

HERTFORDSHIRE AMATEUR SWIMMING ASSOCIATION



**ANNUAL REPORT
2016-2017**

General

This annual report covers the year from April 2016 to March 2017. The Hertfordshire ASA Annual Council Meeting takes place in July, with the county financial year end being 31st March.

The Management Board has met four times in the year to oversee the development and delivery of swimming within the county. There were five vacancies on the Management Board following the Annual Council Meeting 2016, and a further vacancy occurred when one Board member resigned in the Autumn 2016. There is no doubt that the management of the county affairs would be better served with a full complement of Board members. It is hoped that the vacancies will be filled at the Annual Council Meeting. Unfortunately, the perception is that a wealth of experience is required. This is definitely not the case. What *is* required is people with positive ideas and a commitment to the development of swimming in the county. If the few people, who do bother to contribute, did not do so, then our athletes would have no competitions and development!!

The club development committee, the disability committee, the swimming committee and the water polo committee have met on a regular basis. The diving committee met once in November 2016. Although the county has no synchronised swimming committee as such, Hertfordshire has a representative on the ASA East Region Synchronised swimming committee, which seeks to ensure development and competition for the athletes involved in this discipline.

During this year the county website has continued to flourish, and has been an excellent communication tool, providing an excellent service to our swimming community. The work of Alan Doyle in providing this communication tool is hugely appreciated. Every effort is made to encourage our volunteers to provide the correct, up-to-date information to Alan.

The forums have continued this year. Ian Mackenzie has worked hard to set them up and provide the opportunity for interaction and communication between the clubs and coaches, and also with the county. The aim is to get everyone talking to each other, sharing best practice and addressing problems encountered. Attendance has often been minimal, but worthwhile for those who were there. Representatives from ALL clubs of ALL disciplines can attend for the benefit of our clubs and athletes.

Hertfordshire continues to be a role model in the ASA East Region in many areas - for example, in the provision of forums, the delivery of a county conference, and in the number of officials being trained. Sheila Mackenzie has again been the Hertfordshire representative on the ASA East Region Management Board this year, and will take issues to the region on your behalf, if necessary. Ian Mackenzie continues as an independent member of the ASA East Region Management Board, and is also the regional representative to the ASA Sport Governing Board, and a member of the ASA Group Board.

Throughout the year, clubs in the county continued to benefit from the supportive work of Leanne Brace, as the ASA East Region's Regional Development Manager, and Amy Bryant, the Regional Development Officer. Both Leanne and Amy have worked really hard with our clubs to support them with the swim21 process and the provision of courses and their funding, as well as support our athletes through the organisation of development days and camps.

Again this year many of our county athletes have qualified to compete at national and international level, and we applaud their achievements.

You can read of the success and progress of the various disciplines within this report. Aquatic disciplines continue to flourish in Hertfordshire. Please consider carefully whether you could contribute to this success by giving a small amount of your time to your county, so that we can go on to even better things in the coming year, either on the discipline committees or on the Management Board

Disability Swimming

It has been 10 years since Janet Warrington welcomed into Hoddesdon SC a young girl with dreams of Para-Swimming success. Together they have been on a journey and have raised the profile of Disability Swimming in the county. Now, it feels that one chapter is about to close and a new one beginning.

Classification

British Swimming classified three swimmers with physical impairments from Hoddesdon SC for the first time. Louise Storey S9, SB9, SM9; Marlon Solomon S8, SB7, SM8 and Sam Carter S10, SB9, SM10. All three swimmers have been competing following their classification and are achieving personal best times, which is a testament of their training and dedication to the sport.

Disability hub clubs

Following a national review by the ASA of hub clubs, both Hemel Hempstead SC and Hoddesdon SC retained their hub club status. Hub clubs provide assessment opportunities for swimmers with a disability, and following the initial assessment, swimmers are signposted to a swimming establishment which suits them best.

Swimmer and coaching development

Development of grassroots Disability Swimming in the county is at the core of the county's Disability Committee. At the Hertfordshire ASA Development Weekend in February 2017, swimmers from the ASA East Region and London Region travelled to Hertfordshire Sports Village for a regional training session. Carl Cooper, Para-Swimming Pathway Officer for East Region, East Midlands and London, organised a coaches' teaching session. This was followed by the poolside session, focusing on the development of both the coach and athlete, and preparations for the next stage of their swimming career.

