



**Berkshire & South Buckinghamshire  
Swim England Affiliated County**

**Annual Report 2017-2018**

President - Terry Norris

Secretary - Roger Penfold MBE

Disciplines

Diving - Emma West

Performance Swimming - Stuart Fillingham

Masters Swimming - Bob Odell

Synchronised Swimming - Beverley Skelton

Water Polo - Roger Penfold MBE

Public Relations - John Rowley

Swim England South East - Helen Mack

Treasurer - Jonathan Mills

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Swimming Records Since Last Annual Meeting





## President

Firstly I would like to thank all those who have helped make this year as County President such an enjoyable one. The County board has implemented some positive advancements during the year and our various sub-committees have handled many adverse situations positively.

Before commencing my second year as President I continued to talk to many of the coaches, volunteers and committee members in our County clubs to identify some of the challenges each of them face. I pursued these discussions with the clubs during my year "in the Chair". There is a wide spread of clubs within County who each have different requirements. The County Board and I have tried to listen to the clubs and assist where possible.

I would like to thank Emma West for her continued support of County from a Diving perspective and for all of her hard work in the sport. Similarly Bev Skelton plays a very important part in supporting the County in the sport of Synchronised Swimming and I thank her equally.

Both sports have two clubs operating from within our County and they continue to achieve tremendous results at a Regional and National level. Each sport has suffered due to closure of

facilities which has forced them to travel further afield to train. Hopefully the news of new pools being built within our County over the next 2-3 years will enable them to secure more local deep pool facilities.

The sport of Water Polo faces the same issues as the sports highlighted above; however, the two clubs in the County continue to flourish and I hope to hear more positive news for the County in Water Polo in the future.

Once again the Swimming Performance Committee has presided over a tremendous year of County Swimming Championships.

The County Development Meet at Bracknell pool continues to go from strength to strength each year and provides a fabulous opportunity for our up and coming swimmers to get a little taste of a Championship Day.

The County's main Championships event is now held in January at Wycombe and is held entirely Long Course to fit in with the hectic swim schedule - they proved to be a huge success. It is recognised that there still needs to be more fine tuning of the order of events, and new distance events will be added to 2019's programme.

Many congratulations to the Swimming Performance Committee and to Bob O'Dell for great work in hosting the County Masters Championships. It was again held at the Magnet Centre in Maidenhead and it was a terrific day of swimming. There has been growth in the event since last year and Bob did a great job pulling the event together. Hopefully the event will grow over the next few years and beyond.

In October the Inter-Counties Championships took place in Sheffield. The County team was competing in Division 2 following the previous season's relegation. The team quickly took the opportunity to demonstrate they were a force to be reckoned with on the big stage of Ponds Forge. From winning the first event through to winning the final squadron relay quite amazingly, the team stayed near or at the front of the Division throughout the afternoon. Our County won the Division 2 title and will once again take on the strongest Counties in Division 1 in October 2018. Many thanks to Joan Scarrott and her team who took the swimmers to Sheffield - Head Coach Josh Atkins, Qualified

Referee Charlie Bagot and John Rowley,  
Assistant Team Manager and Chief  
Photographer.

Josh Atkins became our County coach once Nigel Willis, with whom he shared the role, stood down from coaching last December. I thank Nigel for all of his hard work and commitment to coaching within our County over many years, we hope we will see you around soon.

Josh has worked hard alongside Joan Scarrott and Heather Reid our County Team Manager to organise the Swim England Programme's 11 year old County Camps. They are designed to be delivered in a similar format by each County in the Country to prepare swimmers for the Regional Camps which commence at age 12. The venue chosen was Crosfields School in Reading and I'd like to thank Tilehurst's Gill Dinsdale for helping us make this happen.

As well as running the Inter-Counties weekend and setting up the 11 year olds' County Camps, Joan Scarrott continued to organise the long-standing County Camps for developing swimmers at Heathfield in Ascot, and for those aspiring to compete in Regionals, the quality 2-day event held at the Crystal Palace facility. They were once again meticulously organised and everything went like clockwork for all of the swimmers, coaches and assistants. This doesn't happen by chance; it is down to Joan's attention to detail. Many thanks go to Joan for pulling it all together.

Finally I would like to reiterate my thanks to all who have worked hard on the various committees and on the management board during this past year. As indeed my predecessors have stated it is so easy to take for granted all the work that everyone does.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my second year as President. I realise there remains no Vice President to step into my role. I shall await the decision of the board at the Annual Council Meeting in July to see who will become President in 2018-2019. It is still important that a new individual with fresh ideas steps up to the plate.

**Terry Norris**

## Secretary

In the past, when I was responsible for the Annual Report, I could read all the other contributions before I put pen to paper for my section. Now that John Rowley kindly masterminds the exercise, I could be in danger of repeating something said by another contributor. Please, therefore, forgive me for any duplication. In addition, could I take the opportunity to thank John for continuing to act as our Public Relations Officer, even though he has retired off to the rural fastness of Wiltshire...

So, I usually try to round up a few significant points, particularly from an administrative perspective. Perhaps the most notable of these is the decision by the Amateur Swimming Association, the national governing body, to incorporate, at its Annual Council last year. It is now the Amateur Swimming Association (Swim England) Ltd, and has registered as a charity. I guess this has probably completely passed the average swimming club member by. Even category 3 members, who might have a vestigial interest, will probably not have noticed any changes. After all, the colloquial name of the ngb remains "Swim England", an identity taken on before incorporation.

Time will tell whether the concept of incorporation sweeps through the sport. There are some incorporated clubs in the South East Region, and at least one in this County. I expect the Region will look into the matter, going forward, but I suspect that none of the advantages seen by Swim England, and which may be seen by the Region, will accrue to a county association.

One of the results of incorporation is that the old Group Board and Sports Governing Board have been swept away at Loughborough: you may recall that Roger Prior was a member of the SGB. The Company Board now includes Loughborough "professionals", like the Chief Executive, Jane Nickerson, in its ranks. There are 4 elected directors, but none of them come from the South East, let alone Berks and South Bucks. The sport will be regulated by a Sport Operating Committee, which is presently under recruitment.

The other big administrative issue for the year has been the coming into force of the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR), after the year end, in May. Obviously, this was a major issue for Swim England, but more particularly for clubs. It was unfortunate that Swim England was not in vanguard of NGOs offering advice to clubs, but some useful stuff was eventually promulgated at the eleventh hour. Cynics might well argue that GDPR was hyped out of all proportion, for the benefit of potential consultants, but the underlying principles are undeniably sound, and, to use a somewhat denigrated phrase these days, common sense. The Association's exposure to these issues is primarily in respect of the County Championships, but we also offer bursaries to individuals and run training camps etc, and hold personal data as a result.

Turning to more concrete issues (excuse the pun), the year saw the demise of Reading's Central Pool, a palace of aquatics when opened in the 1960s, but latterly sadly showing its age. As you will have seen from other contributors, this has affected every swimming discipline (except open water), and the clubs concerned have done very well to find alternative, albeit somewhat inferior, facilities. The Clubs, and this Association, should be grateful for the support provided by Rosa Gallop, the Swim England Club Development Officer, during these difficult times.

The owners of Central Pool, Reading Borough Council, has promised to replace the facility with a pool which can sustain diving, artistic (we know it as synchro) swimming and water polo, as well as plain swimming. It will be available for competitions too, we are told. When will it appear, you ask? I am not competent to say!

In this connection, there is a strong local campaign – RG50 – asking the Council to make the new facility long course. That campaign is supported by Swim England South East.

We are also promised a new pool in Maidenhead, and, from what I hear, this is likely to be up and running before the long term replacement for Central.

Our clubs benefit not only from support from Rosa, but also from the Region's Club Development Officers, especially Helen Mack, who has taken Berks & South Bucks under her wing. The Management Board is delighted that Helen is able to join its meetings from time to time, and her regular reports are very helpful to augment the information available on the Region's website.

Moving on, although there are more individuals employed in the sport than when I became Hon Secretary, I cannot see the sport surviving without the myriad of volunteers. Anyone who has sought to run a competition in any of the disciplines will know how important the volunteers are, from running clubs to running national competitions.

