



Wilts County ASA Wet Rag

Volume 8 Issue 1

March 2007

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Editorial

Well, here we are with the first issue of our centenary year which is due to be celebrated by several extra events to mark the occasion.

I do hope you are able to join in and maybe take some photos and/or write/collect a report or two about these special events. If so you can email them to me for inclusion in our very special "Wet Rag" being produced this time next year and covering nothing but illustrations of how we celebrated this marvellous once in a lifetime occasion.

I hope you have had the time to read and enjoy the history booklet "A potted history of Wilts County ASA (the first 100 years)". If you have not seen one yet there were sufficient printed for every member of every club and your club secretary should have a spare just waiting for you.

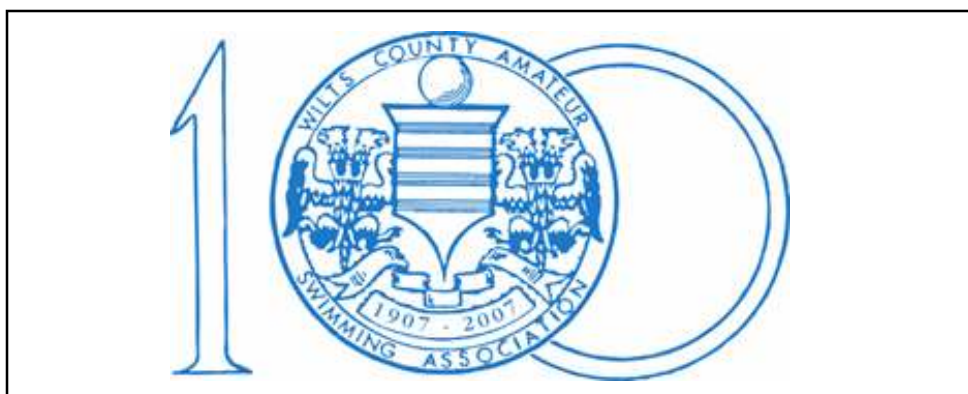
However whilst we enjoy these celebrations I ask that we remember with fondness our immediate past president Peggy Tanner of Corsham ASC who unfortunately passed away soon after the end of her presidential year.

PLEASE NOTE I HAVE A NEW EMAIL ADDRESS WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT. PLEASE ALTER YOUR LIST OF CONTACTS TO READ

david.greenwood@sky.com

Dave Greenwood

New Centenary Logo



Meet Your New President



Every once in a while the county president is chosen by the Executive Committee and it was their unanimous decision that Jean Pitfield from Calne Alpha 4 be the centennial leader of our county for 2007.

Jean started her involvement in swimming as a 5 year old in a Learn to Swim class in Ealing West London then moved into the world of competition when the sport, at her school Haberdashers Asks Public School, was only a demonstration sport.

Jean's first involvement with Wiltshire County swimming was with the opening of the Calne pool in June of 1976. She became heavily involved in 1980 with synchronised swimming, the favoured section in our sport for her daughter Lynne who grew up to be a synchronised swimming champion many times over. Jean dedicated herself to this arm of our sport during her daughter's involvement and has continued to this day.

Her dedication at club level for Calne, at county level with the Wroughton training events, championships and team events, the West and beyond with national championships, training courses and her efforts at representing the county as Synchro West Representative for many years is what made the selection as county president an easy one for the committee.

Congratulations Jean, the honour is well deserved.

Goodbye Peggy

Peggy Tanner's life was largely spent in the service of others. Starting life in Wimbledon, she moved to Corsham because of World War II and having passed the then 11+ studied at Chippenham Grammar School then took evening classes in shorthand and typing to start work in Mary's Gown Shop in Bath. Other jobs followed and towards the end of her career she worked at Chippenham College.

Throughout her life she had many outside interests. Peggy was a founder member of Corsham ASC when the new Springfield pool was opened in 1974 and immediately threw herself into the work of building a strong organisation, learning the intricacies of teaching and coaching, qualifying also as a judge and timekeeper. The County Easter course at Pewsey was another of her regular commitments for 15 years and hundreds of children benefited from her coaching there. It was at this she excelled and she held the position of Head Coach in the club until her untimely death. The quality of her work was recognised not only in the club but in the Local Authority when she was awarded Coach of the Year in 1996. The final accolade was only last year when Corsham ASC nominated her to be Wilts County President for 2005/6.