Janet Warrington, head coach for Disability Swimming at Hoddesdon SC, with the assistance of other coaches, was able to work with the swimmers during the training session.

Level Water

Hoddesdon SC and the charity 'Level Water' work together to provide one-to-one swimming lessons for children who have a physical disability. Children aged under 12 are able to apply to the charity 'Level Water', and, if eligible, they can receive up to 50 sessions free, to kick-start their swimming career. Through the programme, Marlon Solomon and Sam Carter received their one-to-one lessons, and are both swimming as part of the Hoddesdon SC team. Elise Moody has also progressed through Level Water, and is now swimming as part of the Hoddesdon SC team, and awaiting the 'call-up' to be classified, which we hope will be

later this year. The partnership is working well, with a total of 15 swimmers so far having gone through, or still receiving, lessons, and there is a waiting list of six. We currently have four coaches: Janet Warrington, Emma Warrington, Hayley Warrington and Linda Crisp, with two new coaches starting soon: Josh Scarll and Claire Green.

Special Olympics East Herts



Hoddesdon SC and Special Olympics - East Herts. run two disability sessions at two different pools (John Warner Sports Centre, and Laura Trott Leisure Centre), supported by qualified teachers and coaches, on a Sunday afternoon. Both sessions are free to anyone who has a disability (physical, sensory, or learning), and to their families or guardians. The session is used to assess children with a disability and to give advice to parents about the different pathways available to them, as well as swimming for fun, training, keeping fit or rehabilitation. Hoddesdon SC also provides a session on a Tuesday evening, where Special Olympics - East Herts. members swim alongside the junior main club swimmers.



The Special Olympics swimming gala in November 2016 was excellent; probably the best yet. Athletes travelled from all over the country to Hertfordshire Sports Village to compete. Months of preparation and hard work by Janet Warrington resulted in a carnival-like atmosphere, with fantastic swimming. The Special Olympics galas are always very special. It is a fun evening. 'Thank you' to the many volunteers and officials for giving their time to

support this event. The next one event is scheduled for 25th November 2017.

Competitions

The British International Para Swimming Meet 2016 in Glasgow also doubled as the Paralympic Trials. Louise Fiddes (S14, Hatfield SC) won the Youth gold medal in the 200m freestyle, and was the overall winner of the 100m butterfly, and Grace Harvey (SM7, Hoddesdon SC) improved on her own British Record in the 200m individual medley.

Grace and Louise were invited to swim at the British Summer Championships in July after achieving the qualifying standard of 600 BDP (British Disability Points) during the qualifying period, and remained in Sheffield for the ASA National Summer Meet. Both swimmers finished in the top three, based on British Disability Points in various events.

The new format for the national Para-Swimming competition has seen the team event replaced by an individual entry open meet. Janet Warrington was on hand to assist swimmers who travelled to the Manchester national meet without a club coach. The committee are working for even more collaboration between clubs across ASA East Region, to ensure that all swimmers who attend Para meets have a coach identified prior to their arrival. Louise Fiddes and Grace Harvey both had an outstanding meet, medalling in all their classification's events, and finishing in the top ten for their age groups.

ASA East Region organised two regional meets, and this was an opportunity for the younger swimmers to shine. Following their classification in March 2017, Sam Carter and Marlon Solomon finished their individual events in medal positions, along with Louise Storey.



Nottingham.



Lucy and Olivia Jordan-Caws (Verulam ASC, S15) continue to compete in the Great Britain Deaf Club Championships in addition to regional and national disability competitions. Lucy was awarded 'Swimmer of the Meet' at the Great Britain Deaf Club Championships in

Louis Hines (S14, Watford SC) continues to be competitive. At the ASA National Summer Meet Louis was National Champion in the Multi-class 200m freestyle. He also won silver in the 100m freestyle and the 50m freestyle, and finished 4th 400m freestyle.

Louis entered the 'Swim Serpentine' Para 1.6Km open water event, and came 3rd overall.

An area for development is the participation of Para-swimmers at the Hertfordshire ASA County Swimming Championships. Brian Thompson, Swimming Manager, assisted with the entries from Para-swimmers by having additional Para entries added to the programme of events.