We are blessed in this County in having many volunteers who have supported the sport long after they or their children packed up being active participants. Eileen Adams is the present Regional President, and is ever present, with Ken, at Regional and County swimming competitions. She will be succeeded as Regional President later in September by Jenny Gray, who is a member of a Berks & South Bucks club. If all goes to plan, Terry Norris, yet another BSB person, will succeed Jenny ..

Incidentally, there is a prospect that Terry will become the longest serving President of Berks and South Bucks since the Second World War!

Roger Prior, mentioned above, stood down from the national Swimming Officials' Group during the year. Di Hughes is the Regional Synchro Manager and qualified as an international judge in the year. Emma West has a significant role in diving in the Region. Your Secretary is Chairman of Swim England South East, for a second term.

But the County Association relies on people beyond those who appear on regional or national stages, like Stuart Fillingham, Rob Moore, Joan Scarrott and Sue Green. While the list is not indefinite, I cannot list them all in this report, nor would I want unintentionally to forget any of them.

In conclusion, we should also salute Tom Dean, one of “our” speed swimmers now appearing in international competition, Pauline Walker, who has been honoured by the Her Majesty the Queen, and Electric Eels for their award, too.

Of course, I must thank, as is customary, Jonathan (we use each other as sounding boards on County matters), Rosemary, for looking after my back as Assistant Secretary, and Sandra, my wife, for looking after me generally.

***Roger Penfold***

## Diving

### Programme

There are two ASA Diving Clubs within the county boundaries:

- Amersham Diving Club who are part of Amersham Swimming Club and are based at GLL operated Chiltern Pools in Amersham
- Albatross Diving Club who, since the closure of Central Pool in Reading, operate primarily out of The Abbey School.

Both Clubs have the Swim 21 kite mark with Amersham running a primarily skills (novice) level competitive programme whilst Albatross also have Age Group and Elite divers. Both have in addition a Masters' programme.

| Programme                               | Amersham                         | Albatross                      |
|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Learn to Dive – non-competitive members | 60                               | 45                             |
| Skills/ Novice Divers                   | 15 (10 entering Regional Skills) | 8 (5 entering Regional Skills) |
| Age Group Divers                        | 0                                | 10                             |
| Elite Divers                            | 0                                | 3                              |
| Masters/ Adult Diving                   | 8                                | 1                              |

|                 |   |   |
|-----------------|---|---|
| Level 2 Coaches | 3 | 6 |
| Level 1 Coaches | 1 | 5 |
| Young Leaders   | 3 | 3 |

### Competitive Calendar

The early part of the diving calendar year is taken up in preparation for the 4 national events; GB National Cup (February), Junior Elites (April), National Age Groups (July), and National Skills (July) with open competitions supplementing Regional Qualifying Events hosted locally by Swim England Southeast Region and slightly further afield in Southend (East Region) and Tunbridge Wells, Kent (run by London).

GB Junior Elites held in April in Plymouth saw 3 Albatross divers competing. The size and volunteer status of Albatross means that it runs a programme with significantly less diver numbers and pool and dry training hours than all the other clubs at this level of competition where the top tier of junior divers in Great Britain compete for podium positions. Just the fact that the divers are able to qualify puts them in with the top 20 of their age band and is testament to the dedication and focus given by the team of divers, parents and coaches. Albatross is also almost unique in its capability of maintaining interest and competitive

position at all levels throughout teenage years with 2 of the 3 divers competing having risen steadily through the age and competitive levels to reach their pinnacle in the last years as juniors. In perhaps larger and more competitively focused clubs these divers may well have been lost along the way as their talent may not have had the opportunity to grow in such a measured and nurtured way. The respect afforded the club and its divers is tangible; diving is a sport which crosses club boundaries with divers and coaches supporting one another, something that has been hugely beneficial in Albatross's search for pool space during the period before the new pool opens.

**James West**, competing in the first year of a 2 year age category achieved a bronze on 1m and 4<sup>th</sup> on 3m with his sister, **Charlotte** and teammate **Finlay Cook** also putting in strong centre table performances on both springboards in the oldest age categories.

The forthcoming National Age Groups to be held in Sheffield will see 10 Albatross divers compete having qualified recently across two qualifying events held in Southampton and Southend. Each year the club has grown in strength at this level both in size and depth of skill and experience and this team is no exception. They follow last year's team who collected 3 gold and 7 silver medals but are ready to rise to the challenge of matching and surpassing this haul. Immediately following the event 5 of the team will be joined by the 3 club Elite divers and fly to Barcelona to represent Albatross at the International Diving Trophy *Ciutat de Barcelona Open Competition* performing a full elite set of dives in the hope of qualifying for next year's GB Junior Elites to be held for the first time at the new International standard pool in Aberdeen.

National Skills will, this year, be held at the Commonwealth Pool in Manchester. The qualifying event is held at K2 in Crawley. Amersham has 10 divers competing and Albatross 5.

Due, in part, to the changes in the pool training Albatross did not take part in this year's Senior and Junior National Cup in February but are, instead, planning to send a team to the

equivalent Scottish Championships in Edinburgh in December.

### **Administration & Coaching**

Both clubs remain committed to supporting past divers who wish to remain in the sport. Ex Amersham diver, **Elisabeth Cullen**, who moved to Albatross to pursue competing at the advanced levels will be competing at both this year's Age Group Nationals and with the team in Barcelona. She has just qualified as a Level 1 coach. 3 divers from Albatross have now gained full scholarships to universities in America, all of whom return each year to train with their old coaches during the Easter and summer holidays. This opportunity affords the diver both a chance to carry on in their chosen sport whilst studying and also the opportunity to gain a debt free degree, something the UK cannot yet match.

Albatross has part funded (along with utilising SE Regional bursaries) 3 divers to achieve their Level 1 Coaching Assistant qualification this year and a further ex diver is currently studying for her Level 2 Diving Coach qualification through a combination of online learning and face-to-face contact sessions in Southend. Amersham too has a Level 1 coach on this same course which was offered by the East Region. The fact that courses are now blended learning, meaning that there is less time spent face-to-face with tutors necessitating coaches to be away from their home pools, and access to more coaching courses generally has been hugely beneficial to both clubs. Previously the release of coaches and young leaders/divers has created resource issues as highlighted by Amersham in particular. Both clubs operate a Young Leaders scheme which encourages divers to assist qualified coaches from age 14 to maintain low coach to diver ratios. These Young Leaders are then encouraged to complete the Level 1 qualification at 16. Neither club have any able to complete this level at this time although a summer course is proposed at Luton if any potential coaches come forward.

SwimMark support both county clubs in their operation. Both County clubs are non-selective in their Learn to Dive programmes with Amersham showing significant growth over the past year. The Lead Coach, **Shiraz Shamshudin**

reports that Amersham Diving is now the largest since he started with the club over 10 years ago. The current goal is to grow the club to around 120 divers to maximise current pool and coaching capacity. The redevelopment of the pool is promising to grow the club 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 has highlighted that Network and Talent Scheme sessions can be difficult to resource with coaches when there are clashes with the home programme, a problem experienced by a number of clubs. They identified some CPD needs and have been advised when these are being covered at the sessions in Southampton so that it may be possible to coordinate with home cover. Unsurprisingly the CPD areas requested are consistent with those included within the Region's Training Needs Analysis and Regional central funding allows that training provision is offered economically across the whole Region for the benefit of all club volunteers, divers and coaches. Equally the Network and Talent Scheme sessions invite diver participation so, with planning, coaches can try and cover their home programme in part by bringing divers along to participate in the sessions offered.

### **Facility Development**

Although the redevelopment plans at Amersham are positive, giving a better facility and dry dive, the clubs desire to keep the dry dive as a purpose built entity has been challenging. Also the scheduling of pool time has raised some concern; the planning team have a nationwide formula that they are trying to introduce to the centre placing diving sessions in unsociable hours (for example on Saturday evenings), but the club reports that they are working with a business partner to get the best outcomes.

