

Dear Wandsworth Member

A year has gone since last time, as a Club, we met formally. Looking back on my report for 2007 and the messages I had to deliver at the time, I am pleased to say that as a Club we have progressed and, whilst there are still challenges, the Club is rising to them and moving forward.

### **Finance**

We have managed to achieve a major improvement in the financial situation. This time last year the Club was haemorrhaging funds and if this had not been halted the Club would not have been around today. This meant that we had to make some changes. We raised the fees; made some re-alignments to the competitions we entered; removed competition entry charges from being included in the membership fee; and have also analysed in depth our coaching costs.

The Club is now in a far stronger position as can be seen in the Finance report. The realignment of the Clubs costs alongside good budgetary control has allowed us to reverse the trend, and the Club is now moving forward. This is directly attributable to the hard work of Alma Baker and Alan Thurlow who have masterminded this turn around, and also to the efforts of Nigel and Hilary Rendell who have made the shop vibrant and available.

### **Swimming**

Our swimmers have had a remarkable year, and the reports that follow details all the amazing results that have been achieved. I have left it to the Coaches to sing the swimmers praises. It is the hard work of the swimmers working with their coaches that brings about the performances. There have been many extraordinary results from many areas of the Club at many ages and at many varied stages of the swimming careers. In the one competition where the whole Club operates as a team, The Speedo League, the Club achieved our highest ever position.

### **Squad Structures**

The Committee mentioned last year that we would be looking at the Squad structures. This work has been progressing, and we are in the process of having discussions with Coaches and Teachers with reference to bringing in a Talent Pathway. This pathway is targeted at the swimmer at whatever stage they are in within their swimming Career, in order for them to maximise what they get out of the sport.

The aim of this programme is to provide a means by which swimmers will be able to select their level of commitment, and hence training and competitions, in order to meet their aspirations and circumstances. Coaches will take responsibility for these paths and be responsible for the Athletes from Juniors to Speedo 1 in whichever path they follow. We have an aspiration that the Club can provide an attractive path for swimmers from Development through Seniors to Masters. Swimmers will be able to switch between the pathways as circumstance dictates. Wandsworth, like many clubs, does tend to lose swimmers at the point in time when exams become of overriding importance. We need to recognise this, and to have a system that encourages their long term participation, so that they can reduce their commitment and then increase it again without feeling any negative pressures.

We also need to recognise that in order to continue swimming, and to be a better Club, that there should be more social interaction in the Club, and that more Fun should be had together. We would like to introduce a summer fun Aquathon, and some events where the young and old can let their hair down and socialise without treading water or hanging onto Lane Ropes. We would be delighted to hear from any parents or swimmers (especially) who have ideas in this area.

### **Competitions**

This year has seen a lot of London Clubs suffering from lack of competition due to the closure of Crystal Palace which has reduced the number of meets in this area. This shortage also meant

that it was more difficult for emerging swimmers to gain competitive experience. The closure has also curtailed the long course training that we put on for those who aspire to higher levels, although this has been a contentious subject as when we have been able to gain 50m pool time, the overall take up has been disappointing.

Janet Robinson continues to do a splendid job as competition secretary, and this has been very onerous, as she has to try and communicate across all swimming Squads.

### **Coaches**

This year we saw Jonathan Horsman leave to take up a development role in British Triathlon, a sport that he loves. The Club was very sorry to see him go, but would like to wish all the very best in his future career.

I would like to thank all the Coaches, John, Tony, Marina, Steve, Milton, Craig, Cindy and Kate for all the hard work they put in, and to congratulate them on the successes they managed to extract from the Swimmers last year. Thanks also to Sarah and Stuart for the stroke clinics that are much appreciated by all who attend. It is also nice to see Anneka helping Cindy in Dev1. We would encourage all our swimmers to consider taking a teaching and/or lifeguard qualification once they reach 16 years of age.

### **St Paul's and Wandsworth**

Our relationship with the pool owner's is very important to us. St Paul's has been a very generous and remarkable host to us for several years now. The Club owes the school a large debt of gratitude for the use of their facilities, not only the pool but also the gyms, etc. It is important that our members recognise this and follow the guidelines concerning behaviour, parking, and cleanliness within the School's grounds.

