

The NASCH finals took place on Saturday 7th November in Leamington Spa. Bryce and Rhiannon Parsons-Bailey represented Sea Lion S.C. Rhiannon came 3rd in Girls 2 lengths and 2nd in Girls 4 lengths. Well done to Rhiannon. As a Region (along with Turtles and Kingfisher Swimming Clubs) we came second in the Junior competition and the adult competition and second overall.



Swimming for people with a disability

MEMBERS NEWS



Happy 15th Birthday to Georgina Wood who celebrated her 15th Birthday whilst on a club trip to Chessington World of Adventure. Georgina thoroughly enjoyed the day as did all our members.

Felix Gluck was presented with a badge for swimming 25 meters in September. **Well done Felix.** If you are interested in gaining proficiency badges please see Jane Stonelake or Alison Sturges.



David Gasper has been officially recognised as a distributor of Focus, the newsletter from Liberal Democrat Team in Three Rivers. The appointment has been recognised by Ann Shaw, Leader, of Liberal Democrat Party and Three Rivers District Council.



A welcome to Jean Catton's new guide dog Omega. She is a friendly guide dog who, whilst wearing her harness, is a working dog and

helps Jean to get out and about. When at home Omega enjoys sitting next to Jean and watching TV. Jean and son Stuart have been members of the club for over 30 years.



Congratulations to David Wood on becoming 1st Dan in **Tae Kwon Do**. It has taken David 8 years of training to gain his black belt. The training involved learning different patterns, control and discipline in martial arts for the purpose of self defence.



A warm welcome to new members: Laura and Sue Watkins, Debbie Mclean and family, Brenda Dingle, Caroline Nichols, Natasha Bellow and family, Mary Middleton and daughter Stephanie Ward. It is good to see so many new members.

Registered Charity No 1069097

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Winter 2009 Newsletter

A note from the Chairman

I am delighted to report that the club has increased its membership. The Committee is working hard to obtain funding as well as gaining recognition through various voluntary and sporting organisations in the effort to raise our profile.

Our **free** tea / coffee gathering after the swimming session is proving to be a success. This is the opportunity for all members to get to know each other.

On Saturday 27th February we will be holding our AGM after the swimming session. We would like to see as many members as possible; you will have the opportunity to ask any questions or put forward any suggestions to the Committee. Details to follow.

Welcome to our four new helpers: Colin Freeman, Hortencia McKeachie, Alicia Bland and Kathy Draxlbauer.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.
Jane Stonelake

It was a pleasure to welcome, Mayor of Watford, Dorothy Thornhill to our swimming session on 5th September. Dorothy had the opportunity to speak to members and to see how we have settled into our new pool.



A huge thank you to Mandy for the recent aqua aerobics session. It proved to be very popular. Mandy has kindly offered to take another session soon.

PLEASE NOTE:
There will be no swimming on 26th December and 2nd January 2010

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES:

- **AGM - Saturday 27th February** after the swimming session. Details to follow.
- **Activity Weekend - Friday 2nd July to Sunday 4th July 2010**

The weekend is being held at Phasels Wood Scout Camp. It is a beautiful Scout site just north of Watford with great facilities. There will be lots of activities over the weekend, such as climbing, abseiling, shooting, archery, treasure hunt, campfire, challenges, games and much more - it's a weekend you won't want to miss!. For those who like camping you will be able to sleep in tents, while for those of you who prefer a little more luxury there will also be indoor accommodation. **A fun packed weekend for all - not to be missed!**

Funding the Club's Pool Hire Costs

As many of you know, for the first 50 years of the Club's existence we did not have to pay for our use of the pool each week as our pool time was provided free of charge by Watford Borough Council. This arrangement was in place during the Club's time at Watford Central, Watford Springs and the Bill Everett Centre. But when the Club moved to the new Watford Leisure Centre Central pool in July 2009 our free pool time ended and we now have to pay almost £100 per week to hire the pool. This represents a cost of about £5,000 per year. It is a cost that the committee have been working hard to raise from various sources. This is not an easy task in the current economic climate where donations and grants are increasingly difficult to obtain.

The ending of funding by Watford Borough Council was brought about by the tight economic conditions and the budget reductions being experienced by local councils. This has forced the Council to withdraw funding from local clubs forcing them to move to independent funding. While we recognise that some degree of independent funding is reasonable, we have consistently argued with Watford Borough Council that the Club provides an invaluable service to the local disabled community so we should receive some level of funding from the Council.