Para-Swimming Programme Selection

In recognition of their achievements in 2016, Grace Harvey was selected for the World Class Podium Potential Programme for a second year, and Louise Fiddes and Elise Martin-de-la Torre (moving to the county for university, S6, SB6 SM6) both of Hatfield SC, were selected for the Para-Swimming Academy Squad; a new entry level tier to the World Class programme pathway.



Personal Achievements

Lucy Jordan-Caws and Grace Harvey received county colours from the ASA President, Murray Devine at the Hertfordshire ASA County Swimming Championships 2017.

Grace was awarded Cerebral Palsy Sport's outstanding performer 2016, and was also invited to be a Young Ambassador for Cerebral Palsy Sport, which she duly accepted.



Louise and Grace have been selected for their first international meet in the GB Podium Potential team for the World Series meet in Berlin in July 2017.

Volunteers

Swimming relies on volunteers, and we have been fortunate to have three young volunteers who have given up their time to support us. Grace Harvey has been volunteering with the Tuesday evening session of Special Olympics for five years. Eleanor Short and Naomi Harvey, both former Hoddesdon SC swimmers, continue to support swimming, either as poolside helpers or officiating, and together travelled to Newmarket to marshal at the Regional Para-Meet. Eleanor also supports the Hoddesdon SC's Sunday disability sessions, alongside two new volunteers who currently swim for Hoddesdon SC: Dominic McCarthy and Ciaran Fahy.

Hertfordshire ASA President, Murray Devine, has actively supported the Disability Committee and Disability Swimming. Murray is a welcomed addition to the committee, and, in his role as President, attended both Regional Para-Swimming galas in Newmarket, where he and Ian Knight, the East Region President, presented medals and congratulated the swimmers on their achievements. Murray also presented medals at the Special Olympics Gala, alongside Amwell View School and Specialist Sports College Headteacher, Jan Liversage. The Disability Committee has firm links with other volunteers in the county who willingly assist when needed, and these include Louise Hughes and Bradley Woodhouse.



Sheila Mackenzie is the East Region Management Board representative, and Ian Mackenzie is the Hertfordshire representative to the regional Disability Committee. Jackie Harvey is the appointed manager of the East Region Disability Committee, and collectively they ensure that decisions made at national and regional levels are cascaded to the county, for the benefit of the athletes.

Diving

No report has been received.

swim21

The swim21 accreditation is regarded by the ASA as a mark of a well-run club, with systems in place for the support and benefit of its members, especially its athletes. The following clubs are swim21 accredited as at 31st March 2017. In early 2017, Hatfield achieved swim21 Performance Club status– the first club in the ASA East Region to do so, and also the first swimming club in the country to do so, without a 50m pool facility.

Aqualina Synchronised SC	Beaumont Diving Academy
Bishops Stortford SC	Bushey ASC
Cheshunt SC	City of St. Albans ASC
Harpenden SC	Hatfield SC
Hemel Hempstead SC	Hertford SC
Hitchin SC	Hoddesdon SC
Letchworth ASC	Tring SC
Verulam ASC	Watford SC
Watford WPC	Welwyn Garden SC

Others are in the process of ‘working towards’ accreditation. Simplifications to the revalidation and re-accreditation processes, and the on-line accreditation process have eased the workload for the club volunteers. County funding for many courses linked to the club’s swim21 status remained available. Whilst it might appear onerous to commit to being a swim21club, there is no doubt that the governance and succession planning of the club benefit from the accreditation, and this then benefits the athletes. For this reason, it should be the aim of all clubs to be swim21 accredited.

Club Development Group

The Club Development Group committee moved into the year 2016/17 with a full complement of members.

It was hoped that the decision to split the county into four manageable sections, each covered by a committee member, would ensure better communication. By networking at the various forums, open meets and county events, contacts within the clubs, in liaison with their quartile committee member, could be provided with information on development and funding opportunities.

The group’s members were each given responsibilities within the committee’s framework. Karen Huckle remained as chairman, and also had responsibility for funding. Karen Lawson’s responsibility was for the minutes and agendas. Ian Mackenzie and Nicola Rix continued to oversee the development plan and budget. Helena Precious-White and Shirley Burns covered social media and Jonathan Pope’s role continued as the Swimming Officials’ Co-ordinator.