Our relationship with Wandsworth Borough and the other Clubs in the Borough continues to improve. WASA are planning a development camp in the autumn from which the Borough Team will be selected. We are also hoping to work more closely with the Borough in order to produce Aquatic talent pathways. This may take several directions and is why the Committee is asking its membership to approve the change in the first line of the constitution.

### **Volunteers**

I am delighted that Elaine Kern will be joining the Committee in charge of Volunteers and Work Force development. Elaine and her family have only been with the Club since December and their input into the Club is most appreciated. Sarah O'Connell has also stepped into the breach as the Club's Welfare Officer. This is a position outside of the Committee, but she is entitled to attend any meeting to raise any welfare issues. If anyone has a problem, they can approach Sarah in the strictest confidence.

We have two new Officials in the Club this year. Elaine Kern is an experienced official, and her impact on our Galas has been very helpful. Also Kate Thurlow took the plunge and has become a qualified time keeper. However, we always need more, and it does help to see and understand how the sport works.

Wandsworth is a Club and it is run by its Members. This year two of the Committee are standing down, Maggie Thurlow and Jackie Ashley, although Maggie has agreed to stay on until a replacement can be found, but only for a maximum of 6 months. We thank them for their hard work and commitment to the club and desperately need to find volunteers to take over their responsibilities. I know that during the course of a year, there are many complaints or niggles concerning various aspects of the Club, but if the members aren't prepared to help run the Club then they should not complain. If there are any members who would be prepared to step forward, then please let either Maggie or myself know.

I would like to thank all of those on the Committee who have undertaken many hours of work in order to move the Club forward. Alan, Alma, Elaine, Jackie, Janet, John, Sarah, Maggie where would we be without you. Thank you also to Hillary and Nigel Rendell for running the Shop; Jayne Sutcliffe and Danne for helping Janet; Kate Martin for looking after the trophies; Martin for looking after the website and the computer work with Alan; All those parents who helped out at all the Club Championships and House Galas.

### **Swim21**

Alan and Maggie Thurlow are putting in place all the systems that we require to achieve this quality standard. It is an arduous process to create systems when there were very few, but it is a very worthwhile exercise. I would anticipate us being in a position to achieve this award in early 2009.

### **Finally**

Some of our Swimmers will be taking part in the Regional Age Group Championships in early June, and I would like to wish them well in their endeavours.

This year has had many positives, and the Club will endeavour to build on this platform.

Yours sincerely,

**William Collins**  
**Chairman**  
**Wandsworth Swimming Club**  
**May 2008**

## ***Swim21***

Swim 21 is the ASA's Club Development model - a planning tool, based on the principles of Long Term Athlete Development, enabling clubs to help athletes, teachers, coaches and administrators to achieve their full potential. It focuses particularly on the needs of athletes - striving to provide them with the best possible support and environment.

Swim 21 Accreditation is a 'Quality mark'. It recognises nationally and regionally the clubs that are committed to providing safe, effective and quality services for the benefit of their members.

We have been working to establish the necessary policies and procedures to enable us to apply for Swim 21 accreditation. This year we have implemented a new constitution and an overall coaching strategy with documented training cycles that support our swimmers in achieving their goals.

Next year we will be introducing talent pathways and squad promotion criteria for our swimmers, job descriptions and contracts for our coaches and a training programme for our volunteers. We are planning to make our submission for Swim 21 accreditation during 2008/9.

**Alan Thurlow**  
**Swim21 Administrator**

## ***Membership Secretary's Report***

Demand for membership has remained strong and extra capacity has enabled the club to grow by 9% this year. Swimming trials are held as often as necessary but at least once a term and we always welcome new competitive swimmers.

