

## **EXTRACT FROM RINGWOOD SEALS CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2008**

We all like to think of this Club as a family and as a family we have seen some extremely low and tragic times during the last year. One of these being the severe illness suffered by our Chairman Paul Spacagna which forced his early retirement from the position. At that time the Committee voted me on as acting chairman, which is why I am here and not him.

Bad times continued to follow with the sad loss of James Salisbury, one of our long standing swimmers and now the current illness of Anne's husband Jim. However as with all families we strive to support each other and look ahead with optimism.

On the Upside I am pleased to say that our application for Swim 21 accreditation has been accepted by the regional authority and we are just waiting for National confirmation.

For those of you who do not know SWIM 21 – What is it?

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.

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.

What does it mean for us?

- Enhanced access to various sources of funding.
- It can be used as a negotiation tool with Local Authorities, in terms of seeking additional water time or a reduction in it's cost.
- Recognition by Sport England that your club is safe, effective and child friendly.
- Will allow us access to a wide array of resource materials - in the form of Information Sheets, Templates, Resource Packs and Workshops.

It basically opens doors that were previously shut, or at best hard to open.

Swim 21 does not change the way the Club has been run but it formalizes the practices that were already in place.

Added to this we were approached by the leisure centre with a view to formalizing the link between the Swim Academy and Seals. Annette and I have now attended two meetings with Anne Van Hoof and Sally Stafford, management staff at Ringwood Health & Leisure, and are very pleased with the positive attitude they have shown towards the Club. We are now in the process of drawing up a procedure for transfer of swimmers from their academy into the club. This will involve the academy teachers assessing and recommending likely swimmers who will then attend a special academy session during the school holiday when we will go along and assess the swimmers and offer any of the appropriate standard to attend a week's trial with Seals.

The centre is also producing a welcome pack which will include a leaflet advertising Seals.

Lastly we have finally purchased our long awaited lane ropes and these will be in action during training sessions as soon as the fittings have been finalised. I would like to thank Ian Salisbury for all his hard work in sourcing both the ropes and storage. I have a lot of other people to thank but will do that later in the meeting

## **TREASURERS REPORT 2008**

***Please contact the Chairman for a copy of the Treasurer's financial report. This is not published publicly.***

The Committee is recommending that as the fees have not been raised for the last two years that they rise by 50p per month per swimmer as from 1<sup>st</sup> May. This represents an overall rise of 2.17% i.e. roughly in line with inflation.

Although 50p per swimmer per month will only generate around £700 pounds per year, we are hoping for a small reduction in pool hire fees when our Swim 21 is formalised.

The Committee would appreciate it if you could vote in this small amendment . The money would be collected by each member completing a new standing order mandate when renewing their membership in May.

Can I then ask someone to formally propose that swim fees rise from 1<sup>st</sup> May 2008 by 50p per month from £22.50 to £23.00.

### **Election of Officers**

The following are willing to stand and have been nominated and seconded.

### **New Committee**

Carole Ralph     Chairman

Lorraine Cooper     Treasurer

Anne Nugent Director of Swimming

Clare Kebby - welfare officer

Amanda Jarvis – membership secretary

Annette Sherry

Kathy Crosswell

Sara Waterman

Caireen Roberts

Helen Holmwood

Debby l'Anson

Martin Geldart

Angie Spall

## *Acknowledgement for service of present committee*

### **Paul Spacagna**

Paul has been our chairman for several years, tirelessly attending not only our own meetings but representing the club at ASA regional meetings. He has also spent hours along with Martin Geldart preparing the Swim 21 documentations.

### **Cathy Crosswell**

Cathy is stepping down as Club Secretary after many years of service. Cathy not only did her secretarial work but is one of our vital teaching staff. She is continuing to teach and is willing to take a more back seat approach on the new committee.

### **Louise Kitchener**

Louise has been our treasurer for a year and she kept the wolf from the door and has done an excellent job making the work of the accountant easy.

### **Karen Homer**

She will be leaving as fixtures secretary. she has organised our inclusion in league and friendly competitions for many years ensuring that Seals arrive at the right gala at the right time. This job when done well is almost invisible and many do not realise the importance of the role Karen was playing.

### **Helen Burleigh**

Helen is stepping down from running the shop after many years. Again we are very grateful for her hard work.