

Atherton & Leigh ASC Newsletter

February 2010

www.athertonsc.org.uk

An Apology

Please accept my apologies – this is the first newsletter since last September. There has been a lot going on since then, Club Championships, Presentation Disco, membership renewals, the Wigan Development gala in January and now the Help for Heroes campaign.

Membership Renewal

Subscriptions are now due (£32 for Category 1 members, £47 for Category 2 members. Thank you to everybody who has already renewed – 87 so far, which is fantastic. It would be greatly appreciated if those who haven't renewed would do so as soon as possible please. The fee had to be increased slightly this year due to an increase in the ASA fees, but we have managed to maintain our training fees at the same level as last year. Once everybody has renewed I can send of our fees to the ASA.

Help for Heroes

As most of you will know, this year we are supporting the Help for Heroes charity which aids servicemen and women who have been injured serving their country. We are holding a sponsored swim on Thursday 18th February and our aim is to swim a combined total of 3,625 lengths which is equivalent to the distance from Leigh to Kabul, the capital of Afghanistan where Lucy Alexander's father is currently on a tour of duty. Sponsor forms and details are available on the desk. It is also hope to do a collection at a match at the stadium in the village sometime – i am still waiting for confirmation as to when we can go there.

200 Club

All the 200 Club winners can be found on the Club's website. It is a great fundraiser for the Club, so please look out for Jacqueline Edwards for a ticket (or two!!).

Tickets cost £1 per month with prizes, at the moment, of £10, £7 and £3. The more people who buy tickets the higher we can make the prizes.

Desk Help Needed

Thank you to Kathryn Tipton who has offered her services to help on the desk, but we are still looking for more volunteers to help with the desk rota. At the moment it falls to the same few people who are doing a sterling job, but because they are few in number their turn comes round very quickly.

The more people who help on the desk, the fewer times they will on the rota.

If you can help, please put your name forward – the more people we have, the less they do.

B&D Gala

We had our first gala of the season on 4th February against Swinton and St.Helens, two strong teams, but our swimmers excelled themselves with some magnificent swims. Our projected target was 33 points and we finished with 39, so it is a great start to the year. Special mention to the following swimmers who were swimming in their first 'outside' gala. Hannah Sheehan, Georgia Tipton, Ella Commissiong, Lauren Mitchinson, Kiera Murray, Louis Smith, Jacob Briscoe, Aaron Murray and Brandon Greenwood.

Initially some were nervous and apprehensive, but all swam their best and we look forward to seeing their development over this year! Well done to individual winners Catherine Barry, Tom Ginty, Libby Fox & Jamie Barnes. We swim these 2 teams again later in Spring, then the semi finals will be held in July.

Well done everyone!!

Scheme of Excellence

Several of our swimmers now do extra training with the Wigan Scheme of Excellence in order to improve their stamina and swimming skills. If anyone is interested in joining them they should speak to Anne or Terry for more details

Gala Dates

B&D Mini League

11th March (Away) St.Helens
24th April (Away) Swinton
4th July Semi Final (Leigh)

Club Championships

2nd, 9th and 16th November

Junior League

22nd April (Home) Dukinfield Marlins & Rochdale
24th May (Away) Chadderton
12 June (Away) Darwen
9th September (Home) Ashton-u-Lyne
4th October (Away) Saddleworth

The two main leagues we enter each year are the B&D Mini League, which is for 9 - 12 year olds, age on day (quite a small team), team & individual events and the Junior Swim League 9 - 16 year olds age as at 31st Oct, all team races.

This year we will be taking part in some Wigan Group Galas, a mixture of team & individual events against clubs in the Wigan borough. The first of these galas is on 1st March at Hindley, 8.00pm start. Some swimmers will also enter galas to swim as individuals. Watch out for details of these.

Presentation Disco

The end of season presentation disco has not been booked yet but we are hoping for the same weekend as last year, the last Saturday of November. Last year's event was brilliantly attended with over 130 coming along and everybody had a great time – thank you for your support.

Club Merchandise

We have a range of Club T shirts, hats, bags and goggles for sale, so please ask at the desk and they will be able to help.

We are still trying to find swimwear for the boys to match the girl's costumes, but as yet we haven't found a supplier. All merchandise is reasonable priced, with a minimum amount of profit for the Club.

Raffle Prizes

We are always grateful for the donation of raffle prizes and if you would like to donate, please bring them along to the Club. Raffles are held at our home galas and occasionally through the year and are one of the ways we try to raise funds for the Club and not having to pay for prizes increases how much we make.

Website

You can help the Club by using our web shop links on the site. The main banner on the home page is a swim shop for all your costumes, goggles and accessories and for every purchase the Club gets 15% commission.

You will also find lots of information from fixture dates and results to Club history and important documents and Club policies.

Committee Meetings

Committee meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of each month and if you would like to come along to the meetings you would be most welcome. At the moment they are held at St.Richard's in Atherton, but we are looking for a more central venue, possible at Leigh East, where we held last year's Presentation Disco.

Sad News

Our sympathy to Emily Bibby & family on sad loss of Grandfather Bill, who has supported Emily & the Club for many years. He had been ill for some time but over Christmas became worse and he sadly died earlier this month.

Central Lancs Prelims 2010

We took our first team to this association team selection Gala for many a year and we did really well!

The team comprised of Libby Fox, Jamie Barnes, Hannah Houghton, Josh Fishburn, Kiel Turner, Jaeger Turner and Nathan Warn. To a man the team swam fantastically and we need all be very proud of their effort! Everyone achieved PB's, we had a Gold Medal – Jaeger, a Silver Medal and a Bronze medal both for Nathan. Nathan's medal was particularly important as it was the Club's first ever medal at this event. Jaeger achieved 3 regional times, Nathan achieved 2 county times and Jamie achieved 1 county time. This is a great milestone for these swimmers – well done. This was a licensed meet so will be able to see these swimmers times on the ASA website. The full meet results are also available on our website