

ENGLISH SCHOOLS' SWIMMING ASSOCIATION

Patron: Prince William

www.essa-schoolswimming.com

Hon.General Secretary:

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English Schools' Swimming Association

Annual Report 2008/2009

The Council of the English Schools' Swimming Association is pleased to present its report for 2008/2009.

Meetings

Council met at Oxford (4th October 2008), Gloucester (7th & 8th February 2009).

Representatives have attended meetings of the National Council for Schools Sport, Swimming Forum, the Amateur Swimming Association and the DCMS.

The Hon. General Secretary has attended meetings at Clarence House with Prince William, Prince Harry and the other members of the Princes Charities Forum.

Co-operation

The English Schools' Swimming Association continues to work closely with the Amateur Swimming Association. This last year, members of Council have continued to attend meetings with the asa and NCSS and the Youth Sports Trust to develop a National Framework for School Sport as part of the PESSCL and PESSYP scheme. Swimming was one of the first sports to be piloted by the NCSS in this development, mainly because of our strong links with the asa and the Competition Framework is being implemented in many areas of England.

There have been many meetings during the year with the asa (including a meeting of all of council in June) and those attending the meetings have endeavoured to transmit the information from these meetings to the rest of Council. It is hoped that, with some changes to the competition structure, we will be able to establish a much stronger financial position for the Association as we work closer with the asa.

The stronger links with the asa have been developed as required by government.

We were pleased to welcome the President of the asa, Kay Grimshaw to many of our competitions and the 60th lunch in Sheffield.

Finance

The Honorary Treasurer will be presenting the accounts of the Association.

Sponsorship

We are still seeking a major sponsor, although we have been fortunate to receive money from The Prince's Charities event and a donation from Dendron, these two amounts will form a major part of the money required to take the ESSA team to Qatar in December. In addition we have had approaches from Swim Shop and PE Office asking if they can help with funding.

Waterfly continue to be our Technical Partners for Water Polo and provided clothing and balls for our Water Polo Competitions.

We are still looking for sponsorship for Synchronised Swimming and Diving competitions.

Insurance

Affiliation of a schools' swimming association to a District of the Amateur Swimming Association does not provide that schools' association with the Public Liability (also known as Third Party) Insurance unless the schools' association is affiliated as a club. Club registration requires individually named members for whom per capita fees are required. ESSA has made arrangements with its insurance brokers for schools' associations to be provided with Public Liability cover. It is on the basis of an individually staged competition at a specified premium. Further details of this cover can be obtained from the Hon. Treasurer via the Divisional Representative.

Dolphin

The aim of the Dolphin Scheme is to support and encourage all schools to make every child a swimmer before transferring to the secondary stage of education. The scheme consists of a number of competitive awards and a series of incentive awards. At the same time it is clearly pointed out that the incentive swimming awards are carried out under controlled conditions, that there is a profound difference between indoor and open water swimming and that swimming ability does not necessarily constitute safety in water.

The ESSA has made changes to the format of the Dolphin Scheme in the past. The Dolphin Award is for performance up to 100 metres and the Porpoise Award is for Water Skills. The cost of running the scheme continues to be high, but with a revised entry form, available on the Web Site, and support from the asa, we are hopeful for continued support from primary schools throughout the country.

Information and entry for the competition is through the Website.

National Championships and Internationals

All our National Championships continue to function well under the guidance of our Hon. Championship Co-ordinator, Mavis Fox.

She is well supported by our Hon. Diving Organiser, Betty Allen, Hon. Water Polo Organiser, Trevor Pledger and Shirley North, Hon. Synchronised Swimming Organiser. Our Divisional Representatives remain the backbone of all the competitions and give their time willingly.

Mavis Fox will be reporting in more detail on all competitions.

Schools' International

The WISE committee, held their annual meeting in mid-year meeting in September at Birmingham.

This year's WISE International was held in Swansea. Because of some financial restrictions in Wales there was some doubt as to whether the event would take place. However it did happen and the English team were successful.

I must thank Claire Turner for her hard work in making sure the English team were able to attend. During the year Claire was also elected to the post of President of the International Schools Federation Technical Committee, a very prestigious position and well deserved.

UK School Games

This year the games took place at Swansea and was very successful. More details will be given by Mavis Fox in her report.

Communications

Our web site (essa-schoolswimming.com) has continued to function very well over the past five years and allows interested parties to follow what has happened and what is planned for the future within the ESSA and also question some of the decisions that have been made over selection etc. We have had almost 365,000 hits so far. We must thank Jeff Bagnall (Hon. Web Site Organiser) for his hard work.

