15 and 22 March 2014. 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.

Ahead of the Championships, a bottom-up review of the entry times had been completed through comparison to those entry times of a significant number of other counties' championships. As a consequence, the entry times for the Championships were heavily reset, with the aim of both better alignments to other counties and, at the request of the County, to reduce the volume of entries by circa 10%. Accordingly, in 2014 it became more difficult to achieve a county qualifying time.

However, despite this, a total of circa 3,100 swims were entered into the Championships, an almost exact same number to those entered in 2013. One can conclude from this that either the number of swimmers in the county has increased, or the quality/performance of the swimmers has stepped up a notch - either or both being positive for the County! Again, all but one of the County's performance swimming clubs were represented, the missing club understandably being Slough & Eton Dolphins SC, who, as a club, is in the process of re-building.

Whilst there were some inevitable teething problems in running championships of this size, it did in general run very smoothly across the four days of competition. Particularly encouraging, though expensive (see below), was the return to the County's only long course pool; without too much incident. This was in part due to the assistance from the volunteers of Wycombe & District SC; which was much appreciated, as was the assistance from all of the volunteers and officials who gave up their time to make this (and the Development Meet) possible. Also worthy of particular mention are Herman Bleekendaal, who admirably supported the committee in his position as Trophy Officer, and John Rowley, in his role as County PR Officer. A formal thank you to you all from all of the Performance Swimming Events Committee.

Some of the constructive feedback received covered areas such as: session length (particularly session 2)/a lack of supervision of warm-up by club coaches/the inadequacies of the Magnet Centre PA system/the lack of interest in the top boy and top girl club award/and the reporting of progress toward the age group aggregate trophies. The Committee will take all of these matters forward in considering the planning for the 2015 Championships.

The Committee received only one formal complaint in connection with Championship concerning the presentation of awards to the relay team winners. Whilst the Committee do not perceive there to have been a change in protocol from previous years, the matter is being pursued appropriately with the club in question.

More positively, very good feedback was received for the provision of DVD's of the pictures from the Championships to the clubs on the day of the competition. In addition, video footage of the finals was posted onto "you-tube". Furthermore, for the first time this year, with the assistance of Windsor SC, the results of all events were posted real time onto the internet for supporters to view whilst away from the pool.

Finally, and most importantly, from a swimming perspective, the Championships delivered 13 new County Records and 42 new Meet Best times - a fantastic performance from the swimmers themselves.

From a financial perspective, the accounts indicate that total income of £24,436 showed an increase over the previous year (2013: £23,987) as a consequence of a greater number of spectators; entrant income being largely flat year on year. Expenditure was lower than 2013 (£8,073) at an amount of £7,885. Given the current year included the more expensive pool at Wycombe (£1,300 versus £350 at Aldershot) this is a strong performance. The higher Wycombe pricing in 2014 being partially compensated for by keener pricing from the Maidenhead pool, itself in part a consequence of the rebate we received for the faulty scoreboard.

Consequently, a draft surplus of £16,551 was earned (2012: £15,914). This meet is designed to be profitable as it represents the main 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.

The Committee has made no applications for capital expenditure in the current season. It is, however, envisaged that applications will be submitted in the coming period for printing facilities and other related IT equipment.

The Committee has agreed that, since the meet was well supported and continues to fulfil a need within the County, it should continue in 2015. Accordingly, the meet will run in 2015 and has been tentatively scheduled for 7/8/14/21 March 2015. However, the Committee will consider, based on feedback from the county's coaches, moving the final day from a Saturday to a Sunday.

Performance Swimming Records:

Following the re-structuring of the management of the County Association in the summer of 2013, the Performance Swimming Events' Committee took over the responsibility for the administration of Performance Swimming County Records. Allowing for transition, the effective date of transfer was 1 September 2013. This then aligned responsibility for administering County Championship Meet Best Times and the Records.