Central Pool in Reading is now closed and Albatross train locally at the Abbey School during the week and travel at weekends to Hemel Hempstead, the London Aquatic Centre, Southampton and Southend. Reading Borough Council has invited tenders in the European

Journal for a Design, Build and Operate contract for all Reading Sport and Leisure facilities which includes the potential to build 2 new pools. A joint aquatics initiative, RG50, of which Albatross is part, is promoting the building of a 50m pool and additional 20m teaching pool which will encompass Performance Standard diving facilities. Swim England facilities have written in support of the 50m tank; Albatross has requested the input of British Diving in support of the need for Performance diving facilities in Reading acting as an equidistant hub between current facilities in Luton and Southampton.

### ***Emma West - June 2018***

### **Masters Swimming**

October 2016 was a busy month which started with the SER (SC) MASTERS at Guildford when 21 swimmers competed (13 came from Bracknell). **Becky O'Brien** (27) starred with 4 Golds as did **Nigel Salisbury** (76) whilst **Amanda Heath** managed 3. Later in the month 40 swimmers competed in National MASTERS (SC) at Sheffield amassing 36 medals which included Golds for **Becky O'Brien**, **Bridget Bewick** (57) and **Dave Milburn** (54), 2 Golds for **Kirsty Johnson** (35) and 3 for **Nigel Salisbury** (76).

In November 2016 the Inter-County event was hosted by Oxford & North Bucks at the new Leys Pool. This was a strong gala and, with a good overall performance across the 68 events, we again came third which translated to ninth overall in the national standings (of 29 districts). Our area winners were Hampshire who came first nationally, and second-placed Middlesex came fourth nationally. **Anne Cork** in 50 backstroke was our sole national event winner in her age group.

35 swimmers - almost half from Bracknell - took part in the SER MASTERS (LC) at Crawley in January. The stars were **Philippa Collin** (55) with 6 Golds and **Dave Milburn** (55) with 5 Golds. Collin and Milburn were again dominant at the Bracknell MASTERS in March, each coming away with 6 Golds. More than 50 clubs had entered this popular event and whilst

**Milburn**, who posted a new British SC record time of 2.40.08 in winning the 200m breaststroke event.

Total entries were up about 20% on last year but we still ran as a 6-lane event at a leisurely pace, ensuring adequate recovery time. We could comfortably accommodate another 30-35% increase in numbers in the available 8 lane pool and then in 2019 when a new 10 lane SC pool is due to come on stream. (This is still a plan - there has been no discernible work yet). It is intended to run this event again in 2018 but most probably on a different date due to a clash with the European MASTERS at Kranj, Lake Bled, Slovenia.

The day before our County Open MASTERS gala a number of swimmers competed at the GLAMM (LC) Meet at LAC, Stratford. I think this was essentially to have the experience of a swim in the main pool, which had been denied to many entrants in April 2016 during the shambolic European MASTERS event. Along the way **Amanda Heath** (3), **Terry Wright** (2) and **Karen Bassett** (1) collected Gold Medals.

Also in September a group from Bracknell enjoyed a BEST warm weather training camp in Mallorca. This is becoming an annual adventure.

As last year, October was hectic starting with the SER (SC) MASTERS at Guildford, where 23 swimmers competed. **Amanda Heath** beat her performance of last year, taking 4 Golds this time. However the star performer was **Philippa Collin** with 6 Golds. Mention should also be made of **Helen Steel** who entered these championships for the first time, having returned to competition after more than 2 decades away. In her 3 events she medalled each time (1 Gold, 1 Silver and 1 Bronze). At the end of the month nearly 60 swimmers (up from 40 last year) appeared at National MASTERS SC in Sheffield taking 20 Golds between them. It is to be hoped that all have something left in the tank for the up-coming Inter-County MASTERS at Portsmouth.

**Bob Odell - Masters Secretary  
October 2017**

Bracknell themselves had a large team (28), the biggest contingent had come from Teddington (42). There must have been something special in the water as 3 new British records were posted in separate 200 Breaststroke events by **Amanda Heath**, **Gina Heyn** and **Dave Milburn** respectively. On the same day a group of 7 local swimmers had chosen to compete instead at Swim Wales (Swansea) and bagged 13 Golds between them.

About 20 County swimmers made the trek to Aberdeen Sports Village in June for British MASTERS. There were 15 medallists amongst them with **Amanda Heath**, **Richard Stannard** and **Brenda Bewick** being the most prominent. Richard swept the board in 4 freestyle events whilst Amanda dominated in breaststroke and IM. Also **Dave Milburn** took all 3 individual breaststroke Golds.

Almost as many made it further afield to the 17th FINA (LC) World MASTERS in Budapest in August. Medals were not so plentiful here but both **Amanda Heath** and **Dave Milburn** starred on breaststroke. Also an evergreen **Duncan McCreadie** collected a bronze in 800m freestyle. Competitors were enthused by the facilities at the 5 competition pools.

The BSB County Open (SC) MASTERS Meet was again held in early September at Maidenhead. There were entries from 47 clubs with 177 swimmers (84 local BSB) due to take part. A good spread of clubs from Truro, Gloucester, Birmingham, Brighton and Basildon were in evidence. The top 3 ladies came from Birmingham, Teddington and Saxon Crown respectively. The top man and defending overall champion was almost inevitably **Dave**

## **Performance Swimming**

For the 2017/8 swimming season, the Committee has constituted the following members: Stuart Fillingham, Rob Moore; Gary Shields; Sue Green; Jonathan Mills; and Sharon Longhurst. Most of the Committee Meetings have also been attended by Terry Norris 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 sixth County Development Meet on the 15 October 2017. This was again perceived to be 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 re-emphasise 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.

A total of 1,303 swims were entered into the competition, a modest decrease on the 1,426 entered in 2016. Of the County's performance swimming clubs only Slough & Eton Dolphins did not enter. Though it is worth noting that only 2 swimmers from Amersham SC entered the meet. The 3 session format of the previous year was continued as it allowed 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. No complaints were received and only one matter raised before the day was the same as that raised in previous years - the holding of the meet on the morning after Round 1 of the Arena League. The Committee continue to believe this to be appropriate in a

very congested Autumn calendar and for the most part the swimmers at this meet are not usually Arena League standard swimmers. This situation will continue for the 2018 Meet. From a financial perspective, the meet total income of £8,520 showed a decrease over the previous year (2016: £9,357; 2015: £7,178; 2014: £7,423; 2013: £7,248) as a consequence of the reduced number of entrants (mainly the Amersham impact) and a consequent decrease in programme sales. Expenditure increased slightly to £3,836 (£3,716 in 2016; £3,071 in 2015; £1,817 in 2014; and, £1,785 in 2013, the latter two years excluding the cost of medals); the principal increases coming from slightly higher catering and sundry costs. Consequently, although it is never the intention for this meet to be profitable, a surplus of £4,685 was earned (2016: £5,641; 2015: £4,107; 2014: £5,606; 2013: £5,463 the latter two years again 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, not massively oversubscribed and continues 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 2018 in its three-session competition format (and has been scheduled for 14 October 2018 at the Bracknell Leisure Centre).

### **County Championships:**

The Committee again organised and ran the annual Performance Swimming County and Age Group Championships; for the third year to the new timetable prescribed in the ASA competition Pathway. The Championships took place on the weekends of 13/14 and 27/28 January 2018. The 2017 championships were the first organised under the new ASA competition Pathway and had resulted in a number of changes. Whilst refinement of that level was not required in 2018, a number of further enhancements were incorporated into the Championships. The most significant of these changes was the moving of the entirety of the Championships to the Wycombe Leisure Centre. The 2017 competition had hosted one

of the weekends at Wycombe Leisure Centre on a trial basis, which had proved successful and accordingly the full Championships were held at this pool in the current year. The Committee took this change of venue as an opportunity to reorganise the programme of events. This resulted in the introduction of finals sessions; which proved very successful. The Championship conditions were also changed as a consequence of requirements imposed by the licensing panel. That panel would not permit the licensing of the competition in the format it had been run in previous years and insisted on age group finals instead of Championship finals. The latter were therefore run on a virtual basis to determine the County Champions and accordingly the Committee were saddened to see this meet effectively become an age group competition. A few other changes were made in the current year, mostly reflecting feedback received in the previous year. The final programme received very positive feedback from the head coaches representing the performance swimming clubs in the County. Accordingly, the Committee will make only limited change for the 2019 Championships.