Throughout her life she enjoyed good health and it is a great sadness that, when still at the peak of her powers, her health should deteriorate so suddenly. It was her great regret that with her husband's early death, he did not enjoy their grandchildren but Peggy made up for it by doting on them, including their dreadlocks and lip piercings. She will be well remembered not only by Susan and her grandchildren but by all who worked and played with her and most of all by the many children whose early years were enriched by her teaching and example.

Summer Ball

Centenary Dinner & Ball

Friday 29th June
Marlborough Town Hall
7.15 pm for 7.30 pm
Carriages by Midnight
Tickets £30.00

Music will be provided by "The Les Bruce Band"
Catering by "Shipsey's of Salisbury".

Formal dress optional and our principle guests will be
Mr & Mrs R. G. W. Margetts President of the ASA

There is a maximum of 150 places available so early
request for tickets is highly recommended and are
available from

Mrs P Nicholls 42 Paul Street Corsham SN13 9DG

Tel: 01249 714017

Email: phyllis@nicholls1961.fsnet.co.uk

Diving



Group one pictured above are the divers of both TDC Swindon and West Wilts diving club at the Wilts County Championships at Trowbridge.

Photograph two pictures Ben Hames, Becky Turner and Rhianna Andrew sat in wonderful surroundings and sunny weather at the West Wilts National Diving Skills Finals.

The final group shows a group of West Wilts divers at the "Love to Dive" competition in Southampton. The group includes some Southampton divers as well as Laura Holmes, Charlotte Kent and Charlotte Hawkings from West Wilts Diving Club alongside coach and Wilts County Diving sub-committee secretary Melanie Sweetman.

County Championships

Session 1 of this years county championships got underway with the girls 800m and the men's 1500m freestyle at Marlborough College on Saturday 20th January. In the girls results across all the age groups four wins were recorded by Tigersharks swimmers, three from Swindon Dolphin and one from Trowbridge with the junior championships being won by 14 year old Hayley Towner from Trowbridge whilst the well known and much admired 16 year old Jazmin Carling from Tigersharks won the senior championships. As to the mens results these were far more widespread with two wins each for Swindon Dolphin and Tigersharks then one each for Bradford on Avon, Corsham and Trowbridge. The junior and senior championship went to 15 year old Alexander Jones from Tigersharks.

Session 2 on Sunday 28th January reversed the events with a 1500m for the ladies and 800m freestyle championship for the men. In the men's events Tigersharks were the dominant force with four wins under their belt plus two for Swindon Dolphins and one for Warminster. Yet again the junior and senior champion was Alexander Jones from Tigersharks. The ladies 1500m also favoured Tigersharks with another four wins to their name with this time one each for Swindon Dolphin and Trowbridge. Again as in session one Jazmin Carlin and Hayley Towner were the dominant forces.

Session 3, the sprint championships at Milton Road on Sunday 4th February delivered a multiplicity of records including a superb swim by Commonwealth Games Bronze medalist Chris Jones from Swindon Dolphin in the breaststroke event creating new records for these championships as well as Wilts and the West. Other age group records and championship winners were Katie Crater, Cathal Westman, Sam Berry, Tilly Gray (2), Jon Audis, Mel Agius and Andi Manley of Swindon Dolphin, Laura Young (3), Natalie Montezuma (4), James O'Magness and Alexander Jones (2) from Tigersharks. Outside the two top performing clubs were Harry Ash (Bradford on Avon), Gabriella Poutney (Chippenham) and Myles Hickman (Corsham). The relay titles went to Swindon Dolphin and Tigersharks.

In terms of overall club performances the honours went to Swindon Dolphin with 24, Tigerhsarks close behind with 23, 8 to Bradford on Avon, 6 to Chippenham, 4 to Wroughton and 3 each to Salisbury, Corsham, Warminster, Marlborough and Swindon ASC

Centenary Celebrations

The committee hopes every member has now received a copy of the county history booklet and the diary of events for the centenary year 2007. If not or if you need more copies please contact Brian Hey (01672-513144) or email (conigre@hotmail.com).

The centenary service held at Holy Trinity Church in Trowbridge on Saturday 27th January was well attended and is reported on elsewhere in the newsletter. There are a few service sheets available if anyone would like a souvenir.

The next event is the Inter-County at the Link Centre Swindon on **Saturday 21st April** commencing at 3.00 pm and will be an opportunity to see our top swimmers compete against the other South West Region teams.