Thankfully the Club's committee have been successful in raising the funds needed through a variety of sources. The Club has drawn on a wide variety of contacts and supporters to make this happen. This includes a number of committed supporters within Watford Council. Particular thanks must go to Dorothy Thornhill (Elected Mayor of Watford) for her continued support of the Club. So far the Club has managed to obtain funding to fully cover our pool hire costs from August 2008 when we moved into the new pool right up to the end of March 2010.

The latest news is that after a lot of discussion with Watford Borough Council the Club has agreed a partnership with the Council for the following 12 months in which half of our pool costs will be funded by the Council. This does however still leave the Club needing to find funding for the remaining half which will be about £2,500. So more fund raising work is needed, but we believe this is a realistic and achievable target.

The partnership is however broader than just funding as we will be working with the Council to explore ways of promoting the Club and increasing our membership. The Club is hopeful that this partnership approach will continue for future years.

Summary of Funding for the Club's Pool Hire Costs

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| August 2008 to October 2008 | Fully funded by Watford Borough Council through a £1,000 grant from the Mayor's Fund. |
| November 2008 to December 2008 | Funded by a grant of £500 from West Herts Golf Club. |
| January 2009 to March 2009 | Pool hire paid costs paid in full by Watford Borough Council. |
| April 2009 to March 2010 | Funded by a £4,992 grant from the Hertfordshire Grassroots Grants program. |
| April 2010 to March 2011 | Watford Borough Council have agreed to fund half of our pool hire costs (£2,500) leaving the Club to find the remaining half (£2,500). |

Dave Sturgess—Treasurer

Results for Harrow Kingfishers gala on 18th July

| | | | |
|--|------|--------------|------------|
| Taylor Gass | 2nd. | Junior | 1 length |
| Louise Wilmot | 3rd. | Ladies | 1 length |
| David Gasper | 1st. | Mens | 1 length. |
| Kreetibasa Luintel | 3rd. | Junior | 3 lengths |
| Alison McBride | 3rd. | Ladies | 3 lengths. |
| David Gasper | 3rd. | Mens | 3 lengths |
| Kreetibasa Luintel | 1st. | Junior | 2 lengths |
| Louise Wilmot | 4th. | Ladies | 2 lengths |
| David Gasper | 3rd. | Mens | 2 lengths |
| Taylor Gass, Kreetibasa Luintel | 2nd | Junior relay | |
| Louise Wilmot, Alison McBride | 2nd | Ladies relay | |



Turtles (Ruislip) gala combined with the NASCH Region 1 gala results on 19th September.

Turtles Gala results:

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|-----------|
| Rhiannon Bailey | 1 st | Junior | 1 length |
| Cliff Berry | 1 st | Mens | 1 length |
| Bryce Bailey | 3 rd | Junior | 3 Lengths |
| Alison McBride | 3 rd | Ladies | 3 lengths |
| Rhiannon Bailey | 2 nd | Junior | 2 lengths |
| Alison McBride | 1 st | Ladies | 2 lengths |
| David Gasper | 3 rd | Mens | 2 lengths |
| Bryce and Rhiannon Bailey | 1 st | Junior Relay | |
| Alison McBride, Hilary Comber | 3 rd | Ladies Relay | |



Region 1 gala results:

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|-----------|
| Rhiannon Bailey | 1 st | Junior | 1 length |
| Hilary Comber | 3 rd | Ladies | 1 length |
| Cliff Berry | 1 st | Mens | 1 length |
| Bryce Bailey | 2 nd | Junior | 3 lengths |
| Alison McBride | 2 nd | Ladies | 3 lengths |
| David Gasper | 3 rd | Mens | 3 lengths |
| Rhiannon Bailey | 2 nd | Junior | 2 lengths |
| Alison McBride | 1 st | Ladies | 2 lengths |
| David Gasper | 2 nd | Mens | 2 lengths |
| Bryce + Rhiannon Bailey | 1 st | Junior Relay | |
| David Gasper, Cliff Berry | 2 nd | Mens Relay | |
| Alison | | | |

We came 1st overall so will be hosting the Region 1 Gala next year.

If you would like to join our Gala Team please speak to Ian Ashley.



On 24th October the following swimmers took part in the Stevenage Dolphins Gala

David Gasper
Cliff Berry
Alison McBride
Hilary Comber
Kreetibasa Luintel

Our in-house gala will take place on Saturday 6th February, 2010. Anyone wanting to take part will need to be timed by Ian Ashley; the gala is open to everyone. The learner pool will be open for those who do not wish to take part in the gala.