The committee met on three occasions. At the first of these meetings it was agreed that each quartile representative should report to the committee any incoming correspondence and any outgoing work for their area of responsibility. It became clear that a large amount of outgoing contact with clubs met with little if any response. A particular area highlighted was the lack of Hertfordshire club captains completing the IOS online Club Captains learning module. The link to this online course had been sent to every club, yet no Hertfordshire captains had completed it. It is clear that there is a lack of interest/energy amongst clubs to offer such opportunities to their young athletes.

At the beginning of 2017 there were three weekends of County Swimming Championships, and again this was seen as an opportunity to advertise the County Development Weekend in February half term. An information notice board was displayed to highlight the courses available over the week at Herts Sports Village, as well as information on swim21, Hertfordshire ASA and county events. The various committees and their roles were explained, and where there were vacancies, these were highlighted in the hope that this would stimulate interest.

After the success of the 2016 County Development Weekend, Ian Mackenzie, with support from Leanne Brace, ASA East Region Regional Development Manager, worked tirelessly towards making the 2017 event equally

successful. In collaboration with the Herts. Sports Partnership, the week saw over 230 individuals take part in the various classes and workshops. The very popular Helpers Course was again well attended, and adjusted so that the students completed the whole course on the day. Team Manager 1 and 2 courses were held during the week, and it was hoped that the requirement to have such qualified team managers poolside at events, would encourage club members to sign up. Disability coaching and development filled the Saturday afternoon and evening. Courses were delivered for J1 and J2 swimming officials, and there was also a Guide to Refereeing presentation for J2S officials. Grant Robins from the ASA England Programme gave a useful Parents Guide to Swimming talk. The Safeguarding and Time to Listen CPDs were oversubscribed again. UKAD anti-doping attended and gave a valuable information as to the requirements and restrictions which apply to athletes in the world of swimming.

Hertfordshire ASA continue cover the cost of courses for officials, and to fund 25% of the cost of CPDs (Continuing Personal Development) and any UKCC 1,2 or 3 course, up to a max of £500 per year for swim21 affiliated clubs.

Forums continued throughout the year, providing vital information. The forums are aimed at coaches, officials and club members. It is very disappointing that the club forums are very poorly supported. They should be an ideal way for clubs to network and communicate their views and ideas. Communication is so very important, but has to be two-way. It is hoped that a larger number of people will support these events this coming year. Every Hertfordshire club has hundreds of members, whether they are swimmers or parents or supporters, if each club were to send just one person, then opportunities would not be lost and important information missed. This would give all the athletes greater opportunities at every level.

Hertfordshire ASA is represented on the ASA East Region Club Development Group at the four meetings a year. The meetings are held in Kentford, Suffolk.

Competitive Swimming

2016- 17 was, in many ways, a frustrating period for competitive swimming in the county, but, in other ways, it was a great success. The way we now seek feedback for our events, and the fact that most of the negative feedback we receive is from ourselves, indicates that the greater competitive swimming family in the county is relatively happy with what we are doing. However, the question we always ask ourselves is - are we doing enough, and could we do more?

In 2018 there are plans to introduce two new events; one will be a revamped Daplyn Trophy, the other will be a stroke efficiency gala. It is planned to have these in the window between County Championships and the opening of the window for the following year's competition.

During the year, three new members stepped forward to join the Swimming Committee, bringing new ideas and helping share the workload.

Inter-County Swimming:

The Swimming Committee appointed four coaches to be responsible for the Inter-County teams this year. All four are Level 3 qualified head coaches at their clubs. The coaches were: Mary Wright (Hoddesdon), Amy Thompson (Harpenden), Mike Cole (CoStA) and Geoff Wood (Berkhamsted). The coaches were responsible for team selection, and were expected to provide coaching support at the three events, with two coaches at each event. The coaches were supported by Kate Burchell (Hitchin), who has for the last couple of years done a fantastic administration job – getting the swimmers signed up, and sorting out all the relevant paperwork for the trips.