Following this date, a full bottom up audit of the County Records and Meet Best Times has been performed and a new administration system, database and reporting mechanism has been developed. This aligns the meet best times and the records into a single database. The system also now generates a certificate for records achieved that is presented to the new record holder. The up-to-date records' list is now also re-published on the website each time after a new record is set.

An appendix to this paper sets out all of the new County records ratified in the current swimming season.

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, with excitement, that building work has now commenced on the new long course pool in Wycombe. The Committee has previously been in dialogue with the Management Board and Chief Coach at Wycombe District SC in relation to the specification of the new pool; and remains at the Club's disposal over the coming months to provide support as required. The Committee also will start debate and discussion in the autumn of 2014 about the potential use of the new pool for future competitions organised by the County. The Committee note, however, that a significant factor in the use of the Wycombe pool will be the very expensive cost of the current pool and there will be a need to determine whether or not these costs will be carried over to the new pool.

Stuart Fillingham

SWIMMING OFFICIALS

Report not yet to hand

SYNCHRONISED SWIMMING

Synchronised swimming in the County continues to flourish through both Reading Royals and Bracknell clubs. Both have increasing memberships and active participation in competitions.

2013 saw the retirement of Katie Clark from the GB Synchro team but both Katie Skelton and Katie Clark remain active coaches within Reading Royals and the present GB Synchro and Development teams.

At the SER Recreational Competition in September, Reading collected a 13/14 Team Gold Medal and 12U Team Silver medal, with Bracknell collecting the Silver in the 19U Team competition

The Competitive Multi-Regional competition also took place in September 2013, with the 12U and 15/17 teams collecting Silver and the 13/14 Team taking Gold, Reading also collected 3 individual figure medals, 2 duet and 2 individual solo medals.

Reading Royals' Novice team also competed at the Walsall Novice Competition, collecting a Bronze individual medal and coming 4th in the Team. They then attended the SER Novice competition with Eleanor Blinkhorn (age 9years) collecting a Gold Medal, with a 3 point margin.

National Age Groups were held in December with the Recreational strand attended by both Reading and Bracknell. Reading collected a Team Gold medal in the 12U

age groups with the 13/14 team 4th and the Bracknell Team 12th in the 9-19 age group.

In the competitive strand, Reading collected 3 individual medals, 2 duets and all 3 teams winning medals with the 13/14 team achieving Gold, making them National Champions.

Following NAGs, 6 swimmers were selected to train as part of the England and Junior Development squads with 3 of these are competing in Croatia at the end of June.

Emma Critchley was also selected to train with the Full time Athletes at the High Performance Centre as a part time athlete and competed at the French Open in March in all three teams.

April saw the British Championship competition with Reading competing in the Figures, solo and Team. Esme Lower collected a bronze medal for her figures and the Team brought home the Bronze Team medal.

The Reading Open and Invitation Competition was held on the 7 June 2014 with over 200 Novice swimmers attending. As last year, the County also combined with Hampshire to provide an Age Group competition on 21 June.

Reading Royals continue to be a Beacon Club working towards improving standards both within their own club and also within other local clubs. They have a paid Head Coach, Choreography Coach and Community Development Officer working to encourage inclusion into the sport.

Synchro is grateful to the County for their support and look forward to another successful year with the help from all the volunteers, supporters, swimmers, coaches and parents who keep the sport alive and successful.

Beverley Skelton

Medallists are recorded in Appendix 2 to this Report.

WATER POLO

As far as I can tell, although water polo may well be played in some schools, there is one club in the sub-region where water polo is practised and played - Reading SC.

There are presently 15 active players, as 3, including the coach, have left since the Autumn of 2014, because of work commitments. No more than 26 players could be accommodated presently, unless additional water time could be secured. Members travel significant distances to attend training, and most are in the 30+ age group, so have family commitments.

Reading play in the London Leagues. Traditionally, the Club has competed in the

Summer league, from April to October, where, last year, they were in Division 1, of 5. In 2012, they entered the Winter league, too, in order to provide playing opportunities for less experienced players. The Club are the current Referee's Cup Champions, having won the final of the Winter League Tournament. The Club has, in the past, played in the National League.

