



Newbury District Swimming Club

Affiliated to South East Region ASA

AGM – 2018 Head Coach Report

First things first and can I offer huge thanks for all the support that both I and the coaches at the club have received once again over the last year. The countless hours put into the club both committee level and those in their various voluntary roles is absolutely priceless in the smooth running and the not so smooth running of this and any other club. The trust from swimmers and parents has once again, in general, been at the highest level and it all helps with the way we can operate. There will always be niggles and issues but by and large, this has once again been a pretty good year in the pool.

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS 2018

Back last January, most people are aware of the successful campaign we had at this years County Championships. Out of the 227 swims, we collected 10 Gold, 20 Silver and 17 Bronze medals and had 43 finalists throughout the ages in 50 & 100m events. Massive improvement on 2017. Well done to everyone concerned but we have to remember this isn't any major target or goal, it's simply a step in the right direction. No swimmer who wins anything at a young age is 'the finished article', there are many directions they can go and we all need to remind ourselves that this does include backwards.

2016 – 90 Swims, 2017 – 176 Swims, 2018 – 227 Swims

TVJL

Once again, this has given our younger swimmers the chance to experience of representing the club at team galas. Round One saw us finish a credible 4th at Bracknell and this was repeated in Round Two on home turf. Both fourth places saw us in 7th position and therefore, once again just miss out on the 'A' Final. In the 'B' Final at Amersham, we were pipped to the post into second place by Maidenhead for the second year running and had to settle for 8th place overall once more. Huge thanks to the swimmers and parents who gave up their time to swim these team galas. The TVJL plays a huge part in young swimmer development.

REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

As with County Championships, 2018 proved to be another good year at Regionals with 10 swimmers qualifying for both 15/o and 14/u. Freya Barlow and Kaleb Fox-Jones also made finals with Freya also picking up silver in the 100 Bk. Both these swimmers qualified for the English Nationals at Sheffield in the coming August. Very pleased with all the swimmers who qualified: Abbie Holland, Freya Barlow, Livvy Bevan, Eloise Wade, Laura Nowell, Can Tugcetin, Jamie Leach, Kaleb Fox-Jones, Max Maleham and Ellis Dixon.

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

I took the decision to ask for our Club Championships to be moved from September, October, November of the new season and hold them as close to July as we could. The reason for this was to simply give the majority of our swimmers something to focus on until the summer break. After Counties, there 'appeared' to be not much left to aim for and despite this not being true, it's the impression the swimming season gives the majority of club swimmers. Results from club champs allowed all swimmers to work towards County qualification and this proved well for a lot of swimmers. It's a better way to end the season for most of our members.

ENGLISH NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

The main event of the season for the higher level swimmers and I was very pleased when both Freya Barlow and Kaleb Fox-Jones qualified for the 2018 event. It really doesn't matter how 'tough' a swimmer thinks they are, how well prepared a coach 'thinks' he/she has it, Nationals bring out the nerves in even the most seasoned of swimmer. As it was the first time for both of these swimmers, I warned them on not letting nerves get the better of them and told them to simply go out and enjoy the moment. Both swimmers swam well enough to make finals at their first Nationals with Kaleb making 50 Bk and Freya the 100 Bk. Absolutely delighted for the both of them.

NEW SEASON AND ARENA LEAGUE

After two years struggling in in the doldrums of the dreaded relegation galas, the club had a better fairing this year and with a decent first two rounds, the atmosphere was buzzing for the last round and with the club in the Gala Two, it meant we couldn't be relegated. I saw it as the chance to give those who had helped us through the second round, the opportunity to enjoy the evening once again. We finished last in that gala but that's what we'd expected, possible fifth and I think it was only a couple of DQ's that prevented us from finishing above Reading. All in all, this was a brilliant evening with a fantastic atmosphere. Well done to TEAM NEWBURY.

MOUNT KELLY TRAINING CAMP

In October, we ran our first training camp for a few years and whilst I didn't feel the club would benefit from trip abroad, the home-based idea worked so much better than I could possibly have thought. Even with a varied level of swimmer, this camp went so well and the kids were a huge credit to the club, their parents and themselves. I've run several warm weather camps over the years, all have been very successful but this was one of the best. Great bunch of kids, great staff and great memories. Many thanks once again to Jo Harrison, Jill Crane and of course, my ever-present wingman Emma Harris.

Once again, many thanks to those on the Committee for their hard work, those in roles off-committee but just as important, to the long-suffering parents of would-be Olympic hopefuls and teenage tantrums, to the trusty band of coaches and teachers who give up a huge amount of their own family time to help us all out here and of course, to the swimmers themselves who we wouldn't be here for if they didn't do what they do. On a personal note, there are so many I could mention but I will offer an open public thank you to Steph Holland and Jo Harrison for a great deal of work carried out behind the scenes.

Yours in swimming

Tony