

# St.Helens Swimming Club

## 2006 Report - Chairman



The last year can best be described as a year of ups and downs. We started off with the club losing money hand-over-fist, a declining membership, and a club propped up in its galas using affiliated members.

### So what have we achieved?

Due to tighter financial controls and a restructuring of membership fees the club has now reversed its poor financial position and can now report a surplus on the year of just over £1,000. This is almost equivalent to 1 month pool hire charge.

Club membership at the beginning of the year was approximately 60 members who regularly attended club sessions. We now have 158 members, and as a direct result of this excellent support we have been forced to close the membership and introduce a waiting list.

We have been extremely fortunate to re-gain the services of Steve Carr as our new chief coach who was with the club prior to the move from Queens Park. Steve brings with him many years of experience and a wealth of knowledge in swimming techniques. All our swimmers are now benefiting from Steve's focus on technique with some excellent performances shown by all in the recent club gala.

The club has recently increased its training sessions by 20% giving each of our 2 groups 3hrs training a week. This achieves one goal that we set ourselves last year and now enables the club coaches more time to focus on technique.

The successful club gala puts all this into context. A well run gala, an excellent presentation evening, and happy children. The latter being the most important.

The year has not been without its drawbacks, noticeably in our gala performances. This has caused many hours of anguish amongst committee and members alike. We cannot grow a swimmer overnight nor can we manufacture 14 & 15 year olds out of Scotch mist. We however have an excellent group of 8 to 11 year old swimmers who, given the right support, will be there to lead the club in its future success'. We do not wish to return to the days were we had to offer inducements to members and outsiders alike to swim for the club. What we do ask is for your patience and help in building the club in order that we can compete successfully using swimmers fully committed to the betterment of the club.

### The Future:

Our strategy needs to focus on being more professional in our activities and to expand the club in all areas. This means more parental involvement, stronger finances, more coaches, etc.

Running a modern day swimming club involves a lot of administration work and organisation. To this end, a committee needs parents of members willing to give their time for the children, after all, the swimming coaches freely give their time to help your children even though they have no children in the club.

The club must aim for a minimum of 250 members. At this level the club can build a structure which can support a team able to compete at all ability levels, both locally and nationally.

To achieve this we will need:

- More pool time
- More Coaching / Teaching staff
- More income
- More Galas

The road to success will not be easy.

### **Can we do this alone?**

The answer is simply NO.

A successful club needs many volunteers. When your child joined this club, a commitment was made by you and your child to fully support the club in all of its activities. We are all volunteers and feel let down especially when we freely give up our time only to find that we are treated as a child minding facility, with only a handful of parents willing to commit their time.

We need help in all areas such as:

- Keeping progress records and times of all swimmers
- Organising development galas
- Timekeeping
- Poolside
- Fundraising
- Swim21
- Organising presentations, disco's etc.
- Promoting the club

No matter how little time you can give, it all helps.

This commitment also means attending club galas. When your child is picked to represent the club, every effort should be made to attend. If you think the selection is unfair, then please help in correcting this.

### **THIS IS YOUR CLUB**

Finally I would like to thank all the children who swim their hearts out every week for the sheer enjoyment and to better their times and impress their parents and coaches alike. Without them there would not be a club. Let's not let them down.

Merry Christmas & A Happy New Year.

Ian Turner,  
Chairman, St.Helens Swimming Club