

Coaches Report for Annual General Meeting Dec 2011
Performance 2011

There has been some excellent performances again in team competitions throughout the year. In the county relay events in April we entered 14 events every team finished in the top six with three first place, five second place, two third place swims and the ten year old girls broke the pool record for the medley relay.

The Staffs League performances have been outstanding this year culminating with Biddulph finishing third in the Premier League final at Fenton last week. This is the highest position the club has ever been in this league and with twelve of the team swimming up a year in the age groups makes it even more impressive.

The Arena League has seen us promoted in January 2011 into Division One. After two rounds we are in the top six going into the final round next week again with a chance of being promoted for a second successive year. The swimmers have really risen to the challenge of moving up a league in what have been two very competitive rounds and I am sure will rise to the challenge again in the final.

This years club championships was again a big success, well run and nice to see a really good entry with lots of the younger development swimmers competing in the 200 metre events which is encouraging for the future. There were fifty nine club records broken this year which was fantastic especially with swims being quite close together and also some of the squad swimmers are in the middle of heavy training at the moment.

Individually there has been some excellent achievements with swimmers again competing in the National Age Group Championships. Sophie Pyatt competed in a variety of events and performed very well and made some finals. Matt Stevenson again finished in the top three on both the 100 and 200 butterfly with personal best swims in both heats and finals, the fact that he was the only boy in the top three from the previous year and his improvement on his times made it a tremendous achievement. Oliver Simpson also had success at the Nationals on his freestyle making finals and just missed out on a top three finish.

This year has also seen a record number of Biddulph swimmers selected for the Staffordshire County Team with nine swimmers winning their county caps. There has again been considerable success in the North Midland District, Staffordshire County Age Group events with swimmers winning their age group and in some cases setting new pool records plus numerous top six finishes in a variety of distances and events.

The Worcester Open meeting in October again was very successful with Megan Sheard winning the overall Top Girl, Matt Stevenson Top Boy and Louis Vincent runner up plus a very high percentage of personal best swims from the team.

Training Group Structure.

The Scorpio Squad has increased dramatically during the year to twenty five which is an indication of how fast the club is growing. The pool time has also increased again with a new 2 hour session being added on a Sunday morning at Chesterton bringing the total pool time available for scorpio squad swimmers to 15 ½ hours per week.

The development groups are also increasing in numbers and quality, I would like to thank all the other coaches for the hard work they have put in during the last twelve months. We have continued to offer places for 9 and 10 year olds at James Brindley to swim alongside the scorpio squad and shortly they too will be ready to swim in the squad if they want to and are committed enough.

I have also requested to Lee Carnwell manager manager at the Leisure centre if we can change Tuesday morning training to Thursday morning and he has indicated that this will be possible in the new year . This is very good news as it will mean that the higher level swimmers in the squad can double up on sessions on a Thursday without being out late at night with the evening session finishing at 8.30 pm. I also feel this will improve the numbers on a Tuesday night as there will have been no swimming in the morning.

Aims and objectives.

During the next twelve months it is very important that we build on what we have at the moment. I feel that during the last six months we are really starting to get a solid base at the club and we need to make sure that we have the pool time to continue to give the opportunity for our swimmers to reach their full potential.

In the next twelve months we are going to have an increasing number of swimmers achieving National Qualifying Times plus an increase in numbers general due to the number of swimmers at our Swim School that are nearly ready to join the club. It is important that we think big – if we do we will become big – if we think small we will stay small. I realize that pool time is expensive but if you compare to other clubs in the area our training and membership fees are still cheap in comparison and this will have to be looked at by the committee if there needs to be an increase. There is no club in this region that can offer the number of hours to squad swimmers with the quality of coaching and pool time for the price that they pay. I am confident that we can get the balance right and move onwards.

To make progress in the various league competitions, take strong competitive squads to the North Midlands and Staffs County Championships.

My individual aim for the next year will be to try and get the squad swimmers to set themselves realistic targets by having short term and long term goals to help them achieve this, whether it is finishing top six at the counties or competing at the National Age Group Championships.

Peter Abbott

Head Coach

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