Obituaries

Chris Fox

Divisional Representative Division 7.

President of ESSA 2007 - 2008

It was with a great deal of sadness that we arrived in Oxford a year ago, having heard the news that Chris Fox had suffered a stroke and was not fit enough to complete his year in office and hand over to Richard Thorp. Unfortunately his health deteriorated and he died a week later on 11th October 2008.

Chris became a member of the ESSA Council when Mavis took over the post of Championship Organiser, and had worked tirelessly as a member of Division Seven for some years.

During his year of office he had the duty of entertaining Prince William at our Water Polo Championships in Walsall, a task he performed both with pleasure and a great deal of dignity, a day I am sure was very important and a source of great pride to him.

Our thoughts were at the time, and remain, with Mavis and her family.

His efforts for the ESSA were admired by all as were the efforts he made in making West Midlands 'a strength to be reckoned with' at the UK School Games.

He has been sadly missed by his family, Division Seven and the Council of our Association.

Consultants

Council offers thanks to its Honorary Consultants:

Mr. Patrick Nelson (Solicitor)

Mr. N. Turner FRCS and Mr. K. P. Sherman FRCS (Medical)

Killicks Accountants, Kirkby in Ashfield (Auditors)

The President

Richard Thorp

Richard, after many years of fulfilling the role of Divisional representative for Divisions Six and Five and coaching ESSA teams stepped up to plate, and found like many before him what a pleasure it is to take on the role of President. He certainly grew into the job as he prepared notes for programmes and speeches for the opening of Championships. He was a very good ambassador for our Association and made Mayors, Presidents and Olympians feel at ease at our Championships. His last official duty was to preside over our Primary Championships and 60th lunch at Sheffield, a duty he performed as a true member of the ESSA family.

Thanks

English Schools' Swimming Association records thanks to all who give their time supporting the children in our sport. Council acknowledges the service of its Officers.

Mr. J. Beddoe, Hon. Treasurer.

Mrs. M. Fox, Hon. Championship Co-ordinator.

Acknowledgements are also given to:

Mrs. S. North, Hon Awards Secretary.

Mrs. C. Turner, Hon International Organiser.

Mr.M.Betts, Hon Minuting Secretary.

Mrs J. Bedford, Hon. Dolphin Trophy Organiser.

Mrs. B. Allen, Hon Diving Organiser.

Mrs. E.Hartley, Hon.Secondary Team Organiser

Mr. T. Pledger, Hon Water Polo Organiser.

Mr. J. Bagnall, Hon. Web Site Organiser.

Thanks are offered to all members of Council who represent the ESSA on the many corporate bodies with which our Association is linked.

To all the municipal bodies who have supported us in the towns and cities where Championships have been held, we offer our thanks. Special thanks must go to Walsall Gala Baths, especially Brian Pugh, for their support and allowing us to make Walsall the centre for English Schools' Water Polo. To County engravers who prepare all of our medals throughout the year.

To all the officials who regularly support us, a particularly warm thank you.

A special thanks, in this our 60th year must go to Chris Young and her team of helpers for organising such a wonderful weekend in Sheffield for the Primary Championship and 60th Lunch. It was much appreciated by everyone.

As Hon. General Secretary, I offer a sincere thanks to our Divisional Representatives and those who work with them in schools around the country. Without their hard work our Association would not function.

John Stiven

Hon.General Secretary

September 2009

Addendum to Hon. General Secretary's Report 2009

John Beddoe

John has been the Treasurer of the ESSA since 1982 and is one of the longest standing members of ESSA. However there is more to tell.

After working with Nottinghamshire Schools Swimming Association he moved on to Div 4 where he became a Team Manager in 1974, moving to the dizzy heights of Div Rep. in 1977 and then onto President of our Association in 1984 as well as remaining as Treasurer. He was also Treasurer of the NCSS in 1990-91 and WISE.

That is the formal side of John's 'career' with ESSA John has given enormous amounts of time to our association as 'the old head' when we have difficult situations to overcome and a need to understand the background to some of the issues we have to handle.

As Treasurer, John has given sterling service to ESSA, and personally has given me great support in the last five years as Secretary and fellow Trustee. A particular success was helping to secure Prince William as our Patron in 2008 following our meeting with the Prince's Private Secretary at Clarence House the previous year. One of my other memories of John was in Jersey when there were no boats back to the mainland and John set to behind the scenes and found and paid for hotels scattered around St. Helier. This is just one of many crises he has helped the Association come through, leaving us with our reputation intact and another successful event completed.

Personally I would like to thank John for his help over the years. Many phone calls and close discussions over a 'drink' have helped me and hopefully the Association to develop in this time.