Junior :

Support team:

Coaches: Mary Wright and Geoff Wood

Team Managers: Kate Burchell, Heather Stott and Beata Klimaszewski

Officials: Kate Williamson and Frank Backhaus

Our team went in good spirit, to the 2016 Junior Inter-County competition, run by Bedfordshire ASA. The gala targets 10 – 13year-olds. The team performed well, with some excellent swims. Competing against Bedfordshire, Essex, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire, Suffolk and Norfolk. The team did well, finishing third on

198 points behind a dominant Essex on 311 and Suffolk on 254. Two wins were recorded on the day - Isabella Renwick won the 100m breaststroke, and Michael Klimaszewski won the 100m butterfly.

Regional :

Support team:

Coaches: Amy Thompson and Mike Cole

Team Managers: Kate Burchell, Heather Stott and Bryan Thompson

Officials: Helena Pretious-White and Louise Hughes

The 2016 event was in Norwich. Most of the team gathered at Hitchin pool ready to get on the team coach to go to Norwich. Some swimmers were picked up en-route. The staff at the UEA pool were excellent, giving us a room where we could wait prior to being able to get on poolside. This allowed us to ensure everyone had their war paint on, and for the coaches and team managers to sort out all the necessary paperwork.

Unbeknown to us some of the other counties appear to have decided to take the competition seriously this year – especially Cambridgeshire! Overall results were:

1	Cambridgeshire	248
2	Essex	230
3	Hertfordshire	225
4	Suffolk	205
5	Norfolk	188
6	Bedfordshire	120

There were some terrific swims from the team, and there was great atmosphere and team spirit on poolside. With our airhorns we WERE the noisy neighbours!

There were some good wins for the county,

11/12yrs 4x50m medley relay: Isabelle Renwick, Erin O'Meara, Jessica Heesom and Jessica Woodward

13/14yrs 4x50m medley relay: Jonathon Adam, Reese Housden, Jake Moxham and Tobi Laguda

11/12yrs 100m backstroke: Thomas Ogden

13/14yrs 100m breaststroke: Reese Housden

11/12yrs 4x50m freestyle relay (mixed): Jessica Heesom, Joseph Pannese, Jessica Woodward and James Corner

15/16yrs 4x50m freestyle relay (mixed): Harry Constantine, Tegan Woolaston, Elinah Phillip and Luke Turley

11/12yrs 100m breaststroke: Isabelle Renwick

15/16yrs 100m freestyle: Elinah Phillip

15/16yrs 100m freestyle: Harry Constantine

11/12yrs 4x50m medley relay(mixed): Thomas Ogden, Isabelle Renwick, Jessica Woodward and James Corner

11/12yrs 100m butterfly: Michael Klimaszewski

13/14yrs 100m freestyle: Mia Carter

11/12yrs 4x50m freestyle relay: Jessica Heesom, Libby McGill, Isabelle Renwick and Jessica Woodward

13/14yrs 4x50m freestyle relay: Tobi Laguda, Jonathan Adam, Jake Moxham and Reese Housden

15/16yrs 4x50m freestyle relay: Harry Constantine, Dan Chada, Lucas Dyson-Diaz and Luke Turley

The return journey was somewhat eventful. The hydraulic suspension on the coach failed, and this resulted in a delay of approximately three hours while the company sent another coach to collect us. Everyone accepted the situation and spirits remained good during the delay and eventual journey home. Parents were kept advised as to

the situation, and thankfully everyone was there when we eventually got back so there were no further delays. A long day and no silverware... but good swimming.

National :

Support team:

Coaches: Mary Wright and Geoff Wood

Team Managers: Kate Burchell, Merja Renwick and Tony Gaines

Official: Louise Hughes

This is the annual trip to Sheffield. It is fair to say that this year the team was decimated. Some Hertfordshire clubs had overseas training camps booked, so a large number of swimmers were unavailable for selection. This was an advantage other swimmers, who might not normally have been called up, but, in the circumstances, had a chance to go and represent their county, and have a swim at this fantastic event.

As has become the normal procedure, a training session was held on the Saturday - this year at St Albans School, where the swimmers received all the relevant kit – shirts and hats. Then the team travelled to Chesterfield for an overnight stay, travelling to Sheffield the following day for the competition.

As always, the competition was hard. The team did not win any events, although Isabella Renwick did pick up a second place in the 12/13year-old 100m breaststroke. The atmosphere at this event is always upbeat however, and the team pulled together and cheered each other on as each and every swimmer gave it their all.

