

ST HELENS SWIMMING CLUB

ANNUAL REPORT 2005

The year has seen the club make a number of positive steps forward, both in the pool and administration wise.

At the last AGM following our move from Queens Park, amongst our short term targets was to consolidate our membership base and promote the club at Parr Pools. A regular Newsletter and the setting up of a Club Website were also amongst our aims. Both of these have been achieved and we would like to thank Ian Turner and Simon Dootson for the work they have put into these projects. In addition the club would also like to thank Ink Xpress for their sponsoring of the Newsletter. We have also progressed with St Helens Council District Sports Council Accreditation.

The discos were very successful and more are planned for next year. Adam Oakes and Graeme Baum set up the record for most people in one car at the Moss Lane disco. Ten people safely transported to the middle of town in my car.

Seven members of the originally elected committee have, for various reasons resigned, but this has made for a more streamline running of the club.

During the year we have had to set about altering our Club Rules to comply with Child Protection and two of our longer term goals of achieving SWIM21 Accreditation and the possibility of obtaining Charity Status. Both of these will take 2-3 years to achieve.

We have continued in our dialogue with the council regarding the future development of swimming and swimming pools in St Helens. Evidence of this is that we now have the Mayor of St Helens as our Honorary President.

In the pool we have had success at regional level as a team, and at this moment we are proudly leading the table in the Merseyside & District League. A club record 33 first places at the last gala. The standard of our performances has improved greatly and is shown by the fact that the number of swimmers disqualified for technical offences in galas has been reduced. In the last M&D and the latest Tadpole Gala we did not have any. This reflects the work put in on the Sunday sessions when we concentrate on the technical aspects of swimming.

We are also doing well in the prestigious National Speedo League and are second at the moment with a good chance of reaching the Final in Manchester.

Our younger swimmers (aged 12 and under) narrowly missed out on reaching the Echo Cup Final. However many of these members have done well in the individual Tadpole League. Adam Hesketh, Kathryn Mayer, Nathan Coy, Lee Dobson, and Alex Woodward have all won pennants. During the year we arranged a number of Development Galas for new and young members to give them an introduction to competition.

Our senior members including Lucy & Sam Leyland and Michael & Rebecca White have performed well in National Championships and their successes were the foundation for our successful Speedo League promotion.

In 2006 each committee member will be given responsibility for a specific project or area of development. The club needs to become a more integrated member of the district and regional swimming associations with representation at these levels. This is our short term goal for 2006. It is because of this that we need people to join our committee or become Volunteer helpers.

To progress, we do need the support of all members and parents of members to help the club operate smoothly. Please check the notice board and website www.sthelenssc.org to keep up to date with all the latest news. We also intend to make more use of e-mail to notify members of events and news. With this in mind we do ask that you put your e-mail address on your membership form. Swimmers selected for galas will, as far as possible, be notified by e-mail and will be asked to confirm if they are available or not, in a similar manner.

Like all sporting organisations we will be judged locally, regionally and nationally, by our success in the field of play, or in our case the pool. We are making adjustments to our coaching programme and land training in line with the changing ASA directive, and with this in mind we need more help on poolside and at land training. Arrangements are being made for the 2004 Olympic Medallist and Commonwealth Record holder Steve Parry to visit and give a training session, as well as sign autographs and speak with members. Coaches will be attending more development and training sessions.

The next year will be very exciting, but it will also be very challenging. We build on the foundations of the last twelve months. Swimmers will be given more opportunity to swim in galas and more importantly, will swim in galas that are appropriate to their stage of development.

We would like that all swimmers who were born on or after 1st January 1994 make competing in the Tadpole League one of their aims. This takes place from early September to mid November. Races are from 50m to 200m on an age basis. Tadpole galas are really special occasions held in a fantastic and friendly atmosphere on Friday evenings at Everton Park.

Older swimmers should be making M&D and Speedo League their aims. We can enter more than one team in these leagues. Competing in individual galas will also be encouraged for all swimmers.

Thank you for your support in 2005 and continued support next year.

Best wishes

JOE COY
Secretary
St Helens Swimming Club