

CITY OF LIVERPOOL SWIMMING CLUB



(Affiliated to the Swim North West A.S.A.)

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Chief Coach Mr.M.Roberts

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Website: www.colsc.co.uk



Chair's Report 2017

The key issue for the club this year has been the implementation of Liverpool City Council proposals to improve the financial sustainability of the squad training scheme with the aim of securing the long term future of the programme, and it is with this issue that I start my report.

Liverpool City Council Swim Training Programme

There has been long standing uncertainty regarding the fee structure of the squads, and while this is ultimately a matter for the council the committee have engaged in consultations regarding future options with the aim of mitigating the financial impact on squad members.

At the start of the year three elements came together to form the Councils sustainability case for the squads:

1. Increasing charges over 2 years to make the squads self financing,
2. Increasing membership of the squads to be driven by Swim Skills
3. Re-alignment of resources.

A parents meeting, attended by 40-50 people was held on the 8th March, at which a range of opinions from across the squads were expressed, most numerous being those affected by the coaching changes. The views expressed at the meeting were reported back to the Committee to enable them to form a view and determine any action the club may wish to take.

The decisions of the committee were:

1. Increasing charges over 2 years to make the squads self financing, The Committee having been engaged in consultations and support the financial sustainability proposals
2. Increasing membership of the squads to be driven by Swim Skills. The Committee support this as increased numbers will drive increased revenue, and directly support financial sustainability.
3. Re-alignment of resources. The Council pays for all squad pool time and employ their own coaches. The club has no control over how the Council utilises its coaches. The club will continue to support gaps in coaching provision.

The Committee & Governance

I would like to thank committee members for their efforts during the year, and recognise the club is fortunate in having dedicated people who are committed and able to manage its activities and take necessary decisions.

Thanks also to Pat O'Connor, the Club Welfare Officer, who is not a member of the committee. Pat operates independently dealing with all welfare issues. Her work can be demanding and for reasons of confidentiality goes on unseen by others. Procedures for reporting welfare issues have been clarified to more clearly identify area of responsibility. Incidents occurring during a squad session should be reported to the duty manager in the centre the incident occurred. Incidents occurring during club activities, galas and other events should be reported to Pat O'Connor.

I would also like to welcome two new members who have joined the Committee bringing fresh thinking and new ideas. Julie Horman has taken over as “Kit and Equipment Manager” and Christine Smith has joined as “Volunteer Co-ordinator”.

The Club By Laws have been reviewed and updated, and a new By Law introduced establishing the “Water Polo Sub Committee” and meeting SwimMark governance requirements.

Swimming

Thanks to the coaching team of Mike, Peter and Ian and also Dave who left early in the year. They have overseen a year of change as the Local Authority implemented a strategic plan to ensure the long term financial stability of the training programme.

A full report of the year has been provided by Mike and I will just mention a few of the highlights. 2016 ended with National Winter Meet where our swimmers performed to a fantastic standard with congratulations going to Lauren Quigley and Anthony Evitts on reaching finals and attaining medals.

In the Arena League the team finished second in the regional final and going on to finish fourth in a very tight final in Cardiff in April. Well done to the team and to everyone who travelled to support the swimmers and winning the best supporting club. A special mention here to our new Liver bird mascot.

Congratulations also to our swimmer who qualified for the British Championships in Sheffield. Particular mention here goes to Lauren Quigley achieving a bronze medal in 50m backstroke and was a finalist in the 100m backstroke and a reserve finalist on the 50m and 100m freestyle. Also reaching a final was Georgina Evans in the 100m breaststroke. Excellent swims were also achieved by Anthony Evitts, Lucy Hardy, Matthew Pomford and Liam Carlin.

I would also like to thank Neil White and his team of helpers for organising and ensuring the smooth running of our Splash ‘N’ Dash, Spring meet and presentation evening.

In February swimmers attended the club swim Camp in Mallorca. Congratulations, to Emily Morris and William Horman, who were awarded the most improved female and male swimmers. Thank here to Maxine Gumms, Sharon Buckley, Neil White and Peter Barton for their outstanding contributions to coaching and chaperoning throughout the week. Planning for the 2018 camp in October is now underway.

A full and comprehensive review of the year is available in Mike’s Coaches report.

Water Polo

A full review of the water polo year is available in Gordon Dacre’s report and I will just pick out a few of the years many highlights.

Senior Women – won the British Championship for the fourth time and qualifying for the LEN EuroLeague. Due to high costs they entered and won the alternative EU Nations Club Championship.

Internationals – Five players involved the GB Senior Women’s team in the “EU Nations” and “World Student Games” in Taiwan. Congratulations to Katie Hesketh (Capt), Lauren Tasker, Kate Read, Laura Hesketh and Kathryn Fowler. In February the men’s section hosted another International Masters Tournament at the LAC and will be holding another in 2018 including teams from Ireland, Germany, Italy and Switzerland.

Masters

Steve Wall represents masters swimming on the committee and I thank him for his monthly reports. Steve has been engaged in discussions with the LAC throughout the year seeking to secure the future of training sessions and increase numbers. Progress to date has been positive

increasing both numbers and the diversity of the Squad with Tri-Athletes, non-competitive and other club swimmers

Recruiting a coach for the squad has been problematic and securing a voluntary long term coach remains a high priority. Presently coaching is provided by Tony Wylie and Steve Wall who have recently been joined by Gorge Daval.

Swimmers competed at the major championships held in the North including; Yorkshire, North West, Lancashire and GB Short Course Championships. Also for the first time in many years COLSC had a Mixed Relay Squad competing and winning Gold. Congratulations to Christy Ord, Lisa James, Greg Thomas, and Steve Wall

A full review of the year is available in Steve's master's report.

Code of Conduct

The code, has been updated twice during the year, and summarises the expectations of swimmers who train in the Liverpool City Council Swim Training Programme and compete for the City of Liverpool Swimming Club. It should be read in conjunction with the "ASA Code of Ethics and CoL Codes of Conduct" which have also been updated to Wavepower 2016-19, which is the latest Amateur Swimming Association (ASA) Child Safeguarding Policies and Procedures.

All members must sign the code on joining the programme or the Club and will be required to renew it annually.

Swim Mark

Swim21 has recently been rebranded as Swim Mark and is the ASA's recognised kite mark for clubs. It offers national recognition that clubs are providing quality services to members and a range of funding opportunities. Accreditation has changed to a two year process as has the £500 awarded to successful clubs to support coach and volunteer development. A twelve month health check has also been introduced with £100 of IoS vouchers awarded on successful completion.

From this years awards £340 plus £100 vouchers have been allocated to support water polo coaching courses

Last year I advised the club had been invited to apply for Swim21 Performance accreditation which is the benchmark for coaching high level athletes. Performance level accreditation is presently under review by the ASA. Further information will be available when the review is completed and the programme is relaunched.

And finally

I would like to thank all the dedicated individuals who assist in all areas of club activities and ensure the smooth running of our competitions and events.

Thank you
Peter Blood