

Hillingdon Swimming Club

Affiliated to M.C.A.S.A. & L.R.A.S.A.



Chairman's Report 2008

Good Evening and welcome to all of our Coaches, members and friends to this year's AGM.

I would like to extend a very warm welcome to our President Maurice Short and his wife Daphne and to thank them on behalf of the club for their continued support.

The club has had an extremely busy year and I am pleased to report that our membership numbers are very healthy and at full capacity in most squads. We currently have over 200 competitive swimmers and in excess of 90 swimmers in the Junior Section. At the beginning of last season, a new Junior Masters squad was set up for older swimmers who wished to continue training but could not commit to a full squad programme. This squad gives these swimmers the opportunity to train one session a week and retain fitness in the water. This is an area I am sure we will see develop over the coming months.

As a club we have had numerous successes over the year.

Firstly, we have had huge achievement with our junior swimmers in the M11 and Milton Keynes Diddy Leagues. As I reported at the last AGM after listening to our coaches' recommendations we entered two teams into the Milton Keynes League and one team into the M11 League.

The M11 team was made up of RNSS House swimmers who reached the third round and achieved a very credible third place.

In the Milton Keynes Diddy League we entered two Hillingdon Swimming Club teams with combined swimmers from RNSS, HBEST & Sea-Byrds SC. Both teams had fantastic results with the Division 2 coming top of their division and gaining promotion. The Division 1 team went on to achieve a place in the

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National Final in Liverpool, competing against the other 7 top teams in the Country and coming a very respectable 6th place. This year will be very exciting for the club with two teams in Division 1.

Entering two combined teams allowed more young swimmers from across Hillingdon the chance to take part and gain experience at a higher level of team competition. I would like to congratulate and thank the numerous people involved in making this possible especially Lesley Westendorp, David Hemmings, Gary Mohamed, Anne Heath, Dave Austin, Ken Adey, John Greenwood & Julie Perrin, along with Sea-Byrd coaches Paul Meachum & Rob Parkinson. Well done to all the swimmers involved and for making the club very proud of this fantastic achievement.

As part of our club development we now have a full time HBEST Coach. At the start of this year, David Hemmings increased his commitment to the club and, as well as coaching the HBEST squads, he has been busy developing and delivering highly successful workshops for both coaches & swimmers.

Hillingdon SC has had numerous success and achievements over the last year, most notably Francesca Marr competing in Belgrade in July as part of the GB European Junior team. Francesca has recently had confirmation that she has been selected again to be part of the GB Junior team after her outstanding performance at the British Championships in March. Congratulations to Francesca and her coach David Hemmings. As a club we had fantastic success at the Middlesex County Championships in February & March achieving 523 personal best times with many superb performances.

Both Lesley & David will give full reports later this evening. I would like to thank them both for their commitment and hard work over the last year.

Our thriving Junior Section is as always at full capacity and is headed by Amy Claridge, well done to Amy and her team of teachers and assistant teachers. The Junior Section is a vital part of our club enabling us to identify young potential swimmers early on and also for our older swimmers who want to become involved in teaching the opportunity to gain essential experience.

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Congratulations also to Jane Biedul and Sandra Riley for receiving the London Swimming Award for 'Teaching Team of the Year 2008' Jane & Sandra have now retired from the Junior Section but Jane continues to be a mentor to Amy.

Last year I reported that as a club we are committed to giving swimmers who show an interest and demonstrate potential in teaching or coaching the opportunity to gain experience and support towards achieving a qualification. I am very proud to say that we currently have 11 young people on this programme. My thanks to all of them for the loyalty they show in helping to give something back to the club.

Last month Hillingdon council launched the "Mayor's Sporting Achievement" awards evening and I am very proud to say that our club received three awards of which two were team awards: London Youth Games & the Interborough team along with an award recognising us as a dedicated community focused club.

The RNSS House Championships throughout 2008 were very well attended and at the main club champs in November with numerous records broken. Again Lesley will report on this later this evening. I would like to thank Trevor Hammond our Club Champs Organiser and Tina Benson for the brilliant job they do in organising and running the galas. I would also like to thank the army of officials and volunteers who without their help none of these galas would be possible.

For the first time this year we have Licensed at Level 4 the club champs at Merchant Taylors for the 400 free, 200 free, fly, breast and backstroke events. This allows our swimmers to compete within the club and achieve a time on rankings for use to County Level. Thanks goes to Wayne Hirst who has co-ordinated and guided us through this process.

I would also like to thank Wayne for being the club's representative on the Middlesex ASA committee and for also running a very successful timekeepers' course last year. Wayne will be organising another timekeepers' course in the near future and if anyone is interested in finding out more on becoming a qualified timekeeper or any other official role please let Wayne know.

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Thank you to Lucy Esson and Sandra Riley for organising another superb family day at HOAC last July, the day was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Thanks also to the superb bbq chefs Graham Marr, Gary Mohamed, Steve Wilson & Dave Westendorp and to everyone else who helped out on the day.