The Club would like to attract more juniors, but recognise that they do not have the infrastructure or resources presently to run a junior session. The Club has approached other local clubs, about the possibility of combined sessions, for both adults, as well as juniors.

The regional centre of excellence for water polo is at Basingstoke (Hampshire).

Roger Penfold.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

As is customary, and because I have seen all the other contributions, I am seeking to tie up any loose ends.

2013/14 was the first year of the new management arrangements in Berks & South Bucks. I think that the Management Board has settled in well. Aside from any other considerations, there was a full slate of candidates for election to the Board at the ACM last year. This year, as you will have seen, there are almost enough nominations...

However, the Board was not able to attract a full complement of applications for the "executive" roles, although that was the case latterly under the previous structure. That said, members of the Board volunteered to take on some of the discipline manager roles on an interim basis, and, as a result, you will see that there are contributions elsewhere in this report in respect of disciplines about which little has been heard in recent years in Berkshire or South Buckinghamshire. Nevertheless, I know that the interim managers would be only too grateful for volunteers to emerge from the discipline concerned. I think that the outgoing President, for one, would be pleased to see a manager nominated from amongst the ranks of the many masters' swimmers in the County's clubs - after all, there is a vibrant inter-county competition in this discipline.

It is appropriate at this point to thank Joan Scarrott, on behalf of the Association, for continuing to exercise all the functions of the Swimming Development Manager, even though she has declined the title!

The Board has embraced its new, strategic role and has tried very hard not to stray into detail, or to re-invent itself as the managers of various disciplines. It has, however, maintained a careful watching brief over everything done by and on behalf of the Association. It decided from the outset that its meeting agenda would be published - they are available, in advance of the meeting, on the Association's website, www.bsbasa.org.

To this end, it has been ably assisted by the [national] and Regional Club Development Officers - Rosa Gallop and Helen Mack - to whom the Board has extended a standing invitation to its meetings. Both have attended Board meetings in the year, and Members have been grateful for insight they bring and the support they give. The Board has also had the benefit of the reports made periodically by the ASA's Divisional Business Manager for the south of the country, Alison Usher, on the work of the various ASA employees who she manages.

You will see from the accounts that the Association now has a scheme for bursaries for those aspiring to be teachers or coaches in any discipline. The Association expects clubs to have exhausted their "allocation" of regional bursaries before applying to the County, although, unlike the Region, the County does not restrict bursaries to Swim21 clubs. While the Association has not formally nailed its colours to the mast about this, many members of the Board have made it clear that they would like all clubs to aspire to the Swim21 kite mark. 2 bursaries were awarded in 2013/14, both to applicants from Wycombe District SC.

Talking of the Region, there have been some changes there over recent months, although Berks & South Bucks continues to punch above its weight in that forum. Roger Prior stood down as Chairman of the Regional Board on 31 March, having served the maximum number of consecutive terms in that office. He has been elected as Vice -President of the Region, and will take over the presidency in September this year.

I was appointed Chairman of the Board in succession to Roger. On that appointment, I stood down as Board Member responsible for Finance, to be succeeded by Gary Shields. The regional (and district) lead on finance has thus been held by Berks & South Bucks personnel since 1979, when the late H H V Wilkinson was appointed Treasurer of the former SCASA! Stuart Fillingham has been co-opted onto the Regional Board's Finance Sub-Group, and has proved (as was expected!) to be a great asset.

Eileen Adams has an important role with Regional swimming and meet licensing. The Region's Synchro Manager, Kate Coupar, comes from Reading Royals SSC. Although the Region's swimming events are rarely in our area, we supply a significant number of technical officials for the championships. Eddie Lyne is one of the 3 "friends" in the Region, a vastly important role in seeking to resolve club internal disputes. Until quite recently, Jean Hulbert served on the Region's Swim21 Panel, and the Development Group.

