

CARDIFF SWIMMING NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2006

☺☺☺ Chairman's Christmas Chat ☺☺☺

As we approach the end of the year, it provides us with an opportunity of reflecting back on 2006 with, I am pleased to say that we have achieved considerably more highs than lows. The ultimate highs had to be the achievements of the City of Cardiff Swimming Club, through the success of David Davies and Gregor Tait, winning more medals than the entire Australian Team between them, with their 3 Gold Medals and 3 Bronze Medals at the 2006 Commonwealth Games.

Chief Coach Dave Haller was absolutely delighted with their performance and indeed with young Thomas Haffield, gaining incredible experience in Melbourne, with his times resulting in him finishing the year as 5 and 8 in the UK Men's Rankings in the 400m IM and 200m Backstroke respectively, at aged just 18.

These performances were recognised by the Sports Council for Wales, when our nomination for Dave Haller as Top Coach of the Year covering all sports in Wales, was successful, beating many worthy opponents in the process. At a ceremony at Sophia Gardens to recognise the efforts of coaches across Wales in eight different categories, Dave Haller scooped the Top Award, making it a total of 3 coaching awards just for the swimming discipline. After being presented his award by the Sports Minister Alan Pugh, Dave recounted a tale of what happened to him the previous weekend, when he foreshortened an important British Swimming Conference, to dash back to watch our swimmers in action at the Hereford Open Meet. When questioned about the whereabouts of his Coach's Pass by a lady on the front desk, Dave explained that he had not ordered one due to him attending the ASA Conference with Bill Sweetenham and other Senior British Coaches and did not think that he would be able attend the Gala, only to be told that "You don't look like a Coach!" A somewhat humbling remark for one that has achieved so much in Swimming in his 41-year swimming career, but it was taken with humility in typical Haller fashion.

Other outstanding performances have been achieved throughout the year by many of our swimmers from local galas, Area, National and International Competitions, too many to mention, but well done everyone!

If you can call it lows, it has been the disappointment of the closure of a number of our pools at various times throughout the year, which has made it very frustrating to all concerned, not least the swimmers. With Fitzalen and Howells sporadically closed at times throughout the year and now Maindy for a few weeks, with Western LC due to close for most of next year, our patience has been sorely tested. The on-going Fitzalen closure has been particularly disappointing, especially as we strove so hard to form our first new squad (Blue) for many years. However, the works to all these facilities is essential and we will be the better off for it when we eventually return. I have written a separate update on the new pool in the Sports Village, which I hope will be of interest to all.

It remains only for me to wish you all the best of Seasonal Greetings on behalf of all the Officials and Coaching Staff, may I wish you all a happy Christmas and successful 2007.

Steve Airey
Club Chairman

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS 2006

The Club Championships for 2006 have been rearranged for Saturday and Sunday 27th and 28th January 2007 at Cogan Leisure Centre, Penarth. Please note that the age groups of 2006 still apply. The Presentation Evening will be held at Llanishen LC on Saturday 10th February 2006. Details TBA

HELP WANTED FOR FUTURE GALAS.

We are looking for volunteers for forthcoming galas particularly for the important role of announcer.

If anyone is interested, please contact Mark Jones.

m.jones100@ntlworld.com

AUTUMN SPLASH COGAN

FOLLOWING THE AUTUMN SPLASH AT COGAN SEVERAL ITEMS OF LOST PROPERTY WERE RECOVERED.PLEASE CONTACT MARK JONES.

m.jones100@ntlworld.com

MONTHLY FEES AND ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEE 2006/7

Please double check that your monthly fees are up to date and that you are paying the correct amount for that squad.

Also, that you have paid your annual membership fee. Debt recovery for non payers is now underway. If you have any queries/concerns please contact Lizzie Brown (Secretary)07812 069459

Please note that it is your responsibility to notify the secretary/membership secretary of any changes in address, contact number etc.

20% Reduction in Club Monthly fees.