A review of the entry times was completed, though with minimal changes in the current year. The aim continues to be that of reducing the number of swimmers eligible to compete in the Championships, at the request of the County Coaches, to reduce the volume of entries. Accordingly, in 2018 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 now faster than the entry time for the equivalent event at the ASA South East Summer Regional Championships. For the 2018 Championships, 3,372 swims were entered into the Championships, compared to 3,509 swims in 2017, 2,856 swims in 2016 and 2,987 swims in 2015. In 2018, whilst individual swims increased year-on-year by eight, team entries decreased by 145 to 206, thereby indicating 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 have become administratively onerous. The Committee will consider if there are ways to address this when considering the planning for the 2019 Championships. All of the County's performance swimming clubs were represented, other than Slough & Eton Dolphins SC who unfortunately did not enter this year (or last).

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. Whilst there were some inevitable problems in running a championship of this size, 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 us ensure that our visit to Wycombe Leisure Centre passed without a significant incident. 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:

- Herman Bleekendaal, who admirably supports the committee in his position as Trophy officer;
- John Rowley, in his role as county PR Officer; and,
- Terry Wright, Amanda Bond and Jo Stewart from the Bracknell and Wokingham SC Events Committee who provided additional manpower in the back office meet management area.

Some of the matters covered in the post Championships review meeting were areas such as:

- The availability of Officials for finals sessions
- Swimmer withdrawals process
- "Appropriateness" of poolside attire
- Continuation of the meet in a long-course versus short-course feedback
- The 800m/1500m events

From these matters, a few key decisions have already been taken:

- The Championships will continue to be run in a long-course format.
- If the girls 1500m and boys 800m events can be accommodated into the programme of events, then they will require that an entry time has been achieved previously and has been included on Rankings, i.e. the same entry requirement and process as for all other events.

To date, the Committee has received no formal complaints in connection with Championships and no subsequent issues have arisen since the completion of the 2018 Championships.

From a swimming perspective, the Championships delivered five new County Records and given the change of many events from short-course to long-course since 2017 there were a significant number of Meet Best times. The Committee also continued to make use of a separate web site which allows the posting of results from the Championships almost immediately. This is available at the following web address: <http://swimresults.co.uk/>

The County's main site continues to disseminate current information about the Championships and allows clubs to enter their swimmers.

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 £32,478 showed a small reduction compared to the previous year (2017: £33,312; 2016: £23,476; 2015: £21,252; 2014: £24,436) mainly as a consequence of lower team entry fees partially offset by an increase in door monies.

Expenditure is currently estimated higher than the previous year at £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 a £1,950 increase in pool hire costs which is a consequence of running two full weekends at Wycombe Leisure Centre instead of running one partial weekend at the Magnet Leisure Centre in Maidenhead as in 2017. In addition, the cost of medals, printing

and officials increased year on year. Consequently, a draft surplus of £14,341 is estimated (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. Given this reduction in surplus the Committee has already considered ways in which to reduce costs in 2019 and will endeavour to deliver a greater return to the County Association in 2019.

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. The Committee made one application for capital expenditure in the current season; and has replaced one of the County's ageing laptops. The Committee has also submitted a capital request for the coming season to replace the back-up AoE system. This has already been approved by the Management Board and the equipment should be replaced in the summer of 2019. 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 in 2019. Discussions are currently underway with pool operators to secure a venue; though the Committee expect that the whole competition will be run at the Wycombe Leisure Centre in 2019. Further information on dates will be published once pool bookings have been secured.

#### **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 a number of 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-to-date records list continues to be re-published on the website each time after a new record has been set. An appendix to this paper sets out all of 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 that development of a new pool is now planned to replace the Magnet Leisure Centre in Maidenhead. Building work on the new ten lane short-course pool is estimated to be completed in January 2019.

The Committee has already participated in discussions about the requirements and development of the new pool and will continue to note progress with interest to ensure relationships with the operator are maintained. The Committee will consider use of the pool for future county competitions in due course.

***Stuart Fillingham***  
***Performance Swimming Events***  
***Manager - March 2018***

## Synchronised Swimming

This year has been a mixture of successes and challenges for Reading Royals with swimmers making strong personal progress, improving competition results, leading to strengthening the club's position in the country.

Last July Reading Royals retained their Beacon Games trophy going on to win medals in the Multi regional competition. This led into the National Age Group competitions where Reading came home with 7 Gold, 3 Silver and 1 Bronze medals. **Mimi Grey** again dominated throughout the 13/15 age group winning Gold medals in all competitions in which she competed. **Izzy Blinkhorn & Alyssa Bassinger** also collected medals in all competitions. Our 13/15 team combined with these swimmers to collect Gold throughout the year. **Mimi Grey** was also recognised by British Swimming, collecting the Emerging Athlete of the Year trophy and Swim England recognised her talent

awarding her the England Talent Synchronised Swimmer of the Year 2017.

Again Reading Royals have provided swimmers for all the GB and England squads; 3 in the GB Senior squad, 8 in the GB Junior Squad, 5 in the England Age Group squad, 3 in the England Development squad, 5 in the Reading Beacon squad and 6 in the South East Regional squad.

Reading Royals now has 3 paid coaches improving the standards of routines and figure training. **Kelly-Ann Russell** had been joined by **Katie Clark** last year and earlier this year **Kate Coupar** was appointed strengthening the club's resources.

Reading Royals Masters swimmers have increased although many have swum for Rushmoor Synchro Club in order to make a local team. **Angela Boitsidus** won Silver medals in both Technical and Free Solo at the National Masters Championships.

Many members of Reading Royals were recognised at the Reading Sports awards with

**Mimi Gray** collecting the Female Sports Personality of the Year. Helper/Loyalty awards were presented to **Rebecca Blackey, Sarah Squire,** and **Sarah Thompson. Mila Robertson,** a longstanding coach with the club, was awarded Club person of the Year and **Jeanne Clark,** Reading's Club President, was awarded the Pride of Reading Award. **Angela Boitsidus** was given the Female Veteran of the Year Award.

The closure of Central Swimming pool has led to significant challenges. Central provided early morning pool time, access to deep water with space to swim full routines as well as the ability to have the whole club together once or twice a week. This encouraged younger swimmers who had the opportunity to watch the older swimmers practising and performing. It also allowed older swimmers to help the younger swimmers, assisting with coaching both on an informal and formal basis. Other pools have been accessed but it means that each age group trains in a separate pool or at different times to others. This means more coaches are required to fulfil lifeguarding requirements and more music systems are required to cover all the pools and times. It has had an impact on the lower end of the club as there are limited

pools shallow enough to accommodate the very young swimmers. This will obviously have an impact as the years go by with fewer swimmers in the club. Unfortunately our very successful Novice Competition has been cancelled this year as there is no other pool able to cope with the numbers and profile of this competition. There are plans to change the profile of the competition for next year.

There has also been a new grade system putting extra pressure of swimmers and pool time. Our swimmers and coaches have taken these on board and particularly the 12U age group where the grade requirement has increased dramatically in order to produce a fully competitive squad.

Bracknell Synchronised Swimming Club continues with a small number of swimmers meeting once a week. They continue to be limited by coach numbers. They have been massively affected by the cancellation of Reading Royals Novice competition as this was the only competition that allowed their mixed ability swimmers to compete together. The lack of opportunity has an impact on enthusiasm within the club.

The GB Downs Syndrome team continue to train at Windsor and competed in Paris in November 2017 bringing home a gold in the duet and a Silver and Bronze in the solo. They continue to be coached by swimmers from Reading Royals. They are working towards the World Championships later this year.

All clubs continue to work hard and improve each year looking forward to the next year of competition. The competition calendar is changing over the coming year which provides some further challenges but the coaching team are working hard to minimise the stress on the swimmers. We are very grateful to all the coaches and volunteers working within all the clubs.

