

Dolphin Ladies Swimming Club

AGM Club Report 2018

Once again it's time for our AGM and this year we are incorporating all the reports into one.

Firstly, let me thank all those who make the club such a success: the committee members who work behind the scenes to ensure everything functions smoothly; the teachers who give freely of their time and effort every week to provide professional, fun lessons; and the members who turn up, come rain or shine, and make it all worth-while!

As our present committee stands down, some to stand for re-election, three ladies have decided not to stand for re-election. Sonia has edited the newsletter for 6 years and done an amazing job. It has kept us informed of all the club's activities as well as reminding us of term dates and fees. The latest newsletter was sent out through mailchimp, making it easier to access on phones and tablets. Now Sonia is hanging up her pen! Thank you Sonia for all your hours of hard work.

Anyone feel the urge to take up their pen and start collating the next newsletter?

We also have to say goodbye to Wendy, from the committee and later this year from teaching. Wendy has served as secretary for countless years, ensuring we are all on task and everything runs smoothly. Over the last 3 years, Wendy has been my right arm – I couldn't have managed without her. So a big thank you to Wendy for her years of service.

Shirley is also standing down having been treasurer for many years and assistant treasurer to Jackie since then. Thank you Shirley for many years of number crunching.

As mentioned, we are now using mailchimp to send out emails to members. This year has seen new developments in our advertising. A new website is being built, with a group from the committee, working hard to get the content just right. The new logo has been designed and is now on display and Facebook is keeping everyone informed of all our activities. We are really coming into the 21st century!

2017 was also a celebratory year. In July, Ardingly celebrated 25 years swimming at the college with a fun 'gala' followed by lots of cakes and hot drinks. In April, 40 years at the Dolphin were celebrated with a morning of 40 challenges for every class, followed by cutting a magnificent celebration cake and cakes galore for everyone.

Our morning classes at Ardingly College pool continue to be popular and we currently have 63 members there, many of whom swim at both venues. We are well supported by

the college pool team, especially John Exstance who has also been at the pool for 25 years.

At the Dolphin, we started the year with 136 members and finished the year with 134 members. Two are starting after half term so we are quits! This includes the teachers. People leave for a variety of reasons and I'm glad to say it isn't to do with their swimming or our teaching! It is usually one of ill health, grandmother duties or having to work on a Tuesday morning.

Over the year we have had 45 ladies leave and about the same number join. Most joined in the September term as a result of a super article in the Sussex Living magazine. The lady who wrote the article thought we were a really good club, so much so she joined there and then! Some who started this term first heard about us from the Sussex living too, so the effect of the article is living on!

We are always looking for members to train as teachers. This year Sheri McCurdy has done her level 1 teachers course and has been teaching for a couple of terms now. Well done Sheri. Debbie Sheridan is planning on doing a teacher's course in the Spring. Chris Barnett, a Friday lady, did a course in the summer but hasn't started teaching as she hasn't cut down her day job. Yet!

As last year, we had stalls at the Haywards Heath Spring Festival and the Haywards Heath Town Day. We had just a handful of new people start as a result. Thanks to Jackie Cooper for organising and running these with the help of a few teachers and one or two swimmers.

In December we once again promoted our club in the community by decorating a Christmas Tree at the Cuckfield festival. Thanks to all those who made this happen.

With the introduction of new technology, we are finding that different responsibilities are needed within the club's committee. These responsibilities are very different to when the constitution was written 40 years ago, eg we need someone to manage the website. Needs seem to change each year. Hence we are proposing to change the constitution to reflect this and no longer have set 'officers'.

The proposal is that under 'Powers of the club', wording should now read
2. To appoint a committee of teachers and members (up to 10% of the membership number). The committee to be elected annually at the AGM. Officers within the committee to be appointed, as needed, each year.

2017 was a year of celebration and development, and I look forward to another year of swimming with the ladies of our great DLSC!