Unfortunately, ultimately the endeavours were in vain as we finished 19th and so were relegated to division two. Hopefully we will bounce back this year and regain our position in the top flight.

County Championships and Age Groups 2017

Our second running of the three weekend, 14 session format for the County Championships was another success. The introduction of consideration times meant that the events were much better populated, with a number of events being overpopulated, which unfortunately meant swimmers being rejected.

There were some technical issues over the Championships. Initially, The Venue's timing system was used, but when problems arose, this was replaced with the county's kit. The county administration team has become proficient at swapping out timing pads in double quick time, so delays were minimal.

New for 2017 were touch screens displaying results for spectators and coaches, a 15m poolside banner, and the county scoreboard at the top of the balcony, so coaches and officials on the scoreboard side could see the results without getting neck strain and blue curtains!

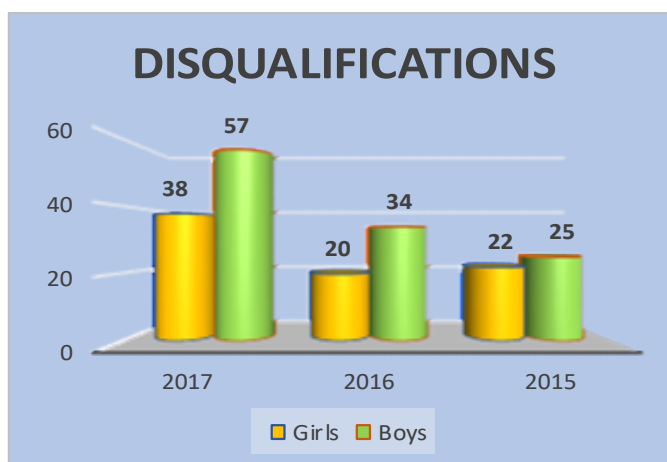
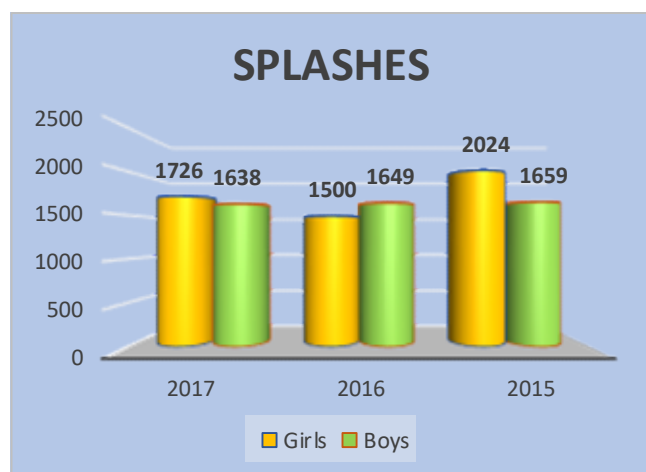
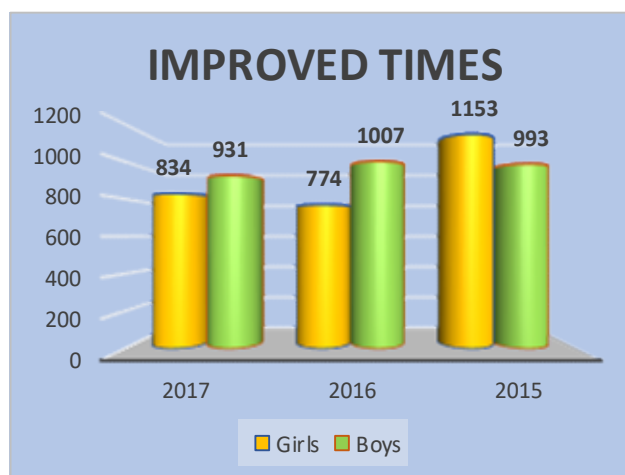
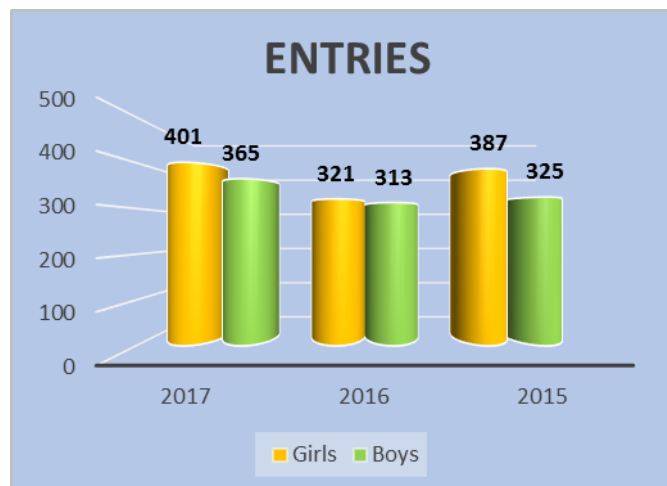
SignUp was used to identify non-technical support volunteers. This advertised exactly what roles were required, and allowed the volunteers to sign up for what they wanted to do. The feedback on this was that it was very good, as people liked the idea of knowing what they were going to be doing in advance.