## ***Beverley Skelton*** ***June 2018***

### **Competition Results**

| Competition                                     | Age Group | Medal  | Swimmer           |
|-------------------------------------------------|-----------|--------|-------------------|
| <b>Hants and Berks &amp; S. Bucks Age Group</b> | 12 Under  | Silver | Hayley Pullen     |
| 10 <sup>th</sup> June 2017                      |           | Bronze | Madeleine Staples |
|                                                 |           |        |                   |
| <b>Beacon Games</b>                             | 12 Under  | Gold   | Rebecca Saunders  |
| 9 <sup>th</sup> July 2017                       |           | Silver | Madeleine Staples |
|                                                 | 13/15     | Gold   | Tara Dakovic      |
| Beacon trophy                                   |           | Gold   | Reading Royals    |
| Beacon Open Event                               | 12 Under  | Bronze | Eva Patrick       |
|                                                 | 13/15     | Gold   | Rachel Newman     |
|                                                 |           | Silver | Jess Smith        |
|                                                 | 15/18     | Gold   | Alex Turrell      |
| Overall Winners                                 | 12 Under  | Gold   | Rebecca Saunders  |
|                                                 |           | Silver | Madeleine Staples |
|                                                 | 13/15     | Gold   | Isobel Blinkhorn  |
|                                                 | 15/18     | Gold   | Terri-Faye Coupar |
|                                                 |           | Silver | Alex Turrell      |
|                                                 |           | Bronze | Cerys Larsen      |

|                                   |               |        |                                                |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|--------|------------------------------------------------|
|                                   |               |        |                                                |
| <b>Multi- Regionals</b>           | 12U Figures   | Gold   | Rebecca Saunders                               |
| 14 <sup>th</sup> October 2017     |               | Silver | Hayley Pullen                                  |
|                                   | 13/15 Figures | Gold   | Mimi Gray                                      |
|                                   | 12U Solo      | Gold   | Hayley Pullen                                  |
|                                   |               | Silver | Rebecca Saunders                               |
|                                   | 13/15         | Gold   | Mimi Gray                                      |
|                                   |               | Silver | Isobel Blinkhorn                               |
|                                   | 12U Duet      | Gold   | Madeleine Staples / Rebecca Saunders           |
|                                   | 13/15 Duet    | Gold   | Mimi Gray / Alyssa Bassinger                   |
|                                   |               | Silver | Isobel and Eleanor Blinkhorn                   |
|                                   |               | Bronze | Tara Dakovic / Beatrice Crass                  |
|                                   | 12 Under Team | Gold   | Reading Royals                                 |
|                                   | 13/15 Team    | Gold   | Snow White team                                |
|                                   |               | Bronze | Reading Royals                                 |
|                                   |               |        |                                                |
|                                   |               |        |                                                |
|                                   |               |        |                                                |
|                                   |               |        |                                                |
| <b>National Age Groups</b>        |               |        |                                                |
| 25/26 <sup>th</sup> November 2018 | 12U Solo      | Gold   | Madeleine Staples (5 <sup>th</sup> In figures) |
|                                   |               | Silver | Rebecca Saunders (4 <sup>th</sup> in figures)  |
|                                   | 12U Duet      | Gold   | Madeleine Staples / Rebecca Saunders           |
|                                   | 12U Team      | Gold   |                                                |
|                                   | 13/15 Fig     | Gold   | Mimi Gray                                      |
|                                   | 13/15 Solo    | Gold   | Mimi Gray                                      |
|                                   |               | Bronze | Isobel Blinkhorn                               |
|                                   | 13/15 Duet    | Gold   | Mimi Gray / Alyssa Bassinger                   |
|                                   |               | Silver | Isobel & Eleanor Blinkhorn                     |
|                                   | 13/15 Team    | Gold   |                                                |

|                                                                     |                         |        |                                 |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------|---------------------------------|
|                                                                     | 15/18 Team              | Silver |                                 |
|                                                                     |                         |        |                                 |
| <b>National Championships</b>                                       |                         |        |                                 |
| 21/22 <sup>nd</sup> April 2018                                      | Free Solo               | Bronze | Mimi Gray                       |
|                                                                     | Free Duet               | Silver | Mimi Gray / Alyssa Bassinger    |
|                                                                     |                         | Bronze | Isobel Blinkhorn / Cerys Larsen |
|                                                                     | Technical team          | Silver |                                 |
|                                                                     | Free team               | Silver |                                 |
|                                                                     | Free Combo Team         | Silver |                                 |
|                                                                     |                         |        |                                 |
| <b>International 17<sup>th</sup> Primorge Synchro Cup</b>           |                         |        |                                 |
| 8-11 <sup>th</sup> June 2017                                        | 13/15 Solo              | Gold   | Mimi Gray                       |
|                                                                     |                         | Bronze | Isobel Blinkhorn                |
|                                                                     | 13/15 Team              | Gold   |                                 |
|                                                                     |                         |        |                                 |
| <b>Masters National Masters Championships</b>                       |                         |        |                                 |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> November 2017                                       | Tech Solo 40-49 yr. old | Silver | Angela Boitsidis                |
|                                                                     | Free Solo 40-49 old     | Silver | Angela Boitsidis                |
|                                                                     |                         |        |                                 |
| <b>International European Down's Syndrome Synchro Championships</b> |                         |        |                                 |
|                                                                     | Duet                    | Gold   | Vivian Novis / Molly Khan       |
|                                                                     | Solo                    | Silver | Molly Khan                      |
|                                                                     |                         | Bronze | Henry Paxton                    |

## GB and England Squads

|                           |                                                                                                              |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| GB Seniors                | Harriette Smith, Mimi Gray, Abi Taylor                                                                       |
| GB Juniors                | Mimi Gray, Abi Taylor, Harriette Smith, Terri-Faye Coupar, Cerys Larsen, Isobel Blinkhorn, Alyssa Bassinger, |
| England Age Group         | Isobel Blinkhorn, Alyssa Bassinger, Eleanor Blinkhorn, Beatrice Crass                                        |
| England Development Squad | Tara Dakovic, Madeleine Staples, Rebecca Saunders                                                            |
| Reading Beacon Squad      | Alex thicket, Lottie Moghul, Mia Palmer, Amelia Gelder, Florence Blinkhorn                                   |
| South East Region         | Rachel Newman, Jess Smith, Alex Thickett, Lottie Moghul, Maddison Squires, Mia Palmer                        |

## County Medal Winner 2017/18

| Competition            | Medal  | Swimmer                                                                                                                                                              |
|------------------------|--------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 12U Combo Team         | Gold   | Beatrice Asker, Bethan Jones, Cara Zeidler, Danae Boitsidis, Francesca Pringle, Hannah Fox, Isabelle Vorster, Mulan Su, Naomi Morgan, Natalie Sciarra, Sofia Dakovic |
| 13/14 Combo Team       | Gold   | Catherine Gowing, Emily McGinn, Katie Felton, Katrina Shipley, Meila Evan- Grubiak, Millie Colman                                                                    |
| 12 Figures             | Gold   | Rebecca Saunders                                                                                                                                                     |
|                        | Silver | Madeleine Stapes                                                                                                                                                     |
|                        | Bronze | Hayley Pullen                                                                                                                                                        |
| 12U Solo               | Gold   | Madeleine Staples                                                                                                                                                    |
|                        | Silver | Rebecca Saunders                                                                                                                                                     |
|                        | Bronze | Hayley Pullen                                                                                                                                                        |
| 12Under Team           | Gold   | Madeleine Staples, Rebecca Saunders, Hayley Pullen, Alice Bloomfield, Amelia Gelder, Charlie Razzell, Eve Patrick, Florence Blinkhorn, Louise Horlock                |
| 13/15 Figures and Solo | Gold   | Mimi Gray                                                                                                                                                            |
|                        | Silver | Isobel Blinkhorn                                                                                                                                                     |
|                        | Bronze | Alyssa Bassinger                                                                                                                                                     |

|               |        |                                                                                                                                                         |
|---------------|--------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 13/15 Duet    | Gold   | Mimi Gray / Alyssa Bassinger                                                                                                                            |
|               | Silver | Isobel and Eleanor Blinkhorn                                                                                                                            |
|               | Bronze | Beatrice Crass and Tara Dakovic                                                                                                                         |
| 13/15 Team    | Gold   | Mimi Gray, Isobel Blinkhorn, Alyssa Bassinger, Eleanor Blinkhorn, Rachel Newman, Tara Dakovic, Beatrice Crass, Maddie Squire, Jess Smith                |
|               | Silver | Alice Saunders, Claudia Conellan, Emilia Wood, Ksenia Alexandova, Lottie Moghul, Marther Crowland, Mia Palmer, Molly Sexton, Rebecca Blakey, Tara Evans |
| 15/18 Figures | Gold   | Teri-Faye Coupar                                                                                                                                        |
|               | Silver | Alex Turrell                                                                                                                                            |
|               | Bronze | Harriette Smith                                                                                                                                         |
| 15/18 Solo    | Gold   | Teri-Faye Coupar                                                                                                                                        |
| 15/18 Duet    | Gold   | Alex Turrell / Harriette Smith                                                                                                                          |
|               | Silver | Izzy Turrell / Cerys Larsen                                                                                                                             |
| 15/18 Team    | Gold   | Alex Turrell, Anna Boehning, Harriette Smith, Teri-Faye Coupar, Isabel Turrell, Cerys Larsen Anna Welland                                               |
|               |        |                                                                                                                                                         |

## Water Polo

Unless I am very much mistaken, there are 2 clubs in the County who offer water polo as a specific aquatic discipline – Reading SC and Wycombe District SC. Reading has a long tradition of water polo, while the discipline has only recently been re-introduced at Wycombe.