The current squad numbers are as follows;

Pre Development	20	Speedo 2	35
Dev 1	28	Speedo 1	23
Dev 2	36	Seniors & Masters	32
Junior	37	Club Squad	25
Speedo 3	30	<b>Total swimmers</b>	<b>266</b>

### **Finance Report for the period 1 August 2006 to 31 March 2008**

#### **Results**

The accounts have been prepared on the accruals basis of accounting this period. This is a change from the previous year. The Club generated a deficit for the period of £13,350 that has been funded from surpluses in prior years. The majority of the deficit was generated in the first six months as the financial changes agreed at the last AGM took time to have an effect. The last 12 months generated a deficit of £339 and the last six months generated a surplus of £769. The key changes during the year from 2006 are as follows:

- We have moved to an accrual basis of accounting which has resulted in accruals being included for coaching costs of £4,500 and pool costs of £2,455.
- The fee increase generated additional revenue of £20,767.
- Bursaries have increased during the year and are split between Excellence of £1,314 and Hardship of £1,590.
- Coaching costs have increased as a result of available pool time increasing to 62.5 hours per week from 56 hours per week.
- Competition costs have decreased because members now pay their own gala entry fees for open galas. The Club continues to pay for entries to the Wandsworth Borough competitions.
- Pool Costs have increased this year reflecting an overall increase in rates across London for pool space.
- The shop has performed exceptionally well this year contributing a net profit of £3,700.
- Transport costs represent a late invoice from Freeway, our coach contractor, for 2005.
- We had a few members who did not pay their membership fees. The underpayment of squad fees represents the amount we have written off because the member has now left the Club. There remains an amount of £365 of unpaid fees from existing members that has been moved to the balance sheet as receivables.

#### **2009 Budget**

The 2009 Budget is based on the annualised actual costs for 2007/8. There are no proposed increases in squad fees.

**Alma Baker**

**Membership Secretary**

[dirma@wandsworthsc.com](mailto:dirma@wandsworthsc.com)

## Wandsworth Swimming Club Balance Sheet

	31-Jul-2006 £	31-Mar-2008 £
<b>Bank Accounts</b>		
SL Bond 5 June 07	10,000	-
SL Bond 15 December 06	10,860	-
Barclays Premium Account	-	10,206
Direct Access Business Account	-	11
Barclays Community Account	10,174	7,030
10 Day Notice Deposit	845	2,857
<b>Total Cash</b>	<u><b>31,879</b></u>	<u><b>20,104</b></u>
Shop stock	-	1,995
Receivables and prepayments	-	3,385
<b>Total Assets</b>	<u><b>31,879</b></u>	<u><b>25,484</b></u>
Accruals	-	6,955
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<u><b>0</b></u>	<u><b>6,955</b></u>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<u><u><b>31,879</b></u></u>	<u><u><b>18,529</b></u></u>
<b>Reserves</b>		
Opening reserves	43,071	31,879
Prior period adjustment	639	
Surplus/(Deficit) for the period	(11,831)	(13,350)
<b>Closing Reserves</b>	<u><u><b>31,879</b></u></u>	<u><u><b>18,529</b></u></u>

**Wandsworth Swimming Club**  
**Income and Expenditure**  
**For the Period 1 August 2006 to 31 March 2008 (20 months)**

Category	2006 Actual £	2007/8 Budget £	2007/8 Actual £	2007/8 Variance £	2007/8 Annualised	2009 Budget £
<b>Income</b>						
Gifts and donations			100	100	60	
Raffle proceeds	323		130	130	78	
Shop proceeds	2,205	3,167	10,672	7,505	6,403	9,600
Squad Fees	87,317	185,000	205,767	20,767	123,460	140,100
Other Income			36	36	22	
Interest	710	1,167	1,359	192	816	800
Wandsworth BC	5,802	9,583	6,040	(3,544)	3,624	2,400
<b>Total Income Categories</b>	<b>96,357</b>	<b>198,917</b>	<b>224,104</b>	<b>25,087</b>	<b>134,402</b>	<b>152,900</b>
<b>Expense</b>						
Bank charges			8	(8)	5	
Bursaries	538	833	2,904	(2,071)	1,742	1,800
Coaching costs	49,482	100,000	124,377	(24,377)	74,626	77,423
Competitions	9,167	12,917	8,813	4,104	5,288	2,450
Development	570	733	467	266	280	780
Discounts	1,535	2,583	2,774	(191)	1,664	1,545
Donations			50	(50)	30	
Gala attendance			2,453	(2,453)	1,472	1,650
Gala hosting costs	331	583	75	508	45	
IT costs	231	417	55	362	33	200
Other Expenses	32	83	719	(636)	431	
Pool costs	36,334	64,167	69,983	(5,816)	41,990	45,680
Professional Fees	3,800	6,333	8,012	(1,679)	4,807	4,525
Shop expenses	2,225	2,917	6,964	(4,047)	4,179	8,348
Social events	632	1,083	301	782	180	500
Stationery and postage	572	833	546	287	328	600
Training costs	874	1,667	1,772	(105)	1,063	1,600
Transport costs			5,517	(5,517)	3,310	1,500
Trophy costs	1,027	2,083	204	1,879	122	500
Underpayment of Squad Fees	38		1,077	(1,077)	646	
WSC Colours	801	833	383	450	230	1,800
<b>Total Expense Categories</b>	<b>108,188</b>	<b>198,065</b>	<b>237,454</b>	<b>(39,381)</b>	<b>142,472</b>	<b>150,901</b>
<b>Net Deficit for the Year</b>	<b>(11,831)</b>	<b>852</b>	<b>(13,350)</b>	<b>(14,294)</b>	<b>(8,070)</b>	<b>1,999</b>