The feedback (over 120 comments) was predominantly positive, however there will be consideration to implement changes for the 2018 championships to attempt to improve the competition further, taking into account some of the negative feedback. One comment was received from a senior official that he thought the sports presentation aspect of the meet was excellent.

SkyVue Media, Afterdark, MosaicFX and Gogglebox again worked at the Championships, and contributed to the overall success. This year, FinePrint Design were on site too, printing hoodies and T-Shirts, which seemed to go down very well if the queues were anything to go by.

It goes without saying that we are also very grateful for all our volunteers and officials without whom the event would not run as smoothly as it did.

The headline figures for 2017:



There was some excellent swimming over the three weekends, and a generally positive atmosphere. There is general disappointment that the Championships have to be run as a short course event. Change is unfortunately beyond our control, as we do not have access to a 50m pool during the county window. This is unlikely to change in the foreseeable future.

Daplyn Trophies:

Unfortunately, owing to a lack of support from clubs, the 2016 Daplyn Trophies gala was cancelled.

The Swimming Committee has decided that, owing to the shake-up of the competition calendar by British Swimming, this gala needs to be moved to a different time of year.

Open Water

The Hertfordshire ASA Open Water Championships 2016 were held at Whitlingham, Norwich, on July 17th, within the ASA East Region Open Open Water Championships.

Again this year, Hertfordshire clubs were well represented, with outstanding performances from all the competing swimmers. This year's event introduced an important change compared to previous years, regarding the qualification to the national championships. Starting from 2016, the first three positions for each age group in each category, automatically qualified for the national championships - compared to previous years, where only the winner qualified.

A total of 52 swimmers took part - 28 males and 24 females - winning a total of five gold medals, eleven silver and five bronze medals. A total of 21 swimmers, from all age groups and for all the distances (800, 1.5K, 3K and 5K), qualified for the national championships.

In 2016, ASA East Region ran open water camps on 5th March in Basildon and 11th June at Stanborough. These were led by Mike Parker from the ASA England Programmes team. Janko Gojkovic from Hatfield SC helped with coaching on the second day. The 2016 camp was open to anyone with previous open water experience to apply. Seven swimmers from Hertfordshire signed up (from Cheshunt and Hemel Hempstead). A total of 34 ASA East Region swimmers applied, although not all attended on both days. The age range for that camp was between 12 to 18 years old.

Unfortunately, for various reasons, it was not possible to organise an open water development day for 2016, but there could be an opportunity for 2017.

Masters

The 2016 Herts Masters took place on 17th Sept 2016. Overall swimmer numbers were up slightly over last year. In the closely contended team competition, Hemel Hempstead Masters finished behind St Alban's Masters, with Hartham Masters in third place. Full team results were:

1	St Albans Masters Swimming Club	774
2	Hemel Hempstead Swimming Club	750
3	Hartham Masters Swimming Club	747
4	Ware Swimming Club	251
5	Hatfield SC	233
6	Potters Bar SC	231
7	Berkhamsted Swimming Club	226
8	Bushey Amateur Swimming Club	88
9	Bishop's Stortford	77
10	Hitchin Swimming Club	65
11	Watford Swimming Club	48
12	Hoddesdon	45
13	Kings Langley	22

There was a good turnout of officials and other volunteer support on the night.