The number of pools in our County remained unchanged during the year, although their age has, of course, increased and their condition has deteriorated. For instance, the condition of pools in Reading has been the subject of adverse comment in the print and social media, in recent months. I fear that, in these times of public sector austerity, this will increasingly be the case with local authority owned and managed facilities. That said, the new long-course facility is under construction in High Wycombe, and should come into use within the next 2 years. As far as I recall, this is the first new potential competition pool since the Magnet was built, and the late Ed Bowditch was Secretary then!

All that said, according to a survey undertaken by Alison Usher, the pools in Berks and Bucks score better across the piece, especially on age, when compared to, say, the pools in Kent, Surrey or Sussex!

Before I conclude this piece, I should pay tribute to the outgoing President, Bob Odell. Bob has been an enthusiastic president, and has attempted to visit all disciplines in action: I say attempted because his recent ailment may have precluded his attempt to watch Reading SC's polo team play. He has been a great ambassador for the Association, for which we should thank him.

You will no doubt have recalled that, at the ACM last year, like this year, there was no nomination for Vice-President. Council referred the vacancy to the Management Board to fill. The vacancy was advertised. The Board was delighted to appoint John Rowley as Vice-President during the course of the past year, and he will be installed as Bob's successor tonight.

Finally, I am delighted to have persuaded Rosemary Large to continue as Assistant Secretary - it is great to know that I can leave the shop in capable hands when other commitments prevent me attending meetings. I must also acknowledge the tremendous support which Sandra gives me, despite her lack of enthusiasm for the sport - I couldn't do it without her. Still, she derives a lot of pleasure from the successes of our grandsons, although I think she worries that their Mother is going to become as involved in the sport as I am!

Roger Penfold

New County records in the current season

a. Name: James McFadzen / ASA nbr: 436937 / Club: Newbury District Event: 100 LC backstroke / Time: 1.01.53 / Occasion: ASA National Age Group Champs 2013 / Date: 24th July 2013

b. Name: Liam Jones / DOB 19/04/97 / ASA: nbr 303519 / Club: Wycombe District Event: 100m LC Backstroke / Time: 1.00.97 / Occasion: ASA National Youth Championships / August.

c. Name: James McFadzen / ASA nbr: 436937 / Club: Newbury District Swimming Club Event: 100 SC backstroke / Time: 58:66 / Occasion: ASA Inter County Championships 2013 / Date: 20 October 2013

d. Name: Zara Ryan / ASA nbr: 367839 / Club: Newbury District Swimming Club Event: 100 SC breaststroke / Time: 1:14.01 / Occasion: ASA Inter County Championships 2013 / Date: 20 October 2013

e. Name: James McFadzen / ASA nbr: 436937 / Club: Newbury District / Event: Boys SC 200m Back / Time: 02:08.12 / Location: Portsmouth Mountbatten Centre / Date:08/12/2013

f. Name: James McFadzen / ASA nbr: 436937 / Club: Newbury District / Event: Boys SC 100m IM / Time: 01:01.58 / Location: Portsmouth Mountbatten Centre / Date:07.12.13

g. Name: Andrew Willis / ASA nbr: 19293 / Club:Bracknell & Wokingham / Event: Mens SC 50m Breast / Time: 00:27.73 / Location: Ponds Forge, Sheffield / Date:07.12.13

h. Name: Andrew Willis / ASA nbr: 19293 / Club:Bracknell & Wokingham / Event: Mens SC 200m IM / Time: 02:01.74 / Location: Ponds Forge, Sheffield / Date:08.12.13

i. Name: Andrew Willis / ASA nbr: 19293 / Club:Bracknell & Wokingham / Event: Mens SC 100m Breast / Time: 00:58.38 / Location: Herning, Denmark / Date: 12.12.13

j. Name: Andrew Willis / ASA nbr: 19293 / Club:Bracknell & Wokingham / Event: Mens SC 200m Breast / Time: 02:02.99 / Location: Herning, Denmark / Date:15.12.13

k. Name: James McFadzen / ASA nbr: 436937 / Club: Newbury District / Event: Boys SC 200m Back / Time: 02:08.12 / Location: Portsmouth Mountbatten Centre / Date:08/12/2013