## ***Swimming Matters 2007/8***

### **INTRODUCTION**

In the Pool this has been the best year Wandsworth Swimming Club has had since I began Coaching with Club in 2001. We had our best result in the Speedo League and in the Surrey County Championships. Many of the things I mentioned in last year's report are still work in progress. The Coaches and Committee will continue to work towards these objectives to benefit our swimmers.

### **ORGANISATION**

1. We lost Jonathan Horseman to British Tri-athlon in March. Temporary cover is being provided by the coaches for Speedo 3. A permanent Coach will be appointed by July.
2. The Club Squad now has twenty five swimmers and is working well
3. The new timetable was introduced on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2007. I feel we are still looking to find another two hour session for the Speedo group. Otherwise the change went well. When Crystal Palace reopens in the autumn there will be regular long course training available.
4. Stroke Clinics - Martin Jurco headed for the Florida sun to pursue his ambition to represent Slovakia. Sarah Healey and Stuart Manford (two International class swimmers, training with our masters group) now provide stroke clinics once a month.
5. House Galas – Five Inter House galas have been run. One per month starting in December 07. The format was 200 + 50 and 25's and relays. These galas have given our younger and less experienced swimmers an introduction to friendly competition. Again this is a work in progress and we are looking at ways to encourage all our swimmers to participate.
6. Club Championships – The 2008 championships will follow the Surrey County order and combination of events. We will also introduce a Skins competition.

### **COMPETITIONS**

#### **Championships**

**Nationals 2007** – Amelia Maughan finished 4<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> respectively in the 100 and 200 freestyle.

**British Olympic Trials April 2008** – Emily Marr qualified for the 13/14 Girls 50 Freestyle. Emily finished 13<sup>th</sup> in the 13 year old age group.

**Regionals 2008** -Youth 7 swimmers qualified. Bagcats 18 swimmers qualified.

**Surrey County** – 68 swimmers qualified. Girls finished 5<sup>th</sup> overall. Boys finished 10<sup>th</sup> overall. Combined 5<sup>th</sup> overall our highest position. Medals - 7 gold, 23 silver and 17 bronze. 85 top eight finishes. 42 relay teams.

#### **Speedo League**

This year we made the London League Final for the first time ever in the club's history. The team travelled to Norwich for the final having qualified in eighth place. With some great swimming on the night the team improved the position to seventh.

#### **Open Meets**

With Crystal Palace closed many local meets were over subscribed. Many meets now are on a first come first served basis. Once a suitable meet has been identified it is important that swimmers get their entries back to the club Competition Secretary as soon as possible. An Easter Meet will be identified in 2009. As a club we have not attended an Easter Meet for a

number of years. I feel that this is a missed opportunity and would encourage our swimmers to plan for an Easter Meet.

### **Borough Championships**

2007 – Our Girls beat Leander and their Boys beat our Boys and won the overall competition.

2008 – The date for the championships is the week-end **28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> June** at Tooting and then Putney. Please put the date in your diary and let's put out our strongest team.

### **COACHING STRATEGY 2008/9**

We will build on the successes of the past season and learn from those things that have been challenging.

