

Report to Berkshire and South Buckinghamshire County Management Board
Thursday 14 July 2022
Aquatic Discipline: Diving

Programme

There are two Swim England Diving Clubs within the county boundaries:

- Amersham Diving Club based at the new Everyone Active operated Chiltern Lifestyle Centre in Amersham
- Albatross Diving Club who, since the closure of Central Pool in Reading now operate primarily out of The Abbey School, but also use other pools. Both Albatross and Amersham are SwimMark accredited clubs with the SwimMark Health Check being presented to the next Southeast Regional Board for Albatross.

Amersham run a primarily Skills (novice) level competitive programme and have a flourishing Masters section. Some of these Skills divers are progressing well with the aim of Age Groups in the future.

In addition to Skills, Albatross also have Age Group, Elite and Senior divers competing at national level and a growing master's programme.

As with all aquatic disciplines the last year has seen both clubs rebuilding their programmes in the aftermath of the pandemic and Amersham have additionally moved to new facilities in the recently built Chiltern Lifestyle Centre where they will benefit from 2 x 1m, 2 x 3m and a 5m platform with dry training being offered in the on-site sportshall. The club report that the new environment, with improved facilities, air and water temperature and bubbler, has heightened morale and, despite some early operator and operational issues, the outlook is positive as the relationship between the operator and the club is improving.

Through the maintenance of virtual training during the 3 periods of pool and dry facility closures the previous year both clubs have maintained and, since grown, membership numbers. Amersham has seen an increase in interest through a general increase in the new lessons programme. They do not follow a talent identification programme (TID) and, to date, there has been a slower entry into the squad system with few divers identified as being of sufficient ability to progress to meaningful competition than, perhaps, hoped for.

Statistics

	Amersham	Albatross
Lesson/ Learn to Dive Programme	33	32
Recreational Divers	27	
Pre-Skills Competitive	20	9
Skills Qualifiers	5	7
Age Group		7
Elite		1
Seniors		3
Masters	18	2

Amersham support the club with 4 Dive Coaches (old Level 2). They have an additional 2 aspiring coaches who wish to take their qualifications, but coaching courses are always difficult to find, particularly for smaller clubs who are unable to run their own.

Albatross have 7 Dive Coaches and 4 Assistant Coaches (old Level 1). They too have 1 candidate for an Assistant Coach Course and 1 for a Dive Coach Course. The qualified coaches include those who started their qualification during lockdown and completed the pool practical element this year. These coaches were supported, in part, by county funding.

Competitive Calendar

Amersham Swimming & Diving Club have entered children in a number of competitions this year:

- Surrey Skills
- Haringey Invitational
- GBDF Spring Masters – Southampton
- East Region Skills
- Southeast Region Skills
- Swim England National Skills Finals

Albatross too entered divers into Surrey Skills, East Region Skills, Southeast Region Skills and Swim England National Skills Finals but, in addition, have attended the following:

- Southampton Invitationals
- Armada Cup, Plymouth
- Southwest Region Skills
- Northwest Region Skills
- Southeast Region Age Group
- British Diving GB Junior Elites 2021 and 2022
- Swim England National Age Group Championships

Gold, silver and bronze National Medals have been won at Elite and Age Group competitions by Albatross including National Age Group Champions in A boys Platform, 1m and 3m springboards.

Administration & Coaching

Both clubs remain committed to encouraging and supporting past divers who wish to remain in the sport. Amersham has a thriving Master's section diving at National, International and World events and Albatross now have a growing group of older girls who have formed a Novice Masters team. All of the Albatross coaches have come from involvement in the sport either as a diver themselves or as a parent of a diver.

Both clubs also support Swim England with judges with Amersham having 5 Regional Judge 1's and Albatross having 5 Regional Judge 1's, 3 National Judge 2's and 3 Senior Judge 3's. The

county was represented at all Swim England and British Diving Regional Qualifiers and National Events this year by a selection of these judges.

Swim England also support national divers on the aquatics Diploma in Sporting Excellence Programme (DiSE). 2 county divers will receive their qualification this year through Loughborough College which supports their university applications with 64 UCAS points.

Facility Development and Growth

Both clubs are non-selective in their Learn to Dive programmes and will look to their new pools to grow the clubs further. Amersham are already enjoying increased interest since the opening of their new pool and Albatross are looking to expand their offer when their new pool opens next May. The relationship with the operator, GLL, is in the early stages of development following a change of manager and it is unclear at this stage how the new programme will run in respect of staffing and employment, Albatross currently being run on a completely voluntary basis. Diving has remained with the club at Amersham and clauses in the letting contract precluded a separate operator run lesson programme competing with the club offer.

Albatross continue to train locally at the Abbey School during the week and travel at weekends to Hemel Hempstead and Southampton. Session sizes are back to pre-pandemic levels and there is a constant flow of enquiries. A new website has recently gone live.

Coach development continues to be led through Regional SEEDS and ACE programmes which, have both resumed.

Thank you. Emma West. 10 July 2022