l. Name: James McFadzen \ ASA nbr: 436937 \ Club: Newbury District \ Event: Boys SC 100m IM \ Time: 01:01.58 \ Location: Portsmouth Mountbatten Centre \ Date: 07.12.13

m. Name: Andrew Willis \ ASA nbr: 19293 \ Club: Bracknell & Wokingham \ Event: Mens SC 50m Breast \ Time: 00:27.73 \ Location: Ponds Forge, Sheffield \ Date: 07.12.13

n. Name: Andrew Willis \ ASA nbr: 19293 \ Club: Bracknell & Wokingham \ Event: Mens SC 200m IM \ Time: 02:01.74 \ Location: Ponds Forge, Sheffield \ Date: 08.12.13

o. Name: Andrew Willis \ ASA nbr: 19293 \ Club: Bracknell & Wokingham \ Event: Mens SC 100 Breast \ Time: 00:58.38 / Location: Herning, Denmark \ Date: 12.12.13

p. Name: Andrew Willis \ ASA nbr: 19293 \ Club: Bracknell & Wokingham \ Event: Mens SC 200m Breast \ Time: 02:02.99 \ Location: Herning, Denmark \ Date: 15.12.13

q. At BSB ASA 2014 County Championships:

Name: ASA nbr: Club: Event: Time: Location: Record:

Windsor n/a Windsor 4 x 100m Free 03:57.53 Maidenhead

County Junior Record

Windsor n/a Windsor 4 x 100m Medley 04:27.73 Maidenhead County Junior Record

Connie Dean 753453 Maidenhead 100m Breast 1:13.75 Maidenhead County Junior Record

Connie Dean 753453 Maidenhead 200m IM 2:17.98 Maidenhead County Junior Record

Connie Dean 753453 Maidenhead 50m Fly 28.84 Maidenhead County Junior Record

Windsor n/a Windsor 4 x 50m Free 01:40.31 Wycombe County Record

Windsor n/a Windsor 4 x 50m Medley 01:51.84 Wycombe County Record

Windsor n/a Windsor 4 x 100m Free 3:30.97 Maidenhead County Record

Windsor n/a Windsor 4 x 100m Medley 3:55.79 Maidenhead County Record

Windsor n/a Windsor 4 x 50m Free 01:52.14 Wycombe County Record

Windsor n/a Windsor 4 x 50m Medley 02:04.00 Wycombe County Record

Windsor n/a Windsor 4 x 100m Free 3:53.88 Maidenhead County Record

Abigail Dow 400608 Maidenhead 50m Free 26.69 Maidenhead County Record

Synchronised Swimming Medal Winners 2013-2014

September 2013

Walsall Novice Competition

12U Novice 3 Kate Walters RR

September 2013

South East Recreational Competition Trinity

12U Combo 2 Reading Royals

13/14 Combo 1 Reading Royals

12th October 2013Multi Regional, Gloucester

Figures 13/14 2 Hannah Mulshaw RR

15/17 1 Lily Ryan RR

3 Natalie Saudan RR

Solo 13/14 2 Emma Critchely RR

3 Hannah Mulshaw RR

15/17 1 Lilly Ryan RR

18/19 1 Caitlen Ahern RR

Teams 12U 2 Reading Royals

13/14 1 Reading Royals

15/17 2 Reading Royals

1st December 2013National Recreational Age Group Competition

Combination Teams

Team 12U 2 Reading Royals

13/14 1 Reading Royals

19U 2 Bracknell

2-3 December 2013

National Competitive Age Group Competition

Solos 13/14 3 Emma Critchley RR

15/17 1 Lily Ryan RR

Duets 12U 3 Abigai Taylor/Mimi Gray RR

13/14 1 Hannah Mulshaw / Emma Critchley RR

Team 12U 1 Reading Royals

13/14 1 Reading Royals

15/17 3 Reading Royals

12/13 April 2013

British Championships

Figures 3 Esme Lower RR

Team 3 Reading Royals