On **Saturday 19th May 2007** a festival of swimming will be held at Trowbridge from 1.00 pm to 7.00 pm. The day will start with mini Water Polo matches for junior members from the six Wiltshire Local Authority Areas followed by a B/C graded swimming gala with teams representing the same local authorities made up from the clubs within the areas (i.e. Kennet District Council will have swimmers from Marlborough Penguins, Devizes Demons, Pewsey & Tidworth, Marlborough College and Dauntsey's School). The gala will then be followed by demonstrations of diving and synchronised swimming. Light refreshments will be provided throughout the day by Trowbridge ASC. Please come along and see all the disciplines at your leisure.

The Centenary Summer Ball takes place at Marlborough Town Hall on **Friday 29th June** starting at 7.15 pm for 7.30 pm and interestingly both the catering and the music will have swimming associations. A flier giving details will be circulated shortly.

On **November 18th** the county will host the South West Region leg of the ASA Masters National Competition at Salisbury starting at 2.00 pm.

It is appreciated that many of the association's 4600 members may not be able to take an active part in the county's centenary celebrations so the committee are asking clubs to organise a **sponsored swim at club sessions any time up to September 2007**. All the monies collected will be included with the centenary event collections to enable a large donation to be made to the **Naomi House Children's Hospice** by our outgoing president at the November AGM and to commemorate the county's centenary in a tangible way. In addition all participants will receive a Centenary/Naomi House certificate as a record of their support. If you already organise a sponsored swim for your club funds why not ask your club committee to consider splitting the collection for this worthy cause. Phyllis Nicholls has kindly agreed to co-ordinate this event.

Finally could we ask clubs and members to **take photographs and file reports to David Greenwood** the newsletter editor whose details are on the back page. The organising committee, through David, hope to put together a bumper centenary issue of the "Wet Rag" for circulation in February/March 2008 and if possible a DVD of the year for distribution to members as well as archiving the information for permanent record.

Brian Hey (Centenary Committee Chairman)

Centenary Church Celebrations

The first event of the centenary celebrations for Wilts County Amateur Swimming Association took place on the morning of Saturday 27th January at Trinity Church in Trowbridge. The service was held on the exact day 100 years ago when a group of dedicated people from swimming clubs in Salisbury, Marlborough, Chippenham and Swindon gathered around a table in the George Hotel in Trowbridge and formed the Association under the chairmanship and later presidency of Mr W.M. Bull of Chippenham.

The service of thanksgiving and re-dedication was attended by a number of VIP guests including the Mayor of Trowbridge, Tom James, the ASA President Bob Margetts, the President of Dorset Amateur Swimming Association Gina Wilcox, the President of Devon Amateur Swimming Association Kaye Savory and Wiltshire's own President Jean Pitfield. Among the congregation were many past presidents of Wiltshire, club representatives from across the county and swimmers who paraded in at the start of the proceedings displaying their club colours and banners.

The service conducted by the Reverend Beth Hutton opened with the resounding hymn "Praise my soul the King of heaven". The bidding and confession was led by the minister and responded to by swimmers and the congregation before the second hymn. Lessons were read by senior swimmer Rebecca Smith from Bradford on Avon ASC and the county President Jean Pitfield whilst past President Dennis Yeoman delivered the centenary address, past President Ivor Martin the acclamation and the ASA President Bob Margetts the re-dedication. Further hymns completed the service before refreshments were served, conversations ensued and photographs were taken to record this once in a lifetime occasion. A retiring collection was made on behalf of Dorothy House Hospice in memory of past president Margaret Lewis, collections at future events will be on behalf of the Naomi House Children's Hospice.

Masters Swimming

Wiltshire Master Swimming Championships 2006

Entries were slightly up on the previous year and county records continue to fall at county, regional and national championship level. The current records can be viewed on the Wiltshire Masters website together with information and application forms for the main masters events for 2007. The web address is www.wiltsmasters.org.uk.

The final round of the 2006 championships was held at Salisbury in October and the Head Cup changed hands for the first time for several years when Salisbury had to hand the trophy over to Swindon Dolphins who won in a record breaking time. Dolphins also won top team with a total points score of 503.5.

