

Chairman's Report June 2009

This year my report will focus on the progress made by your committee on implementation of the club succession plan mandated by resolution at the 2007 AGM. This and the Treasurer's report provide the information members need to know about the position of the club at the moment.

Club Accreditation

This is the club's licence to operate. It covers all aspects of the club. The club was first accredited in 2004. Accreditation lasts only for 4 years. The main task this year was therefore to renew our accreditation with all that entailed. I submitted all the information to ASA by the deadline early September, it was reviewed by regional and national panels and we were notified that we had got through in December 2008. This was not plain sailing. I had to identify deficiencies in the form of an Action Plan and progress against this plan will be checked annually. The first review is not that far away, some things have been done but not everything.

Volunteers

We have refreshed the "events management" volunteer work force. There is a new team of people now active in the running of swimming events, organising teams at galas/open meets and processing/publishing results. Likewise a number of people have embarked on training courses to become officials. Also in April Maggie Davenport took over from Debs Wanstall as Welfare Officer. On behalf of the swimmers I thank everyone who is now helping out in this way.

Pool side changes

During the year the Saturday Teaching/Fitness scheme has been reshaped by the teaching team and from Easter this year the full 3 hours is now dedicated to Learn to Swim, Pre-competitive and Fitness swimmers. This has involved a lot of behind the scenes work by our teachers. The Young Persons scheme has continued to be an important feature of this section of the club and I thank all of our senior swimmers who have participated and gained qualifications.

(Club secretary thanked volunteer teachers; Caroline Mackie, Hiliary Rusholm, James Toone, Allegra Dowding, Chloe Edwards, Alexandra Gourlay and presented awards on behalf of club).

The competitive Squad coaching team has also been through a period of development throughout the year culminating with Jon Brayne being appointed to lead the coaching team with its reorganised and extended water time with effect from this April. You will now here from Jon in person.

At this point I usually talk about the pools we operate out of and the main changes this year have been to extend one squad session at Godalming to 1.5 hours and to secure two additional 1.5 hour sessions at GHS. Club Officers have met with Waverley BC and DC Leisure about how they are taking forward the adverse structural report on Godalming pool. There will be news on this most probably by September. We have also restarted land training for the senior squad. The implications of these changes are covered in our Treasurer's report that follows.

Looking Forward

A great deal of effort has been put in since two years ago, when I and the other officers, Debs and Ian, put a "call for action" to members at the AGM to secure a sustainable future by 2009 AGM. Collectively you have done well and all the roles previously occupied by Ian and Debs are now fully handed over. Unfortunately this falls short of where we need to be. In 1994 when the club last hit a succession and survival challenge, I like Debs, was a parent member who attended the AGM along with 12 others representing 79 swimmers. We had two squad training sessions a week and 2 hours learn to swim on a Saturday. Facing closure of the club, the two of us felt in our hearts that it was worth saving. We inherited two carrier bags of paper as the only club assets. Managing the club took a few hours at the weekend, about 4 meetings a year, enjoyable galas and friendship around the pool. What we undertook to do then is a world apart from Wey Valley today and the young swimmers are the only constant throughout.

To me they are the heart of the club and it's them, and their predecessors and successors, that I care about and that this club has existed for up to this point. That said I have to end by telling you that managing your club today involves around 800 hours of my personal time a year (average 2 hours a day), excluding my coaching work (4.5 hours a week) and officiating at galas. This is not a sustainable future for your club.