

# St.Helens Swimming Club



Chairman's report December 2005

This is my 1<sup>st</sup> report as chairman of SHSC, and the 1<sup>st</sup> report following a full year at Parr pools.

The club has settled well into its new surroundings, with swimmers and parents both benefiting from the larger facilities that the pool offers. In the recent M&D gala we accommodated more than 120 swimmers with plenty of seating space for parents. The club is now running under its new 'Team St.Helens' logo with the club receiving permission from the council to use the town crest.

We have also enjoyed success in the pool with SHSC gaining promotion to Division 2 of the Speedo league, whilst in both the M&D galas held so far, SHSC has won the day. Individual successes have recently been achieved in the Tadpole league for those aged 12 and under which were held at Everton Park. Several swimmers picked up the coveted pendants for reaching the finals, with Alex Woodward taking 1<sup>st</sup> place in the 50m breaststroke. We have also been well represented in National championships with Lucy and Sam Leyland continuing to enjoy success. Well done to all our swimmers.

The club will continue to push for all swimmers to reach the high standards expected in the club, and to this end we ask all parents to bring their children to all training sessions to allow the coaches time to train and develop them to the standards expected by all. The Sunday session in particular is used to teach diving and technique. This has had success in the pool with over 80% of competitors in the recently held 'Papoose' gala for the under 12's starting off the blocks, against approx 25% in the previous gala held 4 months earlier.

We will continue to drive the club forward on all fronts with our main target being the attainment of 'swim21'. This is an ASA standard which benchmarks all clubs and determines the standard and professionalism of how swimming clubs are run and swimming is taught. The club will register its application in time for the next ASA meeting.

We recognise the importance of involving all in the running of the club and to this end we will be pushing for more involvement from parents. Galas in particular need additional helpers in timekeeping, recording, or simply ensuring children are available for their allotted races. The club can be fined for not supplying the required number of helpers at galas, which is disappointing when we have many parents watching. If your child swims, expect to be asked at some time.

Fund raising is one particular area which is lacking and needs developing urgently. The pool hire costs exceeded £9,000 last year and the club desperately needs other sources of income if fees are to be kept low. Events such as 'bag packing' at local stores have been successful in the past, or do you know a sponsor who will make a donation of money or equipment for an advertising link on our web site. Any fundraising ideas are welcome, and if you wish to organise an event, please contact any of the club officials.

The committee has addressed the problem of irregular income with a complete overhaul of the fee payment system. Since the pool hire charges have to be paid for irrespective of the number of swimmers that turn up, we are introducing monthly fees which in line with our equity policy, spreads the cost as evenly as possible between all members. We hope that you will support us in this move and help lay solid foundations from which to take the club forward.

Finishing on a positive note, our new club web site has proved successful since it launch in May this year with over 2000 'hits' being recorded. For those of you who have not yet found us, our address is [www.StHelensSC.org](http://www.StHelensSC.org)

And finally, our end of year club disco and presentation will be held at the Sidac club on the 23<sup>rd</sup> December. Tickets are now on sale priced £2.50p each. This has proved very popular in the past so get you tickets early.

Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year

Ian Turner

Club Chairman