Top swimmer cups were presented to:

Men over 40 years	Brian Davis (Swindon Dolphin)
Men under 40 years	Nigel Masters (Swindon Dolphin)
Women over 40 years	Jane Sneddon (Westbury) and Julia Kemp (Salisbury)
Women under 40 years	Chantelle Ferris (Swindon Area Masters)

The remainder of the 2007 championships are blocks two and three on Saturday 9th June and Saturday 6th October at Swindon Link Centre and Salisbury respectively.

Club Profiles

Salisbury Stingrays

The club has been in existence since the 1890's. Over the years the club has moved through two open air pools and are now on their second indoor pool with the opening of the Five Rivers Leisure Centre pool. Currently we run a Learn to Swim section, a competitive squad, a masters section and an adult section utilising facilities at the Leisure Centre and Godolphin School

Our most recent major achievements include: Winning division three of summer league, showing an increase of membership during these difficult times, running very successful poolside helper and assistant teachers courses.

The pinnacle of achievement within the club has been having our masters swimmers competing in the World Masters Championship in California. Next year we hope to attend a training camp in Spain and are looking forward to electronic timing equipment being installed at the Leisure Centre pool.

We continue to promote all aspects of swimming and social inclusion via aquatic sport to all members of our community.

Swindon ASC

The club is the oldest club in Swindon, second oldest in Wiltshire and third in the country. We are currently in our 129th year. Our club was originally founded by Great Western Railways who built the "baths" at Milton Road where we currently hold training sessions on Tuesdays and Sundays with extra sessions at Wootton Bassett and the Link.

We are a family orientated club who cater for swimmers from 4 to 104 with a strong Learn to Swim element as proven by our recent acquisition of the Swim 21 Teaching club accreditation.

Our competitive squad enjoy competing in Moonraker Leagues and our own Under 14's Henry Dennet Diddy Gala. The top swimmers compete in the county championships and we hold our annual club championships for all to join in, even the parents, followed by an equally important presentation night and disco for all to enjoy.

To sum up Swindon ASC believe swimming should be enjoyable and attainable, whether you swim competitively or learn to swim for safety and leisure.

Swindon Dolphin

We are a competitive club offering swimming from the age of 4 upwards. We have a thriving Learn To Swim program designed to develop young swimmers techniques as well as achieving their ASA (NPTS) awards (level 1 to 10). We also offer a masters programme as well as water polo. We compete in a number of leagues including Moonraker and Speedo.

Over the past few years some of our masters have competed at World and National events coming home with both individual and team medals as well as setting club and world records.

We have the honour of having a bronze medallist from the 2006 Commonwealth Games (Chris Jones) as part of our team. Although we have made great progress in National and District events over the past few years, this year, we have stepped up our game by entering competitions that allow us to compete against some of the best swimmers in Europe.

These are some of the typical results we are starting to experience thanks to the training programme that has been put together by our coaching team headed by Andrew Manley, who without his insight and vision, such results would not have been possible.

TDC Swindon

No Profile Submitted

Swindon ASC Accreditation



Left to right: David Flack, Julie Bishop (President Swindon ASC), Jean Pitfield and Jackie Hilleard

Congratulations to Swindon A.S.C. on achieving Swim21 Standard Accreditation at teaching level. The scheme is focused on the needs of swimmers and strives to provide them with the best possible environment in which to develop. It is regarded as the backbone of the ASA's development programme.

Beth Mayman ASA South West Regional Development Officer said; "I am delighted that Swindon A.S.C. have achieved Swim21 accreditation - It is so important and significant that swimming clubs demonstrate they are providing quality opportunities for young people and I would encourage all swimming clubs to work through the Swim21 process and discover for themselves the potential it offers"

Jackie Hilleard, Wiltshire and Swindon Activity and Sports Partnership (WASP) Swimming Development Officer, who has worked with Swindon A.S.C. through to accreditation said; "Swindon A.S.C. has established itself as a quality provider of swimming. This achievement is in recognition of the dedicated work both with swimmers and volunteers that they have been doing over the years.

The aim is to get every ASA affiliated club signed up to the programme by 2007. Swim 21 does require a lot of work, paperwork, time and people to do it and there are no quick fix solutions but the rewards are potentially fantastic."

A very enjoyable presentation evening was held by Swindon A.S.C. on Saturday 24 February and was attended by David Flack, Chairman of the National Swim 21 Panel, Jackie Hilleard and Jean Pitfield, President of Wilts County ASA.

See the Club profile section for a profile of Swindon A.S.C.


Wilts County ASA

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**Items please
by end of July**