### **Reading**

The greatest challenge to water polo at Reading SC is the closure of Central Pool, now scheduled for February 2018: the Club hopes to continue the polo sessions until closure. Other pools have been considered, eg Bradfield College, but, with help from the Swim England Club Development Officer, Rosa Gallop, pool time has now been secured at Minley pool (Gibraltar Barracks), when the latter reopens early in 2018.

Membership has increased this year. There is a new student member as well as another new player, who has just moved to the area from Hungary. There are 3 other potential new members (2 female students, one a GB international) and a returning player.

Reading is in Division 1 of the Summer league again this season. The team also reached the semi finals of the [handicapped] cup tournament.

There is demand from juniors who want to play polo, and the Club's polo players/coaches are keen to try to start a junior polo section at Reading in the future, but without any available/suitable pool time at the time being, this cannot progress.

### **Wycombe**

Water polo is still very much in its "formation" stage at Wycombe.

For the last year, the Club ran a session 9-10pm on Tuesdays but this never took off, due to the timing of it; although this had great pool space. The Club has now decided to run a polo session every other Friday evening 8-9pm within the "development section" of the Club, as more of a "fun" activity. This is a huge success at the moment and the Club is planning hopefully to make this every week by January and designate a permanent 4 lanes to the session.

If this grows, the Club may reinstate the Tuesday evening along with an additional session if water space can be found

I am indebted to Kevin Brooks for the information about Wycombe.

**Roger Penfold**  
**November 2017**

## Public Relations

The use of video and photographs to celebrate and publicise the work of the county continues. The busiest period is always the County Swimming Championships, but through my involvement in the National County Team Championships and some of the Development camps the archive of materials from which to draw for publicity purposes continues to grow.

## Website

The most significant development was the investment in a results service to allow parents and the general public access to Swimming Championship results almost immediately after the completion of a race.

This value added service is a tremendous plus both for parents watching events unfolding in the pool, and family members elsewhere wishing to know if a qualifying time has been achieved. It is a valuable addition to other methods of disseminating data. This separate website supplements the work of the official website.

The official website continues to provide an important service to clubs. The facility to easily enter swimmers for official County Meets through the site has made handling entries and monitoring uptake for events a plus both for swimmers and the organisers. It enables fine-tuning of start times for sessions and the virtual elimination of dead time within the overall schedule.

It also publishes up to date information on records achieved by our County swimmers.

## Video

The main purpose of videoing County activities is to keep a record of successes that can be shared by swimmers and their family and friends.

All the 50 and 100 metre finals were filmed edited and uploaded to You Tube as in previous years and have enjoyed numerous hits. At the

time of writing the 31 separate items have been seen over 2700 times. Most viewings were in the 4 weeks after the championships. This was without any significant publicity. The most popular video for the boys was the Junior 100 Backstroke finals that had 156 'hits', while the most popular girls event was the Senior 100 Butterfly finals which received 121 'hits'.

Each of the uploaded videos has a consistent format, and is prefaced with a BSB Championship logo.

The task increased exponentially with the introduction of Age Group finals. In previous years only 2 finals in each event needed filming. The new arrangements meant we now have 7 finals - 4 in the junior age group and 3 in the senior for each event.

The big plus is that our youngest swimmers get to experience what a Final is like, and learn to handle the pressures of delivering a performance in the spotlight of an evening session.

The downside of having more finals is this means more video to upload, and uploading speeds can be frustratingly slow. This is the main reason why the longer events are not uploaded currently as files become prohibitively large.

Video also plays an important part in the National County Team Championships held in the autumn.

Only some Parents get to experience the very special atmosphere of this event. There is nothing quite like it in the rest of the swimming calendar.

For the past few years a video diary has been kept of the build up to the competition climaxing with the event itself. The fact our team triumphed was fantastic. Gaining promotion back to Division 1 at the first time of asking was a thrilling experience and was thoroughly deserved by our 24-strong County team.

All 31 races were recorded and DVDs of the competition as well as edited footage from

the rest of the weekend was created for all the participants, both swimmers and accompanying adults. The footage of the competition was also uploaded to You Tube in 4 parts.

In reality the recording of a race with a single camera has probably developed as far as it can go. It will need the use of several camera feeds to improve the end result if there is an aspiration to further develop video in the county. In the past streaming was not considered appropriate because of Swim England's Photographic and Video policy. However looking at You Tube quite a few counties are going down this route. The status quo is labour intensive and although resulting in a professional end product is not a sustainable solution for sharing video.

### **Photography**

A great image has more impact than a thousand words. Having a good fund of images makes my work so much easier,

The policy of sharing images with clubs of medal and trophy winners on the podium together with action shots was continued. To aid clubs the images were sorted by club this year. In effect clubs were given a personalised disk for their use. In the past all images taken were distributed on CD and clubs had to sift through numerous images to find their own swimmers.

It is fair to say that not all clubs make use of the images. Some take their own photos separately or have their own designated photographer on hand at presentation time. It is always pleasing seeing images used imaginatively on club websites.

From the perspective of the County the visual record of the podium presentations provide the trophy secretary with an invaluable resource when tracking the current holders of County Cups and shields. This archive has also been the first point of call for clubs when posting press releases celebrating their swimmers' successes.

There are also individual requests from parents throughout the year for photos and videos for use in GCSE coursework files and suchlike.

### **Other events**

The highly successful existing Development opportunities within the county have been augmented with the delivery of the Swim England programme for 11 year olds alongside our current provision. Overseen by Joan Scarrott the impact of this ongoing work is evident in the standard of our younger swimmers coming through and making an impression at events like the National County Team event. One can't underestimate the impact these events have not only on swimmers but also on the parents. The first session held at Crosfields School in Reading not only provided an action packed programme for swimmers it also provided a programme for parents that ran alongside. It proved extremely popular and generated a demand for future offerings. Once again a photographic record was kept of the day and the images shared through the county website.

Raising the profile of the County and particularly of our talented swimmers is a key objective. The process of recording the successes and sharing resources has continued to build a positive ethos, celebrating what the County has achieved during a busy year.

***John Rowley***  
***June 2018***



## Swim England South East

### SwimMark (previously swim 21)

Currently Berkshire & South Bucks has 12 SwimMark club Essential accredited clubs. Unfortunately Windsor SC lost their SwimMark accreditation in 2018.

### Regional Talent Camps

#### Regional 12 year old pathway camps 2017

36 swimmers were selected to participate in the Regional 12 year old pathway camps that were held on the 8<sup>th</sup> July, 2<sup>nd</sup> September and 1<sup>st</sup> December. The selected swimmers from BSB were;

|         |       |            |
|---------|-------|------------|
| William | Dean  | Maidenhead |
| Merissa | Booth | Wycombe    |

No coaches from BSB applied to be a skills coach on the programme. Terry Norris (Chalfont) and Heather Reid (Wycombe) were the Team Managers on the camps.

We welcomed 14 coach observers over the three days, one coach from BSB, John Munday from Slough and Eton Dolphins attended two of the camps.