We have many official helpers within the club that do not have committee positions but these roles are an integral part of running a successful club and I would like to thank Bev Conder for taking on the role of Welfare Officer; Leigh Walker CRB-Officer; Gorretti McAndrew for Trophies Co-ordinator; Trevor Hammond – Assistant Team Manager & Club Champs Organiser; Teresa Jones – Trials Manager; Julie Stokes, Club Shop Manager; Ansa Khan – Funding Co-ordinator; Gary Mitchell – HBEST Team Manager; Julie Perrin – HBEST Gala Secretary; Rose Quinn – HBEST.

This club depends upon its volunteers. Anyone can help – please consider if you could spare some time to support your child's club. We are currently looking for someone to take on the role of Health & Safety Officer. Rosemary Harrington along with being Treasurer and Swim 21 Co-ordinator is currently in this position. The position does not involve attending committee meetings and is mainly an administrative role, if you are interested please speak to Rosemary who will be happy to brief you.

As you all know we are a Swim 21 club accredited at two levels - teaching & skill development. After a period of four years clubs need to be re-accredited and we are currently working towards our new accreditation, which is scheduled to take place in June. With the help of David Hemmings we will also be working towards achieving accreditation at competitive level. Achieving this in June would be another big step forward for our club.

Last year I reported on the new 50m pool at Uxbridge. To give an update we have been told that the work is progressing on schedule and the pool is due to open early 2010. Hillingdon SC is part of a London Swimming working party. We have submitted a schedule of times we would like for training sessions and will be attending a meeting with the council early in May.

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With 200 competitive swimmers, 90 Junior Section members and almost as many coaches, teachers and other supporters, communication is a vital part of our club life and I would like to thank the following people for their help. Firstly, Sue Procter and Moreno Michini for managing the club's web-sites. They are currently working on the RNSS and HBEST web sites to bring them under one domain name. We have secured www.hillingdonsc.co.uk and this site will have all the information that is relevant to both houses as well as a facility on the front page for users to click straight into the more familiar information that is relevant to their house. We are hoping this will be live sometime in May.

Our club newsletter is another great tool of communication and many thanks to Joanne Lawrence and Martin South who have worked so hard on producing newsletters that are both informative and fun. Thank you also to everyone who has contributed articles to the newsletters.

More Thank you's.

Our coaching teams are the life blood of our club and I would personally like to thank our RNSS coaches Lesley Westendorp, Dave Austin, Anne Heath, Colin Hick, Ken Adey, Lin Styles, Graham Forbes, Bill Harrington & Graham Marr. The HBEST coaches, David Hemmings, Gary Mohamed & Ricky James.

Along with all our assistant teachers, coaches and young helpers.

I would like to say a massive thank you to the committee for their support over the last year: Rosemary Harrington our Treasurer, Swim 21 Co-ordinator and Health & Safety Officer; Joanne Lawrence, Club Secretary & workforce co-ordinator; Sue Dyer, Membership Secretary; Martin South, Competition Secretary and John Greenwood, Team Manager.

The committee have worked tirelessly behind the scenes over the last year and I thank them for offering to stand for election again this year.

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John Greenwood will be standing down after 3 years in his most recent role as Team Manager. John has given many years to the club in a variety of roles and his experience is invaluable. I would like to thank John for all that he has done for the club and express our gratitude that John is not leaving us but will continue to be our Diddy & Assistant Team Manager.

We have two potential committee members who have offered to stand for election this evening and I would like to welcome and thank them for coming forward. Wayne Hirst who will be standing for Vice-Chair and Trevor Hammond who would take over from John as Team Manager. I feel it is really important to get new people involved on the committee so that we are continually bringing fresh ideas and views into the club.

As I commented last year, this is a unique time in the history of our club. We are very lucky to have so many volunteers willing to give their time freely and we are truly grateful to them. However we do need more. Success may breed success but it also breeds increased workloads and we need more people willing to share this load. Please don't fall into the trap of thinking you have nothing to give. Of the 2008 committee only one person, John, could be said to be from a 'swimming background'. The rest of us, and most other helpers, are simply parents with no specialist swimming knowledge using our administrative, accounting, organising, people skills and other abilities to support Hillingdon Swimming Club and to keep the club moving forward to become one of the best clubs in London.

Thank you all again for attending the meeting this evening your support is very much appreciated.

Debbie Wilson
Chairman, Hillingdon Swimming Club
April 2009

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Ernie Perry Trophy

Every year the committee nominate someone within the club to receive the Ernie Perry Trophy. Ernie Perry was a parent within the club in the 1980s who would do anything for the club and magically get anything done that was asked of him. In his memory this trophy is given to someone in the club who goes that extra mile. The person the committee have nominated to receive the award this year is always helpful, has a smile for everyone and the big clue is always at Highgrove on a Friday evening. This person also gives their time to provide a valuable service to our members along with raising funds for the club. I am very pleased to announce that this year the Ernie Perry Trophy is awarded to Julie Stokes our club shop manager.

Congratulations and well done to Julie.