



Patron: Sharron Davies MBE

## **Aqua Sulis Performance Swimming Club**

### **Annual General Meeting – 22 October 2015**

#### **Chairman's Report**

Once again, I find myself reporting on an eventful year for the Aqua Sulis Performance Swimming Club. The challenges this club has faced over the last 2-3 years, many clubs don't face in 20 years. We are very lucky to have a dedicated and committed coaching team and Committee, without whom I doubt the club could have navigated its way through this turbulent period.

The good news is that we hope it has given us a sound base from which to build a stronger Performance swimming club into the future.

On 1st April 2014, we took the bold step to leave B&NES and become self-financing. B&NES had been funding the club approximately £40,000 per annum prior to that point and so 2014/15 was our first year as a stand-alone club. Pleasingly, we reported a £6,000 surplus for the year.

This was also the year in which we appointed John Dougall as our permanent Head Coach (on 1 September 2014). John has made a huge impact since he has come on board in the performances of the swimmers and the professionalism of the coaching team. The most exciting development of which is the appointment of Suzi Bowen as our Assistant Head Coach this year.

We also faced the challenge of the University pool closure. The pool closed for 6 months last year, and our squads trained in eight different pools across the surrounding area. It was impressive just how well everyone supported the club through this turbulent time.

On return to the University we have restructured our training squads to have two performance squads and a small Development squad. Our challenge this year is to grow the membership of our younger squads where we are running with a shortfall in numbers.

Last year saw the introduction of our new land training programme – based on a programme developed by the English Institute for Sport. Our Strength & Conditioning coaches became an important part of the set up, and we are continuing to look to develop this programme into the current year.

We also saw all the changes to the British Swimming competition calendar, which are currently being introduced. This has resulted in our November meet being changed to a Short Course Open Meet and the introduction of new Summer qualification Open Meet.

Your Committee is committed to ensuring that we have a strong club, not just for this generation of swimmers, but for the next generation too. Some of the highlights of the last year were:

- The recruitment of a new Assistant Head Coach, Suzi Bowen. Suzi has taken over management of the Junior Performance and Development squads and has made a very positive impact so far.

- The introduction of Swim Camps. The squad trained away in Cardiff last year during the October half term and is going to Torremolinos next week. We hope to expand this opportunity next year to take a larger number of swimmers away.
- The introduction of a social calendar with Summer and Winter whole club social events involving swimmers, parents and coaches
- The continuation of a fundraising programme. This programme helps to bring the swimmers together outside of training in activities such as bag packs, car washing and assisting on the Development camps.
- Supporting the Somerset ASA Young Volunteer programme. Some of our swimmers are enrolled on this programme.
- Developing our coaches. John and Suzi are both involved in the British Swimming talent programmes. Meanwhile, Liam and Sylvia are both in the process of gaining their Level 2 coaching qualifications.

Finally, I need to draw out the huge amount of effort that goes on behind the scenes from your committee and from the other volunteers that make this club tick. Your committee put in 100s of hours of their own time to support this club and I am hugely thankful to all of them for the efforts they make on your behalf.

There are a number of them retiring this year:

- Nick Press resigned as our Open Meet Promoter. Nick dedicated many hours to our Open Meets and is the main reason they are as successful as they are. Sean Grothier has stepped into that role for the coming year.
- Marion McNab resigned earlier this year and Liz Metcalfe has taken on the Welfare role.
- Jo Dixon has resigned as our Communications Officer, and Matt Lawman has agreed to take over.
- Donna Whiting resigned as our Workforce coordinator, and has been replaced by Karen Bowen. Consequently, Karen Bowen has handed over the Swim 21 Coordinator role to Sylvia Sinclair.
- Kate Veakins looked after meet entries last year and has resigned. Jamie McNeil has taken over that role.
- Tracy Curry has handed over the club kit duties to Caroline Walker.

If anyone would like to get involved in helping to run the club please let me know as there are roles that still need to be undertaken.

As you can see from the Treasurer's report, we continue to need your help fundraising to finance the club. Please can I ask you all to do your best to work with Emma Head and Wendy Hood to develop our fundraising income streams?

Many thanks for all your support over the last year. I look forward to another successful performance swimming season in 2016.

**Mark Lawton**

**Chairman**

**October 2015**



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#### Treasurer's Report

Attached you will find the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2015. The club made a surplus of £6,182.27 thanks in no small part to the efforts of the Open Meet Committee (£30,352.37), the Fundraising Committee (£8,721.08) and the Grants, Sponsorships and Donations we received (£8,142.00).

It's still early in the current season, but we are currently running behind our full year budget:

	6 mths to 30 Sept 2015	Budget to 30 Sept	6 mths to 30 Sept 2014
<b>Fees</b>	£42,019	£49,740	£35,552
<b>Open Meets</b>	700	12,000	439
<b>Grants</b>	1,550	1,250	1,000
<b>Sponsorship</b>	-	2,500	250
<b>Fundraising</b>	1,521	4,250	5,568
<b>Coaching</b>	(28,819)	(30,475)	(21,137)
<b>Pool hire</b>	(33,544)	(38,205)	(26,573)
<b>Other</b>	(1,253)	(750)	(729)
	<b>(17,816)</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>(5,630)</b>

Last year we raised income of £47,000 from Open Meets, Fundraising, Grants, Sponsorship and Donations. This year we have a target of £40,000, but so far have just raised £4,000. We need your help to try to increase this figure.

We have three Open Meets this season: November, February and April, and we are planning Development Camps in February Half Term. However, we need everyone's help in meeting these targets.

**Anne Lawton**

**Acting Treasurer**

**October 2015**