### Bursaries

Between April 2017 – March 2018, the South East Region awarded the following bursaries to BSB clubs;

- 1 x Diving Assistant = £175
- 1 x Synchro Assistant = £110
- 7 x Swimming Assistant (Coaching) = £935
- 8 x Swimming Assistant (Teaching) = £1580
- 2 x Swimming Coach = £729.30
- 7 x Swimming Teacher = £3121.80
- 2 x Open Water Coaching = £495

1 x Senior Coach = £1575

In addition the region received 34 CPD bursary applications covering 117 learners, a total cost of £1409.76 to clubs.

Total cost of bursaries awarded to BSB clubs = £10,130.86

### Networks

No new Networks have been established in BSB during this period but the existing networks continue to work together and have maintained SwimMark accreditation.

Four Counties Network – Bracknell & Wokingham SC

Southampton Diving (ACE) Network – Albatross Diving Club and Amersham SC

Oxon & Berkshire Synchro Network – Electric Eels of Windsor SC and Reading Royals Synchro SC

Thames Valley Network – Reading SC, Maidenhead SC, Slough & Eton Dolphin SC, Tilehurst SC, Windsor SC

Chiltern Network – Amersham SC, Chalfont Otters SC and Chesham SC.

All the above networks have received funding from the region to support development activities.

### Coach Education

The region has delivered a variety of swimming coach education opportunities from April 2017 – March 2018. During this period, 12 BSB coaches have attended workshops and conferences.

### Time to Listen

One TTL course was delivered in Berkshire & South Bucks in October 2017. The SER commits to delivering one course per County ASA every twelve months. Nine welfare officers in BSB have been trained within the last 12 months.

### Team Manager Training

4 Team Manager Courses were delivered in BSB between April 2017 – March 2018, 2 team manager module one courses and 2 team

manager module 2 courses, training 51 team managers.

### **Regional Off-shore Camp**

7 swimmers from BSB clubs (Wycombe and Maidenhead) were selected to represent the region at the Flanders Speedo Cup from the 18–22 January. The swimmers were supported by Kevin Brooks (Head coach) and Terry Norris (Team manager).

### **Young Volunteer Programme**

The Region once again delivered a Young Volunteer Programme in 2017/2018. During these programmes, 10 young people from BSB attended the programme which is aimed at increasing the number of trained young people and to improve the accessibility to formal and informal training opportunities.

The young people participating in the programme were from 6 clubs, Chalfont Otters SC, Chesham SC, Wycombe SC, Newbury & District SC, Reading Royals SSC and Reading SC.

### **Swimming Regional Coaches Forum**

The Regional forum meets five times per year to offer support and direction for the development of swimming across the region. BSB is currently represented by Kevin Brooks (Wycombe) and Paul Lloyd (Maidenhead)

### **Regional Open Water Camp 2017**

The Region ran an open water camp with the support and direction from Swim England Talent in June 2017 for 12 – 16 year olds. Athletes were selected if they either came in the top three at the Regional or National Championships in 2016 or through the distance rankings for the 12 year olds. The day consisted of a pool skills session, a workshop and an open water training session.

Attendees from BSB included;

|                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|
| Merissa Booth    | Wycombe District |
| Solomon Williams | Wycombe District |
| Daniel Cox       | Wycombe District |
| Ella Dyson       | Wycombe District |

|                |                  |
|----------------|------------------|
| Thomas Sansome | Wycombe District |
| Caitlin MacKay | Wycombe District |
| Lili Smith     | Reading          |

### **Volunteer Training Calendar**

The region continues to produce the volunteer training calendar on a monthly basis, which identifies courses for the coming three months. The calendar includes all volunteer courses, such as safeguarding and protecting children, team manager workshops, time to listen etc delivered within the south east region. Information is collated from all partners, including county sport partnerships, UK Coaching and the Institute of Swimming.

### **Swim England South East Regional Newsletter**

The region continues to produce the monthly newsletter which is e-mailed directly to those who have signed up to receive the document on the first of each month. If you would like to receive the newsletter, please visit the south east website and click the 'join newsletter' button on the home page.

### **Safeguarding Courses**

Towards the end of 2016, the region registered as a licensed partner with UK Coaching, to enable Safeguarding courses to be delivered at cost to the regions clubs. During the period April 2017 – March 2018, 4 BSB clubs/networks have hosted a safeguarding course, often offering places to other clubs, providing safeguarding training to 80 club volunteers, teachers and coaches.

***Helen Mack***

***Swim England South East***

## Treasurer

All the County revenue in the financial year of 2017/18 has been generated by the performance swimming and masters disciplines, and has seen the County initiate extra investments into the performance swimming programmes.

The County now stages 3 development camps and 2 swim meets during the year, together with the County Masters gala.

The highest costs incurred are the hire of the pools and associated facilities for these galas. We were fortunate to have kept these costs under control this year, even recording a slight drop.

New this year is the English Programmes camps for 11 year old swimmers. Some 30 swimmers have enjoyed the first year of these, in which each swimmer attends a series of 3 one-day training camps across the year, run to a Swim England prescribed structure.

The accounts only represent the expenditure of the first of the 3 camps planned in 2018, but feedback so far is good and the programme for 2019 is being planned.

Investment in the clubs' skills continues with the Bursary scheme, which is available across all disciplines. Whilst Swim England South East Region has ceased to fund bursaries for teaching roles, the County continues, at present, to support the development of both teacher and coaching skills. Under the Bursary scheme the County will cover 1/2 the approved course fees (or more for higher skill levels) - provided funding was not available from the South East Region first.

For some clubs 2018 has been a difficult year, with pool closures and the efforts to locate suitable facilities for training. Other clubs have enjoyed new developments or updated facilities.

In 2018 we expect to upgrade the County's ageing Electronic Timing system.

Finally I would like to thank Barbara Garden DipPFS for the scrutiny of the accounts of the County Association, and we are grateful for her waiving the fee that would normally be associated with this activity.

***Jonathan Mills***

**Berks & South Bucks ASA  
Accounts at 31 March 2018**

|                                         | Year Ended<br>31 March<br>2018 | Year Ended<br>31 March<br>2017 | Year Ended<br>31 March<br>2016 |
|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Income &amp; Expenditure Account</b> |                                |                                |                                |
| 2018 County Championships receipts      | 32,478                         | 33,312                         | 23,477                         |
| 2017 Development Meet                   | 8,520                          | 9,357                          | 6,912                          |
| 2017 County Masters                     | 3,500                          | 2,812                          | -                              |
| Synchro Receipts                        | -                              | -                              | 200                            |
| English Programme Camps                 | 2,700                          | -                              | -                              |
| Inter County Gala Rebate                | 1,000                          | 1,000                          | 1,000                          |
| T-shirts Sold                           | 80                             | 157                            | 111                            |
| Interest rReceived                      | 46                             | 38                             | 51                             |
|                                         | <b>48,325</b>                  | <b>46,676</b>                  | <b>31,751</b>                  |
| <b>Expenditure</b>                      |                                |                                |                                |
| 2018 County Championships Expenditure   | 18,787                         | 15,106                         | 13,629                         |
| 2017 Development Meet                   | 3,836                          | 3,716                          | 2,805                          |
| 2017 County Masters                     | 3,329                          | 3,390                          | -                              |
| 2018 English Programmes                 | 1,171                          | 226                            | -                              |
| Bursaries                               | 2,996                          | 896                            | 1,251                          |
| Synchro Expenses                        | -                              | -                              | 660                            |
| Masters expenditure                     | -                              | -                              | 441                            |
| 2017 Development Camp                   | 1,025                          | 1,014                          | 1,232                          |
| 2017 Regional Camp                      | 2,781                          | 4,332                          | 3,346                          |
| Inter County Gala expenditure           | 3,335                          | 2,876                          | 3,486                          |
| County Polo Shirts/Promotion            | 400                            | -                              | -                              |
| Trophies & Repairs etc                  | 3,115                          | 1,097                          | -                              |
| President & Hon. Secretary's expenses   | 330                            | 173                            | 129                            |
| Room Hire (Meetings etc.)               | -                              | 50                             | 363                            |
| Accountancy                             | -                              | 200                            | 480                            |
| Depreciation                            | -                              | -                              | 1,378                          |
| Officials                               | -                              | 54                             | 91                             |
| Website                                 | 71                             | 91                             | 59                             |
| Miscellaneous expenditure               | 400                            | 166                            | 604                            |
|                                         | <b>41,576</b>                  | <b>33,387</b>                  | <b>29,954</b>                  |
| <b>Income Over Expenditure</b>          | <b>6,749</b>                   | <b>13,290</b>                  | <b>1,797</b>                   |