Swimmer Pathways will be introduced for all those swimmers who have graduated from the teaching area of the club (Junior squad upwards). The Pathways are Borough, County and Regional & National. The placement of the swimmer in the pathway will reflect the ability and aspirations of that swimmer together with the training commitment agreed with their pathway coach. Pathway placement may vary from year to year depending on the swimmer's circumstances. A coaching strategy will be given to each swimmer outlining what has been agreed to achieve that swimmer's goals. Suitable competitions will be identified, training commitment agreed including long course training and land training where appropriate.

Every swimmer will be allocated to a squad where they will do their training. The squad criteria and promotion targets will be published and by September 2009 will be fully in operation. The Pathway coaches will liaise with the Squad coaches under the supervision of the Head Coach to deliver the training identified from the goal setting process. Sometimes a swimmer will have the same individual as their Pathway and Squad coach but that will not always be the case.

### **WANDSWORTH BOROUGH SPORTS AWARDS**

In recognition of the success Wandsworth had in 2007 we were honoured to have finalists in five categories at these awards.

**Coach of the year** – Marina Pollara

**Junior Sports Personality of the year** – Emily Marr and Georgina Rendell

**Under 11 Team of the year** - Eile Brennan, Georgina Rendell, Amelia Maughan and Elizabeth Horne

**Under 18 Team of the year** - Emily Marr, Alice Parmiter, Victoria Strutt, Amelia Maughan, Eile Brennan, Elizabeth Horne, Xanni von Guionneau, Georgina Rendell, Clea Fawcett, Frankie Lyell, Carling Farley, Caroline Fegelman, Imogen Kalinauckas, Aurore Mallon, Sasha Sutcliffe, Grace Rowan, Phoebe Rowan.

The team categories were nominated for the success they had at the Surrey County and London Region relay events.

**Volunteer of the year** – Kate Thurlow (also nominated for her disability swimming contribution by the borough).

The finalists from all sports across the borough enjoyed a great evening at the Civic Suite at the Town Hall in March. Among the items during the awards ceremony was an entertaining question and answer session with Dean Macey talking about his preparations for the decathlon at the Beijing Olympics in the summer. The highlight of the evening was when Marina won the prestigious Coach of the Year award. The sumptuous buffet was a suitable ending to a successful night. Our congratulations go to all those nominated and we look forward to the 2008 awards which will be decided in early 2009. Our thanks go to Simon Ingyon and Chris Austin

from Wandsworth Borough Council for a great evening and their continued support of swimming in the borough.

### **THANKS**

I would like to thank all Coaches, Marina, Jonathan, Milton, Steve, Craig, Cindy and Kate for the great job they did this year. I would like to thank the Committee, Maggie and Alan Thurlow, Will Collins, Jackie Ashley, Alma Baker who have given me great support this year. I would like to pay a special thanks to Janet Robinson who has done a great job as Competition Secretary ably supported by Jayne Sutcliffe who has assisted with the Open Meet entries. Thank you to everyone who has helped out poolside at galas, whipping the kids, timekeeping and officiating.

Finally I'd like to thank the swimmers, I have nothing but admiration for you. It's a forty eight week a year sport that requires great dedication and determination. I look forward to seeing you in the pool. I realise that I wrote this last year and it is customary to make these appropriate expressions of thanks. However they are genuine thanks and make this a great job and a pleasure to come to the pool. Here's to an even better 2008/9 season.

**John Mills**

**Head Coach**

hcoach@wandsworthsc.com

### **NEWS FROM THE SHALLOW END**

As of October the Pre-development Squad has split into two groups. Each new group now has a 45 minute session on either Saturday or Sunday from 8-8.45am at the Bank of England 20 meter pool. Saturday's group is for advanced beginners who can swim a minimum of two widths upon joining. Sunday is for the advancing swimmers who have more stamina and have assimilated the arm movement and kicking skills sufficiently to swim multiple lengths of the pool with confidence. Some of the skills previously gained in Development 1 are now taught in Pre-development. Upon leaving Pre-development to join Development 1 the swimmers will have attained the equivalent of ASA Level 8, will be able to swim 100m in a standard pool comfortably and confidently and will be aware of the discipline and etiquette of being a member of a team.

