

St.Helens Swimming Club



2007 Report – Chairman

I write this report in the capacity as both Chairman and Club Secretary. When I took over as Secretary 11 months ago, the task seemed somewhat daunting considering my limited knowledge of swimming. This has been made much easier by the tremendous help and support given by all committee members and volunteers alike enabling the club to progress in all areas.

It has to be said that when as a club we needed help, other clubs were more than eager to assist us to sort out our problems. We always think that it is only us that have troubles, indeed it is not and it is to the credit of the other volunteers within the sport that we are able to function and offer all our members an environment in which swimming can be enjoyed.

The club membership is running at a steady level and although swimmers leave to take up other activities, we have almost no swimmers leaving to better themselves at other clubs. This is great testament to the dedication of our coaching staff who give a little of their time to help all our members. That is not to say we don't need more staff. Should you wish to volunteer your services we will be more than happy to talk with you.

This year we ran a successful development gala for the 12's and under. To further our aims of forging closer relationships with other clubs, we invited local teams to participate. Ormskirk SC took the honors on the day with St.Helens achieving a credible third. All who took part enjoyed the event which we hope to repeat next year.

Whilst on the subject of events, last year was busier than most. We had another excellent turnout in this years Tadpoles gala at Everton Park which produced some excellent results; the Biathlee event organized by Steve Carr was fun (for some); the M&D galas again achieved decent support and the friendly galas proved very popular. Well done to all who took part.

The additional pool time which we were allocated just over 12 months ago has been of tremendous benefit to raising the standard of our swimmers. The refurbished starting blocks have enabled us to provide more diving practice and improve technique. Nevertheless, we still need more pool time if we are to increase our membership and strengthen our team. This will be one of our aims in the coming year.

I made a comment in last year's report that a modern swimming club needs to be professional in its presentation and performance. The ASA is tightening up on the administration side and forcing all clubs to be more thorough in their operations,

particularly when we are involved in a sport consisting mainly of young children. The club needs more volunteers to assist. No matter how little time that you can afford, every little bit helps.

Finally, this will be my last year as club Chairman having served just over 2 years. The experience has been extremely satisfying but I now think that the time is right and some fresh thoughts and impetuosity is needed to drive the club forward. May I extend my appreciation to all my colleagues and fellow volunteers who have helped to make the experience enjoyable, and to offer my best wishes to the new Chairman and committee.

I will of course be offering myself forward for the position of Club Secretary should you wish to retain my services in that capacity.

Have a very happy Christmas and a Healthy & Prosperous New Year

Ian Turner
Chairman St.Helens swimming Club