If your family has three or more swimmers with CCSC they are eligible for a 20% reduction of the 3rd child's fees.

Please call Lizzie Brown (Secretary) for further information on 07812 069 459

10% DISCOUNT when you order your swimwear from Mailsports

Order online/telephone to receive your
10% DISCOUNT -quote ref. COCSC001

Tel.	0845 123 5503
Online	follow the link on http://www.cardiffswimmingclub.co.uk or use http://www.mailsports.co.uk , proceed to your shopping basket and use the reference above as a promotional code, your discount will be automatically applied.

SUPPORT THE CLUB

We are currently looking for partners and sponsors to assist with the financial support for the Club. We welcome all types of sponsorship enquiries, examples being sponsoring a race, an event or club kit. If interested, please contact Mark Newby by e-mail: mark@newbyweb.co.uk

City of Cardiff Swimming Club Kit

Club kit has now being taken over by ANN REID (Ben swims in D2/1) her email is lettie.reid@ntlworld.com and home telephone number 029 2062 35121

Ann will receive all requests and endeavour to fill these within a maximum of 4 weeks.

She is however able to order via "other" sources for example Allen's of Kingsbury with whom we have an account.

If members want items from Allen's and they order form us we are likely to be able to negotiate a discount of at least 10%.

Lizzie Brown.

City of Cardiff Swimming Club Christmas

Shut Down

D1, D2, D3, D4, D5, D6, Blue & Yellow Squads Christmas Shut Down is from **Friday 22nd December 06 to Wednesday 3rd January 07 (inclusive)**.

Youth, J1 & J2 please see the timetable below.

NPC will be advised by Dave Haller.

Youth / J1 & J2 Christmas Training Time Table

December	22 nd	Friday David David Nikki	Youth J1 J2	5.30 to 6.30pm Western 6.30 to 7.30pm Western 7.00 to 8pm WIS
December	23 rd to 27 th	OFF		
December	28 th	Thursday Nikki Thursday Nikki Thursday Nikki	J2 J1 Youth	5.30-6.30pm Fairwater 6.30-7.30pm Fairwater 7.30-8.30pm Fairwater
December	29 th	Friday David Friday David	Youth J1	5.30-6.30pm Western 6.30-7.30pm Western
December	30 th	Saturday David Saturday David	Youth J1 & J2	7.00-8.00am Western 8.00-9.00am Western
December	31 st	OFF		
January	1 st	OFF		
January	2 nd	Tuesday David David Tuesday Nikki	Youth J1 J2	5.00-6.30pm Eastern 6.30-8.00pm Eastern 7.00-8.00pm WIS
January	3 rd	Wednesday David Wednesday David	Youth J1	6.00-7.00pm Western 7.00-8.00pm Western
January	4 th	CLUB RETURNS TO NORMAL TIMETABLE		



2006 Christmas Party

Thursday 21st December 2006



‘Whispers’

Guildhall Place, Cardiff City Centre

Following an overwhelming request to return again to
Whispers,
tickets are now available on a first-come-first-served basis
at just £10.00 per person, including meal and dancing after
(8.00pm until late)

Please contact Phil Cook on (07971) 156003

Swim Wales & Regionalisation (How it will affect Cardiff Swimming Club)

Swim Wales announced last year that they had secured a three year sponsorship deal with Speedo. Swim Wales have now announced that they are very close to securing a sponsorship for a regional grass root development with a major UK company. To secure this sponsorship, it is necessary to formulate 3 Regions, with the agreement of the Clubs, in the preparation of a Strategic Plan for the future. The Regional boundaries are basically the North, the West and the South East of Wales. Our own Region, the South East, encompasses Mid Glamorgan, Cardiff & the Vale and East Wales Areas. This will mean that the old Cardiff & the Vale Area will cease to exist.