The age limit for Pre-development is now 6 years of age and the entry requirement is that they should have achieved the equivalent of ASA Level 2. Tryouts are held to determine their ability and placement. Pre-development swimmers are encouraged to participate in Interhouse Galas. During their first opportunity to compete this past September, 14 out of 18 swimmers on the roster attended the gala, many swimming in three events. This squad has continued to make a good showing at the Interhouse Galas. The opportunity to compete has made a huge difference in how the swimmers approach their training. They work hard on listening skills, following complex instructions and focusing on a goal; all things that are necessary in competition. They have gained team awareness.

As of September, all three weekly Development 1 sessions have been held at St Paul's. Most swimmers attend two sessions a week. Over the past few months Dev 1 have been concentrating on acquiring stroke skills, diving skills, starts and turns and the use of the clock, as well as increasing their stamina. They are introduced to butterfly, to relay and medley swimming techniques and tumble turns. As the year has progressed we are now aiming to increase their total distance swum per session. They will be learning new drills and distance combinations and increasing their awareness of their own progress.

Swimmers in Dev 1 are expected to compete in Interhouse Galas in all the basic strokes and for distances up to 100m and sometimes 200m. Some swimmers will be selected to participate in other competitions.

**Cindy Hanegraaf**

Development 2 continues to provide swimmers on the pathway through to success with promotions through the year to Juniors. The big successes of the year in the pool were for Orla Hanks who achieved a very creditable 9<sup>th</sup> position in the Surrey county 200m breaststroke. She has subsequently been promoted to Juniors.

The Club squad during the past twelve months has gone from strength to strength with a core 15 swimmers attending on mainly Tuesdays and Saturdays. Additional sessions on Sunday afternoon and Friday evening are less well attended providing lots of space for those interested. Sessions are very variable and certainly not based on repetitive length swimming. Favourites include the "Chain Session" "Ball relays" and the "12 days session". Want to know more, come down to the pool.

Why not refresh your swimming with some water polo? After the WSC Club session on Saturday morning at St Paul's there is a West London Penguins water polo session for 90 minutes. West London Penguin is one of the best water polo clubs in the country and the session is run by WSC's own Steve Baker, international water polo player and coach. The polo session is for all abilities from total novice to developing teen. There is no age bar, under 11s can play mini polo and the older ones can play the real deal. Come along and try, it's fun, it's rewarding and it's FREE!

**Steve Baker**

### **SENIORS AND MASTERS**

IT'S A NEW DAY YESTERDAY. The modern day description of masters swimming is an organised and supervised swim practice for adults i.e open senior, senior age group, open water and triathlon. Well, Wandsworth Swim Club Seniors and Masters are it.

Open Water and Triathlon opened the season beginning with Lexie Elliott swimming the English Channel. I believe Lexie is the first person in the club's 100-year history to achieve this. Then came the performances of Chrissy Wellington and Yvette Grice in the World Hawaiian Iron Man Triathlon, being placed 1st and 20th respectively. Dion Harrison was 7th in the Florida Half Iron Man Triathlon. Both Chrissy and Dion were recognised in the leading triathlon magazine's annual awards for their achievements.

At the ASA Masters Short Course Championships in October at Sheffield, Sarah Healey broke both the British and European Masters Short Course records for the 100 Fly in the 25-29 Year Age Group. Recently, Johnny Munro won the World Masters Long Course Championship title in Perth, Australia, for the 200 IM for the 35-39 Year Age Group. There were many other individual achievements. For instance, Chris Tarasek won Polish Masters National titles in the 45-49 Year Age Group and stalwart Derek Sansom achieved personal bests in numerous competitions in the 30-34 Year Age Group. In open competition Martin Jurco, albeit in the 30-34 Year Age Group, narrowly missed a medal in the Slovakian Short Course National Championships and is now continuing to train in Florida in preparation for the Slovakian Olympic Trials.

O.K, impressive stuff indeed. But this season has also produced some open senior swimming which in reality has far more significance to the club as a whole. In reaching the final of the First Division of the Speedo League seniors and masters swimmers Hannah Collins, Guy Davis, Dion Harrison, Sarah Healey, Martin Jurco, Sophie Kalinaukas, Kenton Kirkwood, Stuart Manford and Andy Pryke proved to be integral in the overall club success. This did not end here. Later, the Surrey Open Age Group Championships saw most of these swimmers achieve 3 bronze relay medals. Truly an example which our young swimmers can follow. This has carried over into the very successful swim clinics for our young swimmers run by Sarah Healy and Stuart Manford.

