

Chair's Report AGM 31st October 2018

Welcome to the AGM of GASC. Thank you for attending.

Another eventful year. We have had lots of swimming successes since our last AGM, in fact I don't think we have ever had as much success with times and awards County and Regional that our swimmers have gained. Annette has produced detailed progress reports in our monthly newsletter which have also gone into the LEP. I hope you have all read them.

A very well done to all of them.

We are extremely proud of all our swimmers and the amount of commitment they show in their quest for better and better times. We also have some promising younger swimmers who we hope will go on to greater things.

We wish all our members the best and will carry on striving for them to be able to reach their full potential.

At Easter some of our swimmers will be attending the Spanish swim camp again. This is a tough course and the swimmers have to be on top of their game to survive. I am sure this year's camp will be as successful as the others and thank Blackpool Aquatics for giving some of our swimmers this opportunity.

This year our pool hire has been increased by £1,500 and is set for another big increase in the new year. We need to try to keep members' fees as low as possible making them affordable to the greatest number of children. To help to keep the fees down I am appealing for parents to take the initiative and form a sub-committee for fund raising. With the best will in the world Sue and myself and the committee who organise galas etc have enough on our plates and we ask that parents step up and help to keep the club finances in a reasonable state. The Medals Gala is a good fund raiser and just another two events would go a long way to keeping us in the black. This year our presentation evening will not be subsidised as we usually lose money on this event. Unfortunately, we will have to try and at least break even this year and hope it won't affect attendance.

We have been fortunate this month as Troutbeck Swimming Club have donated £1,000 to our finances. This is the club Sue Booth came from and worked with for many years but which unfortunately, due to increased costs, had to shut down. They have included us in the distribution of their residual money and for this we are very thankful. I have written to say how grateful we are for this very kind gift. We also thank Dewlay Cheese for their kind donation of £100. Claire Williamson has taken it upon herself to write to local firms and builders in the area asking for donations, she has a few in the pipeline.

The number of members at the club dropped considerably towards September but are now creeping upwards again. The lessons are more or less full so hopefully our numbers will continue to increase which will help with finances. Historically we lose members around 15 years of age, it seems they are either very competitive and go from strength to strength and leave to go on to train for goals we can no longer offer and we pass them on with our best wishes to a bigger club, should they decide to return for whatever reason we welcome them back with open arms. Some tire of competitive swimming and thankfully join our coaching team which we are very pleased about and we help with the cost of their training. The rest leave for other interests. With this in mind we have decided to use part of the 8/9 session on Friday

nights as a sprints session for older members not wishing to train but want to continue swimming and are 14 yrs and over at a cost of £22 per month. One or two lanes will be used for this. Another lane for swimmers who still wish to train and a lane for one to one sessions, maximum of four in an hour at a cost of £5 for 15 mins. Ian McKean will run this lane. After Christmas we hope to involve the use of the underwater camera, again we appeal to any parent who is familiar with cameras to help with this. Hopefully, this hour which is underused will bring in some extra money. The use of this hour will be constantly monitored.

I would like to say a very big thank you to Jayne Smith who has been our Welfare Officer for quite some years. Jayne is leaving the club at Easter. She has been invaluable in sorting our welfare problems and a great help in forming many of our policies we need for the smooth running of the club. Jayne, along with Rachel and Sam her children will be sorely missed. Jayne is being replaced by Elaine Diggins. We thank Elaine for taking over and hope she will enjoy her new post.

Stewart Livingstone is our male Welfare Officer and we thank him for continuing in this capacity.

We are also saying goodbye with a very big thank you to the Charlesworth family. Nat and Matthew are reaching new heights and moving on. We wish them both well and hope they reach their goals. Helen and Andrew have worked extremely hard for the club over the past five or six years. They will be sorely missed. They have very kindly offered to pass on their knowledge to anyone who will take over their positions on the committee which are Competition Secretary and Andrew has been organising judges' courses and organising galas. They have offered to keep their positions until the end of the year while passing on their knowledge to whoever will take on their roles.

We desperately need more involvement from parents to keep the club running. We need replacements as people come and go so an ongoing involvement is essential. I ask our committee to talk to parents on poolside, at school etc and explain our need for their involvement. They don't need to be on the committee just help in the running of the club in any way they can.

I hope we can reach these goals in the coming year. Every year has a new challenge but with the continued input from as many parents as possible we can go forward and improve.