**Balance Sheet**

| <b>Assets</b>             |                | <b>Liabilities</b>      |                          |
|---------------------------|----------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Bank Accounts             | 131,832        | Accruals                | 1,318                    |
| Debtor                    | -              | Funds 01 April 2017     | 125,406                  |
| Fixed Assets (AOE Backup) | -              | Income over Expenditure | 6,749                    |
| Stock                     | 1,642          |                         |                          |
|                           | <b>133,474</b> |                         | <b>133,474</b>           |
|                           |                |                         |                          |
|                           | Debtor         | -                       | Accruals: 2015 Pool Hire |
|                           |                |                         | 1,240                    |
|                           |                | <b>Accountancy</b>      | <b>200</b>               |
|                           |                |                         | <b>1,440</b>             |

**Independent Examiner’s Report**

**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 explanation 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 examinations, no matter has come to my attention:

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

**Barbara Garden DipPFS**  
**19 June 2018**

Appendix – **New County records since the last annual report**

| <b><u>Sex</u></b> | <b><u>SC / LC</u></b> | <b><u>Distance</u></b> | <b><u>Stroke</u></b> | <b><u>Age</u></b>    | <b><u>Swimmer</u></b> | <b><u>Club</u></b> | <b><u>Meet</u></b>                     | <b><u>Venue</u></b>    | <b><u>Date</u></b> | <b><u>Time</u></b> |
|-------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|----------------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Girls             | LC                    | 100                    | Breast               | County Junior Record | Eleanor Cowan         | Wycombe District   | ASA British Championships 2017         | Sheffield              | 20.04.17           | 01:14.97           |
| Girls             | LC                    | 200                    | Free                 | County Junior Record | Emilia Sansome        | Wycombe District   | ASA British Championships 2017         | Sheffield              | 20.04.17           | 02:04.37           |
| Womens            | LC                    | 200                    | Free                 | County Record        | Emilia Sansome        | Wycombe District   | ASA British Championships 2017         | Sheffield              | 20.04.17           | 02:04.37           |
| Mens              | LC                    | 50                     | Fly                  | County Record        | James McFadzen        | Wycombe District   | ASA British Championships 2017         | Sheffield              | 20.04.17           | 00:25.15           |
| Mens              | LC                    | 100                    | Back                 | County Record        | James McFadzen        | Wycombe District   | ASA British Championships 2017         | Sheffield              | 20.04.17           | 00:56.84           |
| Mens              | LC                    | 200                    | Back                 | County Record        | James McFadzen        | Wycombe District   | ASA British Championships 2017         | Sheffield              | 20.04.17           | 02:02.82           |
| Mens              | LC                    | 50                     | Back                 | County Record        | James McFadzen        | Wycombe District   | ASA British Championships 2017         | Sheffield              | 20.04.17           | 00:26.46           |
| Mens              | LC                    | 200                    | IM                   | County Record        | Thomas Dean           | Maidenhead         | ASA British Championships 2017         | Sheffield              | 22.04.17           | 02:02.55           |
| Mens              | LC                    | 400                    | IM                   | County Record        | Thomas Dean           | Maidenhead         | ASA British Championships 2017         | Sheffield              | 20.04.17           | 04:21.23           |
| Womens            | LC                    | 50                     | Back                 | County Record        | Emilia Sansome        | Wycombe District   | ASA British Summer Championships       | Sheffield              | 30.07.16           | 00:29.97           |
| Womens            | LC                    | 50                     | Free                 | County Record        | Emilia Sansome        | Wycombe District   | ASA British Summer Championships       | Sheffield              | 27.07.17           | 00:26.98           |
| Girls             | LC                    | 50                     | Free                 | County Junior Record | Emilia Sansome        | Wycombe District   | ASA British Summer Championships       | Sheffield              | 27.07.17           | 00:26.98           |
| Boys              | LC                    | 50                     | Back                 | County Junior Record | James Eddy            | Wycombe District   | ASA British Summer Championships       | Sheffield              | 25.07.17           | 00:26.29           |
| Mens              | LC                    | 50                     | Back                 | County Record        | James Eddy            | Wycombe District   | ASA British Summer Championships       | Sheffield              | 25.07.17           | 00:26.29           |
| Boys              | LC                    | 100                    | Back                 | County Junior Record | James Eddy            | Wycombe District   | ASA British Summer Championships       | Sheffield              | 26.07.17           | 00:57.29           |
| Mens              | LC                    | 200                    | Back                 | County Record        | James McFadzen        | Wycombe District   | ASA British Championships 2017         | Sheffield              | 23.04.17           | 02:02.49           |
| Mens              | LC                    | 100                    | Back                 | County Record        | James McFadzen        | Wycombe District   | European Junior Championships          | Israel                 | 28.06.17           | 00:56.60           |
| Mens              | LC                    | 4x100                  | Free                 | County Record        |                       | Wycombe District   | ASA British Summer Championships       | Sheffield              | 29.07.17           | 03:28.55           |
| Mens              | LC                    | 4x100                  | Medley               | County Record        |                       | Wycombe District   | ASA British Summer Championships       | Sheffield              | 30.07.17           | 03:45.31           |
| Mens              | LC                    | 4x200                  | Free                 | County Record        |                       | Wycombe District   | ASA British Summer Championships       | Sheffield              | 28.07.17           | 07:40.41           |
| Girls             | LC                    | 200                    | Free                 | County Junior Record | Emilia Sansome        | Wycombe District   | Swim England SE Open championships     | Portsmouth             | 4.11.17            | 02:04.14           |
| Womens            | LC                    | 200                    | Free                 | County Record        | Emilia Sansome        | Wycombe District   | Swim England SE Open championships     | Portsmouth             | 4.11.17            | 02:04.14           |
| Boys              | SC                    | 1500                   | Free                 | County Junior Record | Joshua Williams       | Wycombe District   | Wycombe County and Regional Qualifier  | Wycombe                | 24.11.17           | 16:10.42           |
| Boys              | LC                    | 400                    | Free                 | County Junior Record | Joshua Williams       | Wycombe District   | Swim England Winter Championships 2017 | Sheffield              | 13.12.17           | 04:10.29           |
| Girls             | SC                    | 100                    | Fly                  | County Junior Record | Eleanor Cowan         | Wycombe District   | NASL Round 3                           | Wycombe Leisure Centre | 09.12.17           | 01:02.62           |
| Girls             | LC                    | 400                    | IM                   | County Junior Record | Caitlin Mackay        | Wycombe District   | Flanders Cup                           | Entwerp                | 20.01.18           | 04:56.89           |
| Womens            | LC                    | 100                    | Free                 | County Record        | Jemima Hall           | Wycombe District   | County Championships 2018              | Wycombe Leisure Centre | 14.01.18           | 00:58.04           |
| Girls             | LC                    | 4X100                  | Medley               | County Junior Record | Wycombe District      | Wycombe District   | County Championships 2018              | Wycombe Leisure Centre | 14.01.18           | 04:30.45           |
| Girls             | LC                    | 200                    | Breast               | County Junior Record | Megan Daley           | Wycombe District   | County Championships 2018              | Wycombe Leisure Centre | 14.01.18           | 02:51.87           |
| Womens            | LC                    | 200                    | Free                 | County Record        | Emilia Sansome        | Wycombe District   | County Championships 2018              | Wycombe Leisure Centre | 28.01.18           | 02:04.10           |
| Womens            | LC                    | 4X100                  | Medley               | County Record        | Wycombe District      | Wycombe District   | County Championships 2018              | Wycombe Leisure Centre | 28.01.18           | 04:22.21           |
| Boys              | LC                    | 1500                   | Free                 | County Junior Record | Joshua Williams       | Wycombe District   | British Championships                  | Edinburgh              | 01.03.18           | 16:38.13           |
| Boys              | LC                    | 1500                   | Free                 | County Junior Record | Joshua Williams       | Wycombe District   | Wycombe Long Course Premier Open Meet  | Wycombe                | 09.03.18           | 16:34.13           |