

# Competition Committee

## Annual Report for Annual General Meeting

### 5<sup>th</sup> November 2011

#### Membership

Eleanor Evans started the year as chair of the Competition Committee and, together with other members, embarked on a recruitment drive to get more members. Once the committee had grown, Eleanor stepped down as chair and Hayley Rutter and Melanie Cusack agreed to be joint chair. The committee wish to record their thanks to Eleanor for the incredibly hard work she did whilst on the committee and in helping all the new members get up to speed as quickly and thoroughly as possible.

The role of the competition committee is to:

1. Co-ordinate entries from Salisbury Stingrays to targeted open meets
2. Co-ordinate entries from Salisbury Stingrays to county, regional and national events
3. Run Stingrays' open meets.
4. Run the Club Championships
5. Run the Primary and Secondary Schools Galas

#### Open Meets of Other Clubs, County, Regional and National Events.

During 2010/11, Salisbury Stingrays were successfully represented at several events across the region. The competition committee collect entries and coordinated submission to the various events. We also follow up on any refunds due for scratched swimmers.

#### Stingrays' Meets

Traditionally, an Autumn Level 2 Meet and a Spring Level 4 Meet are held each year.

##### *Autumn Meet*

Following the disappointing attendance resulting in cancellation of the Autumn Meet last year, a concerted effort was made to ensure the Autumn Meet on 17 October 2010 would get enough entries and go ahead as planned. Unfortunately, the entries from other clubs were disappointing again. In order to increase the number of entries, the qualifying times were lowered and Stingrays swimmers were actively encouraged to swim. This resulted in a significant amount of last minute work, but the meet was a success. There remains the question of why the disappointing interest levels and whether it continues to be appropriate to run this meet at this time. However, despite the low participation, we did make a profit of around £1,000 from this meet.

##### *Spring Open Meet*

By contrast, this meet on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2011 was oversubscribed and by all accounts is a very popular meet. 19 Clubs were represented by 268 swimmers and we made a profit close to £5,000. The attraction of this meet is assumed to be due to the lower qualifying times of a level 4 and the time on the competition calendar. However, given its success, we will continue to hold this meet at this time.

## ***Summer Fun***

The Inaugural Stingrays Summer Fun Meet was held in July. As the timing of this was untested, we were not surprised at the low entries, however we made a conscious decision to hold the meet regardless. We had 6 Clubs represented by 89 swimmers. We also introduced a fun element with competitions for best costume and free beach balls and iced pops given to all swimmers.

The feedback received from the other competing clubs was very positive and we shall hold this again next year, although possibly on an earlier date. Combined with the raffle, we raised in excess of £500.

An added spin-off of the summer fun meet was that training and hands on experience of the full extent of the electronic scoring was available, setting us in good stead for higher level meets.

## **Club Championships**

After a successful club championships held during scheduled training sessions, an awards evening including disco was held on 4<sup>th</sup> December. All feedback indicated that this was a success and a similar formula will be followed this year. Participation by the older swimmers and Masters was disappointing and work is being done to improve in this area.

## **Primary and Secondary Schools Galas**

Although Wiltshire Council was not involved in the co-ordination of these galas this year, we decided to host the galas as recognition of the clubs commitment to swimming in the community. By all accounts they were a huge success enjoyed by all the schools. In contrast to our Open Meets, we do not charge for entries, however we did charge spectators in order to cover our costs such as pool hire, programmes and medals ensuring we broke even on running costs. In addition, these galas presented an opportunity to fundraise with ice pops and cake sales. As a result, we fund-raised a few hundred pounds.

## **Officials**

We are fortunate to have many willing officials both in our Club and elsewhere who are available to help out at our various meets. Without these individuals, we would not be able to hold successful licensed competitions. Training is available for members who will be able to officiate at events.

An exciting new development is that we have several young swimmers who are embarking on training to be officials which will improve our resources significantly.

## **Volunteers**

In addition to the competition committee, we have had astounding support from volunteers across the club. This ranges from electronic timing, marshalling swimmers to manning the door and providing drinks to officials and poolside helpers. For many, this was the first time. Without these volunteers, the meets simply could not be held and our thanks go to all of the volunteers for giving up their time before, during and after the events.