The City of Cardiff Swimming Club has benefited greatly over the years financially from the old Area structure, as there were only three Clubs in it – Cardiff, Barry & Penarth, allowing us to earn a larger slice of the proceeds from the galas that we have organised together. The downside of this has been that our swimmers have not had the opportunity to swim in much needed Regional Championships. Yes, we have always had great participation at the various Welsh Championships and Development Meets, but there has been little chance for a great tranche of our swimmers to compete in Championships of any note, as they had not achieved qualifying times.

Regionalisation will now provide us to compete in much greater numbers and I am pleased to announce that effectively from December 2006, our Club will join the South East Wales Region and be able take part in their forthcoming Regional Championships in February 2007. Qualification and Consideration Times obtained from which will be accepted for the Welsh Age Group Championships in Easter next year.

This can only have advantages for us as a Club on a developmental basis, but the loss of revenue will hit us hard. I have therefore pledged our support in the setting up of a new sub-regional group to allow us to continue to hold our Junior Championships and the Sprint Meet, on the basis that both Meets are Licensed, thus ensuring that times achieved are acceptable for other Championship Competitions.

Cardiff International Sports Village – A Pool Update

I was invited to attend a site inspection of the new pool a few weeks ago and to meet the future operators; Parkwood Leisure. I stood on the 2nd floor of what will be the Gym in a superbly-designed building and was amazed to look down on an already completed 50m pool structure, full to the brim of water undergoing a full leak test. I can report that the building is almost structurally complete and the builders Laing O'Rourke are very confident of a completion to programme by the end of next year.

A most interesting and lengthy discussion then took place with the Director of Parkwood, to make us and them aware of each others requirements and ambitions for the future. It formed only to serve as an exchange of 'wish lists' and expectations, but it became quite clear for both of us that the new pool will be the home of the City of Cardiff Swimming Club. This first meeting, the first of many over the months ahead, has firmly set a strong bond between us and Parkwood and you can be assured that we will be negotiating appropriate and affordable training in the new pool for all our swimmers.

Whilst we will be developing a strategy for training in this new pool from 2008, the membership must appreciate that we will not be in any way moving all, or even a significant percentage of our current usage down to Cardiff Bay. We will continue to train at the various locations around Cardiff, including Sophia Gardens, the Leisure Centres and private school pools, as Parkwood will have requirements of giving other Clubs, the general public and their own teaching programmes access to short course and long course training.

And finally

City of Cardiff All-Time Club Records

I was asked a short time ago "Do we have Club Records"? Well, they say that nostalgia is not what it used to be, but from my old Club archives, I was able to locate a set of long and short course records for all strokes and all ages from 8 to 18, up to the year 2000. Many of those times were not ratified fully at that time and the list was withdrawn for updating. I can understand why this was not fully carried out since then, as I have spent the last few months or so, trawling through bona fide records and archives from WASA, ASA, Area, Club Results etc. etc.... and it has been no mean feat to have even got as far as I have!

Of greatest help has been Phil Cook, who has volumes of results going back to 1995 and amongst his collection, I located a bumper December 1995 Newsletter, confirming times of our fantastic swimmers at that time, including details of Mark Foster's recent 22.4s and 49.3s for 50m and 100m Free, 23.9s for 50 Fly at the British Grand Prix, then topped that with his World Record time at the ASA Short Course Championships with 23.45s Fly. A brilliant Medley Team victory for Cardiff saw the following times, which would still be the envy in any Club in the world, one decade on:

Chris Jones	56.2s Bk
Phil Melhuish	61.9s Br (Now Bridgend's Coach)
Mark Foster	53.6s Fly
Adam Johnson	51.8s FC

Dozens of other results are also detailed, with many gala reports and the announcement of a change in Club Structure from the colours to what we still run today. I have asked Sarah Warden-Smith to put a link of this old Newsletter on our web-site, which I am sure will be of interest to both our long established and new members. Our web-site is currently being updated, but details can be found on www.cardiffswimmingclub.co.uk

In respect of the Club Records, once the results of the forthcoming Welsh Winter Championships are entered over the Christmas period, I hope to release to the membership early January 2007.

Steve Airey