

Gala Dates – please look for team sheets on the board and tick your name off as soon as possible

20/21 FEB, 6/7 & 13/14 MARCH

SATURDAY 13TH FEBRUARY

THURSDAY 18TH FEBRUARY

Somerset County Championships, Hutton Moor – see below

Cotswolds 2nd round, Clevedon – please tick sheet on board

Closing date for entries – Weston Easter Meet, Avalon Open Meet & Taunton Deane Open Meet.

NEW YEAR OFF TO A GOOD START

Our junior swimmers were in action first with a well deserved 2nd place to Soundwell in the Mini Series. Soundwell are very much the team to beat, but our swimmers are closing the gap all the time, with many personal best times. The seniors followed up with an excellent swim at Keynsham. This was an invitational gala which gave us a chance to try out swimmers for the National Arena League later in the year. They gave a very strong performance, up against some Premier Division teams and things are looking good for later in the year! The following week the Cotswold team were in action, and despite being unable to score on 20 races (please see separate article) there were some fantastic individual and team performances.

PRESENTATION EVENING AND CLUB DISCO

We hope everyone enjoyed themselves as much as we did! It was great to see so many swimmers collecting their various awards and trophies. Many thanks to everyone who helped towards a great evening, but in particular Jackie Reynolds and Jayne Prideaux for both organising and DJing (?), Mark Sudol for getting all the trophies organised – quite impressive to see all those trophies on the stage, John Merritt for being our MC, Lisa Kirman for presenting the awards and Dave Stewart for lending his DJ equipment. We hope to see all of you again this year!

SOMERSET COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

All our entries have now been confirmed and we will be issuing individual confirmation to all swimmers with details of when to arrive etc. The Club pay for all the entries in recognition of your achievement in qualifying for the Counties – remember this is a major achievement. We are proud to have a total of 53 swimmers representing Clevedon, swimming a total of 287 races! Please enjoy yourselves and be very proud! And SWIM FAST!!



GETTING BORED SITTING IN THE SPECTATORS AREA???

We are always looking for new volunteers to help within the Club and many of you have indicated on your membership pack that you would be willing to help. We will be speaking to you to find out what roles may interest you. I have listed below some of the opportunities we have available:

MARSHALLING AT THE SOMERSETS

Somerset are looking for volunteers to help marshal the swimmers during the County Champs. Don't worry – you won't be on your own! There will be at least two experienced marshals there every session. So, if you are fed up getting a numb bum sitting watching we have the answer. You will find the day goes so quickly and the kids will always keep you occupied! A very rewarding role.

CLUB OFFICIALS

We are finding that we are struggling to find officials for the junior squad galas as the older swimmers (and their parents!) move up a squad. Whilst many of our officials do help out when needed even if they do not have swimmers involved, we do need some parents of our younger swimmers to consider becoming an official so that we ensure we maintain a good number of officials. We will be running courses for officials after the Somersets (April onwards). Again, a most rewarding role with the opportunity to move up the qualification ladder as you wish.

HELPING POOLSIDE

If you are sitting there fascinated by what goes on in your child's session and would like to know more, or if you currently teach and would like to move on up to the next level, we do have a list of courses for teachers and coaches for the current year. In particular, we do have the opportunity of a Level 1 course at a discounted price over two weekends at the end of March, beginning of April. Arguably the most rewarding role!

So – don't just sit there!! For more information of any of the above, please see Fiona at the desk! Go on do it now!

CONGRATULATIONS!!

Congratulations to Andy Nicol for passing his UKCC Level 2 Teachers exam. A lot of hard work, but worth it in the end! Also, thanks to Andy and his business for revamping our all singing, all dancing noticeboard!!

COTSWOLDS GALA – SOME QUESTIONS ANSWERED!!

Many of you, understandably, have been questioning why we have been using so many “illegal” swimmers in the Cotswold Gala – resulting in zero points for many races. Hopefully, in the small amount of space we have available we will answer some of those questions here. If you have any further questions, then please do not hesitate to ask Pete Bowen, our Head Coach who will endeavour to help.

Firstly we have four main team league galas – for the juniors there is the Four Seasons and the Mini Series and for the seniors there is the National Arena and the Cotswolds. For both age groups our aims are to have a main league gala (Mini Series and National Arena) and a development level league gala (Four Seasons and Cotswolds).

The aim of the main league galas is to perform to the best of our club’s ability. This means we will choose the best possible team available, and often this means there may only be one swim for some.

The aim of the development league galas is what it says – to develop our swimmers. Making sure they are confident performers in all strokes and monitoring their times in all strokes. Ensuring that they have many opportunities to record times which are used when qualifying for various meets as individuals and that they are swimming at events appropriate to their ability. To do this we have to give them every opportunity by way of development galas to swim all strokes. Therefore, the coach and team manager will discuss the team selection taking into account what individual swimmers need together with the needs of the team as a whole – perhaps trying out a new relay team for example. In addition, over the series of the galas we try to give as many swimmers as possible the opportunity to swim, without taking them too far out of their depth.

In addition, we have the problem this year with the Cotswolds, that we are not allowed to use ANY swimmers who swam last year in the National Arena League. This basically means that the club needs two separate squads – but we are not large enough to be able to do this, particularly in the older age groups.

The committee did consider pulling out of the Cotswolds completely, but this would mean there would be no team galas for those swimmers not swimming at National Arena level. Therefore the committee took the decision to go ahead with the Cotswolds, but to try and use only non-Arena swimmers where possible, but still taking into account the development needs of Arena swimmers and swimming them when appropriate.

As you can imagine, Team Manager Chris Neal and Head Coach Pete Bowen, have had quite a nightmare trying to select the team based on all the above issues. Their best interests are, and will always be, the best option for the swimmers. We fully understand how disappointing it can be to have points deducted where it may not seem necessary, but hope that we have gone some way to explaining why.

Having explained the situation as simply as possible to the swimmers, we are encouraging them to go out, swim fast and get personal best times rather than going out to win the overall gala.

Having said all that the team performed amazingly well on Saturday and amazed all the coaching team! For example, we had 12 year olds swimming in the 15 & under category and fighting for 1st or 2nd place which is incredible. We would have come a comfortable 2nd place if everything had been equal.

It is a price to be paid for the Club’s success in getting promoted to Division 1 of the Arena League, but we feel that the club made the right decision to continue with the Cotswold gala for the benefit of ALL our swimmers.

MEMBERSHIP

Thanks to those of you who have returned all your forms and your payment. A reminder to those who have yet to do so, we do need these back now as soon as possible to enable us to get our paperwork ready to renew everyone’s membership with the ASA. If this is late we will suffer suspension from the ASA and non of our swimmers will be allowed to swim. Therefore, if we do not have membership fees in the next week, we will be assuming that those members will not be renewing and will not submit their renewal to the ASA.

IMPORTANT FUTURE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Don’t forget to check the board and see if your swimmer has qualified for the Weston Easter Meet (3/4th April), the Avalon Meet (10/11th April) or the Taunton Deane Meet (17/18th April). Details are on the board and entries must be in to us by 18th February. These are ideal opportunities to gain extra race experience and get those pbs!

SATURDAY 15TH MAY – OUR OWN NOVICE GALA. Make sure you keep this date free – for our younger, newer swimmers – details to follow.

SUNDAY 27TH JUNE – CLEVEDON & CHARD OPEN MEET. We would like as many of our swimmers who qualify to enter. It is a Level 3 meet which means that hopefully most of squad, development and many of advanced will qualify.

