



DERBYSHIRE AMATEUR SWIMMING ASSOCIATION

Affiliated to Swim England East Midland Region

Swimming Coordinator's Report

This has been another successful year for swimming within the County and it is very pleasing to be able to report on such continuing success below. The County continues to be able to run its Long Course Competition in December and Spring County Championships in February, which as always run so extremely smoothly – mainly due to all the volunteers that give up so much of their valued time. It is also very satisfying that the swimming section has represented the County so well on the National stage too at the Inter County Competition held in October.

The events and competitions organised and run by the County's Swimming Committee have been well attended by all clubs and makes the time, effort and commitment put in by all those involved really worthwhile. So, thank you to everyone.

It is also wonderful to note the amazing success of the County Team at the National Inter County competition who achieved promotion back to Division 1. Thank you to all those who helped organise, coach or team manage for the County and indeed well done to the squad of swimmers who won promotion.

I and the Swimming Committee would like to place on record our thanks to Nicky Owen, who has decided to step down from her role as joint volunteer coordinator. Along with being a great asset at meetings, one of Nicky's main contributions has been the time she spent before the last two years of Counties to prepare the detailed warm up instructions so that all swimmers had an equal and balanced warm up for each session. For all of your contributions Nicky, thank you!

As always thank you to everyone who has given their time over the year to help the County take part in and run so many successful competitions. Here's to another successful year for Swimming over the coming year!!

Swimming Report

For 2018 – 2019 the committee for organising the County's Swimming Competitions comprised of: *Connor Donson, Tom Parr (chair), Angela Hidle, Nga Sam, Nicky Owen, Ann Basford, Babs Ingram and Ralph Shepherd*. And were joined at certain meetings by *Peter Spink, Barrie May, Sue Kelly, John Hidle (Competitions Manager), Steve Roome (Trophy Controller) and Doug Whitlam (Exec. Chairman)*

Main Events:

- National Inter County Competition – October 2018
- County Long Course Competition – December 2018
- County Championships – February 2019

National Inter County Competition

A team of 26 swimmers competed at Ponds Forge in Division 2 of the Inter County Competition. The team swam very well accumulating 431 points (431.5 in 2017) and finished in 3rd place (5th in 2017) and therefore achieved promotion back to Division 1.

County Long Course Competition

The County ran the annual Long Course Competition at Ponds Forge, Sheffield in the 50m pool. A competition designed to give young swimmers the chance of competing in an Olympic standard pool early in their swimming careers, as well acting as a great way of giving the more experienced swimmers more race practice swimming long course and gaining all important qualifying times for the Country's top-level competitions.

As with the past few years, we ran the gala as a combined level 3 (for 50m events) and level 1 (for 100m and 200m events) competition.

In total 468 swimmers (509 in 2017) entered:

With - **1,547** (1,663 in 2017 & 1,545 in 2016) Level 3 entries received.

With - **339** (324 in 2017 & 219 in 2016) Level 1 entries received.

Although it is disappointing to see lower entrants – we believe the clash with the National Arena League galas the evening before was the main cause behind the decrease. It must be noted however that despite slightly lower entrant numbers the total amount of entries remained generally level. The Swimming Committee does hope the number of entrants increases back to 2017 levels again next year.

County Championships

The annual County Championships were run over the last two weekends in February at Arc Leisure, Matlock. The schedule had an increase to twelve sessions this year, split across the usual 4 days, with heats and finals for the 50m and 100m events (all other events swum as heat declared winners). There was also the reintroduction of the female 1500m and male 800m freestyle races.

The Championships were a major success with all sessions either running to or ahead of time which is a huge credit to everyone involved. There are indeed a couple of scheduling issues to resolve for 2020 and the Swimming Committee have already begun to look at these to help the flow of some sessions.

The event merchandise initiative, massively aided by Sportyswim, was a huge success and will be something that the County looks to continue with next year.

In total 602 swimmers (598 in 2018) entered:

With - **3714** (3720 in 2018 & 3572 in 2017) entries received.

On a side note it is disappointing to know that some people decided to try to take advantage of the building work situation at the Arc and attempt not to pay the spectator entry fee – please remember the competition is put on for the young swimmers and without entrance fees the County would not be able to run such events.

Team Championships

Unfortunately, the annual Team Championships have not been held over the past year. This was because of two main reasons; one, the scheduled building work at the Arc reducing space for swimmers and spectators and two, the mixed schedule feedback received following the conclusion of last year's Teams Event.

However, the Swimming Committee (along with a number of clubs it must be said) would like to see the relay competition return to the County programme. As such the Swimming Committee have agreed to introduce a small amount of mixed 4 x 50m relays in the Long Course Competition schedule for 2019. We hope the shorter distance and larger age bands will encourage a greater number of teams to enter. We also believe that by swimming the relays in a long course pool it will provide a greater exposure to swimmers to a 50m pool.

Competition Officials – information courtesy of Ann Basford (Lead Referee).

For the Long Course Competition, a total of 40 officials helped to run the event. As the competition was a combined level 3 and level 1 event it provided the opportunity for many officials to be trained and signed off for their next qualification, whilst also exposing more novice officials to the requirements of a top-level meet. We are delighted that so many officials offer their support for this event making it all run so smoothly.

The Spring County Championships had 68 officials help at one or more galas. Despite this rather high number we do still encourage even more volunteers to either become qualified and/or help at the galas to relieve pressure on those that help at every session!

Although the licensing criteria was met for every session, some sessions continue to be harder than others to recruit officials for and we would encourage clubs to make their officials aware of this for the future, please.

However, in most sessions we were able to continue to support the further development of officials by allowing them to shadow the more qualified officials. At some sessions we had turn judges for every lane, which provides an even greater mentoring opportunity.

A huge thank you must go to all the officials that have helped at the two competitions over the past year.

Volunteers – information courtesy of Nga Sam (Volunteer Coordinator).

The County's tireless volunteers have once again been exceptional in helping the smooth flow of competitions. Help usually comes from the same people / clubs and we would encourage more clubs to be aware of this.

Although we do have adequate people to help at every session of both competitions, some sessions can be 'thin on the ground' so it would be wonderful if more parents of younger swimmers would volunteer to get involved (no qualifications are necessary for most of the roles and most provide you with a 'ring side' view of the action).

Long Course Competition 2018 – there were 12 volunteers, most of which had helped out in previous years. Due to the size of the venue it would be great if more people would come forward next year.

County Championships 2019 – there were 20 volunteers over the two weekends. Many of them helped out on both weekends and most helped on both days and both weekends. Although the majority were people who had volunteered before it was great to see a couple of new faces also offer to support the County.

Thank you to the clubs who ran raffles on the door for also providing door stewards and I look forward to next year when we have less to worry about as due to the on-going work at the Arc it meant we had to find additional helpers to steward alternative doors onto the spectator balcony to ensure everyone was paying the spectator fee.

And finally, it is sad to see Nicky stand down, but I really appreciate all the work she has put in over the years!