Lastly, I would like to thank Janet Robinson for her excellent team management skills and also to Alma Baker and Danne Collins who have assisted me in the administration of the seniors and masters group. It's a great sign that we now have 10 to 15 swimmers attending each session.

Any more improvements for the future? Well, I think a Saturday morning "Triathlete" session is a viable proposition. Also, I believe we can benefit from our links with the West London Penguin Water Polo Club who have a Tuesday evening slot at St Pauls. Their matches are all for masters.

**Tony Pearce**  
**Seniors & Masters Coach**

## ***Competition Secretary's Report 2007/8***

### **Looking Back**

It has been a successful year for the club in terms of competition.

- 1 swimmer at the Nationals
- 1 swimmer at British Age Group Championships
- Success at the regionals
- A fantastic Result for the Speedo team – reaching the finals for the 1<sup>st</sup> time ever
- A large number of entries for the Wandsworth Boroughs with several age group Champions
- Many under 12s gained ribbons and medals at the Junior Boroughs
- A record number of entries in the Surreys resulting in more medals than ever before
- Our own Club Championships – very well supported
- Many swimmers entering Open Galas (Bexley, Crawley, Cranleigh, Brighton)
- Swimmers picked from the club to represent their Boroughs in the Heathrow Youth/Mini Games
- Swimmers selected to represent Wandsworth in the Inter- Borough Competition

With the introduction of House Galas many of the younger swimmers, from Pre–Development upwards have gained competition experience in a friendly environment. It has been good to see the older swimmers supporting the younger ones creating a true 'team spirit'.

### **Looking Forward**

- Having established the House Galas we need to encourage more swimmers who reach the 'age of competition' to enter some suitable Open Meets.
- All competitive swimmers need to be encouraged to show commitment to the club when selected for relays so that the strongest possible teams compete.
- To 'save our trees' communication has become mainly from e-mails and lists are placed on the St. Pauls' notice board. All club members need to read the notice board and act promptly when they are selected to swim. A lot of time is spent chasing people who don't bother to reply (particularly the over 13s!)
- Parents need to be 'persuaded' to take official time keeper/judges courses so that more people will be available to help at galas therefore taking the pressure off just a few!

Finally, I'd like to thank all those who have helped me this year, particularly Jayne Sutcliffe, without whose help, would have made my job impossible and to Danne Collins for her knowledge, help and support throughout the year.

**Janet Robinson**  
**Competition Secretary**  
compsec@wandsworthsc.com

## ***Development Officer Report 2007/8***

### **PRESENTATION CEREMONY**

WSC's annual prize-giving ceremony was combined with a Christmas party in mid-December this year to mark the end of the Club Championships and the very successful Speedo League season. The roll call of honour was so long that it took more than an hour to present all our winners with their medals and certificates. A good time was had by all at the Putney Leisure Centre, and we'd like to say a big thank you to the tireless Janet Robinson and her team for preparing the hall, and to the parents and local businesses who donated so many raffle prizes.

Maggie and Alan Thurlow produced the very impressive certificates and Kate Martin did a grand job in polishing up all those cups – after the difficult task of reclaiming them all. Just so that newer swimmers know : if you won a cup, please engrave your name on it, under the existing names, and return it in the autumn, ahead of next year's presentation ceremony. Your task then is to win the cup for the next age group!

### **COMMUNICATION**

We've tried hard to improve our communications with members this year, and though not always successful, have had fewer incidents of swimmers turning up to sessions which have been cancelled. The monthly newsletter carries information about session cancellations as well as gala reports, forthcoming competitions and other useful bits and pieces about the club. This is now distributed via e-mail, and we ask any members who haven't been receiving it to let their coach or Jackie Ashley ([jackieashley2@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jackieashley2@yahoo.co.uk)) know and we will add you to the mailing list. There are two other and more immediate sources of information: the website ([www.wandsworthsc.com](http://www.wandsworthsc.com)) which is maintained by Martin Baker – many thanks Martin – and the noticeboard at St. Paul's. That's as well as the old fashioned way: telling the swimmers when a session is unexpectedly going to be cancelled, though, as always, those messages don't always reach home! We apologise for unexpected changes to the timetable but these are inevitably due to circumstances beyond our control.

### **ST. PAUL'S**

WSC couldn't function in the way it does now without the use of the pool at St. Paul's and we are all well aware of how lucky we are to be able to use the pool. **BUT**, we ask all parents and swimmers to respect the grounds around the pool by parking only in car parks, not along the roadside, and to use the paths, rather than walk across lawns. Many thanks.

### **CLUB SHOP**

The running of the Club Shop is in the capable hands of Hilary and Nigel Rendell. The wide range of stock presents excellent value for money and a one stop shop for all your swimming requisites. Surpluses are invested in the club so we all benefit. [cshop@wandsworthsc.com](mailto:cshop@wandsworthsc.com)

**Jackie Ashley**  
**Development Officer**  
[dev@wandsworthsc.com](mailto:dev@wandsworthsc.com)

## **Club Secretary's Report 2007/8**

WSC has been represented at meetings at National, Regional, County and Borough level throughout the last year. The WSC Management Committee has met regularly and we thank St Paul's School for their generous loan of premises.

We hope that next year will see the completion of the re-sited Trophy Cabinet and Noticeboard at Putney Leisure Centre. This has been something of a long winded saga through two refurbishments of the pool with a cast of it seems like hundreds and obstacles that have defied common sense.

The club has appointed Sarah O'Connell as Welfare Officer. The Welfare Officer is not part of the Management Committee but is entitled to attend committee meetings. Sarah's initial priority will be to ensure that the Club complies with ASA guidance in terms of its duty of care towards members, coaching staff and officers. If you need to contact Sarah she can be reached via email at [wel@wandsworthsc.com](mailto:wel@wandsworthsc.com).

British Swimming has launched a tracking system for swimmers with any sort of disability to enable them to give support and track progress. It is an area in which London is leading all the other ASA Regions. If you would like a Swimmer ID Tracker Form or any further information please email [secretary@wandsworthsc.com](mailto:secretary@wandsworthsc.com).

Some time ago I gave notice that I would be standing down from the committee this year. As yet we have no volunteer to take over the Club Secretary's role. Please give some thought as to whether you could find the time to help run this members' club. There are a couple of other vacancies that need to be filled for 2008/9. Please contact me or any other member of the committee to find out more details. Finally, thank you to my fellow committee members, officials, volunteers, parents, swimmers, coaches and my family for making this a delightful (mostly!) job to have done.

### **Election of Officers 2008/9**

	<b>Nominee</b>	<b>Proposed by</b>	<b>Seconded by</b>
<b>Chairman</b>	William Collins	Ann Sullivan	Maggie Thurlow
<b>Club Secretary</b>			
<b>Membership Secretary</b>	Alma Baker	Maggie Thurlow	Mary Chong
<b>Development Officer</b>			
<b>Competition Secretary</b>	Janet Robinson	Jayne Sutcliffe	Andrew Sutcliffe
<b>Swim 21 Administrator</b>	Alan Thurlow	Alma Baker	Danne Collins
<b>Volunteer Development Officer</b>	Elaine Kern	William Collins	Alan Thurlow
<b>Local Community Liaison Officer</b>			

There being only one candidate proposed for each of the posts of Chairman, Membership Secretary, Competition Secretary, Swim 21 Administrator and Volunteer Development Officer those nominees are hereby elected. The posts of Club Secretary, Development Officer and Local Community Liaison Officer are vacant.

**Volunteer Development Officer** This committee post has remained unfilled since last year's AGM. We are delighted that Elaine Kern has stepped up to fill this vacancy for 2008/9. Elaine

will be responsible for the recruitment and training of members to fill voluntary posts within the Club for committee members, helpers, officials and life guards and will be responsible for arranging their appropriate initial and ongoing training. Elaine will also liaise with the Head Coach in providing initial and ongoing training for the club's coaching staff. Elaine brings a wealth of experience from her time at Kingston Royals and the Surrey Championships committee.

**Maggie Thurlow**  
**Club Secretary**  
[secretary@wandsworthsc.com](mailto:secretary@wandsworthsc.com)