2016 Inter-County Masters

Unfortunately, Hertfordshire was not able to form a team for this year's competition.

2016 Hertfordshire Swimming League Senior League gala

On Saturday 22nd April the Senior League Gala took place at Bishops Stortford College for the first time for three years. The results were as follows:

1.	Bishops Stortford	162
2.	St Albans	150
3.	Dacorum	137
4.	Ware	109.5
5.	Hartham	46.5

Records

The follow swimmers achieved ASA East Region records at European and British Championships this year.

Jack Spence - Hemel Hempstead – 100m backstroke and 200m backstroke
David Kelleway – Bishop's Stortford - 100 freestyle
Barry Chandler – Bishop's Stortford – 100m butterfly
Duncan Beveridge – St Albans Masters – 50m breaststroke

Swimming Officials

The training of Swimming Technical Officials in the county continues to meet the key performance indicators, set by the Swim England (ASA), ASA East Region and Hertfordshire ASA Management Board, to provide sufficient licensed Judge Level 1, Judge Level 2, Judge Level 2S and Referees to staff the annual county championships.

In this financial year 2016/2017:

Timekeepers - trained and passed	89
Of which - young timekeepers	33

There has also been success in that the following numbers have passed their assessment at the following judge levels:

Judge Level 1	-	18, of which 4 were young officials
Judge Level 2	-	10
Judge Level 2S	-	0
Referee	-	3

Total young officials passing assessment: 4

In addition, the following numbers of officials underwent training in the following judge levels:

Judge Level 1	-	36, of which 9 were young officials
Judge Level 2	-	5, of which 1 was a young official
Judge Level 2S	-	10
Referee	-	2

Total young officials in training: 10

Officials have been kept up to date with regular circulars, newsletters, using "Mailchimp" and Hertfordshire ASA Facebook page, and with information on the Hertfordshire ASA website.

Owing to changes in the way Swim England (ASA) now process official training, the Swimming Technical Officials Co-ordinator, Jonathan Pope has resumed the role of course allocation management for the officials. The support and assistance provided by Deborah Huggett in her role as course allocation manager over the past 12 months is however gratefully appreciated.

Continuing Professional Development (CPD) courses have also been run in the county, with average attendance, to deliver mandatory elements required for re-licencing. This has been achieved by offering these courses as part of the Hertfordshire Officials' Forum. Thanks is due to Ian and Sheila Mackenzie and Jonathan Pope for organising and delivering the course content.

In addition, CPDs have been delivered to smaller groups to aid individuals who require relicensing during the year, this has been passed to Swim England (ASA), so that core databases are updated.

The Guide to Refereeing course for J2S officials to help them fulfil a referee's role, was delivered at the Hertfordshire ASA Development Weekend. Unfortunately, the take-up was not as good as previous years, or as we would have hoped. Swim England (ASA) has now recognised the benefit of this training and offers this as an online option for Judge Level 2S to enhance the standard of knowledge amongst this group of officials, especially

as they could find themselves running level 4 licenced meets and having to fulfil the associated paperwork requirements.

The county has again run several galas during the year, and officials have volunteered their services. This has enabled mentoring and training to be provided for officials wishing to enhance their qualifications.

This year's County Championships again saw an excellent turnout of officials, and on some days there were reserves 57 officials supported the events over three weekends. This equates to an average of six sessions / official.

This year Judge Level 1 and Judge Level 2 assessments were carried out during the County Swimming Championships, resulting in eight new qualifications.

The Swim England (ASA) training requirements for judges courses have been met, and all assessments have been conducted in compliance with the new guidelines.

During 2016/2017 Disclosure and Barring Service training, and Safeguarding training was introduced as a requirement for course presenters. This is a new requirement which has a lead time set by Swim England (ASA) to be completed by the end of 2017. Hertfordshire ASA as part of East Region ASA are one of the lead counties approaching compliance in this area. Owing to these changes, new volunteers for this role will not be taken on, until advice is given by Swim England (ASA), When advised it is hoped to increase staffing in this area to support the existing team.

It is important to thank those who are part of the training / course presenters /assessment teams who volunteer their time to the county to deliver training, present courses and conduct assessments for the benefit of our volunteers who are undertaking Swim England (ASA) qualifications.

Synchronised Swimming

It has been a busy year for the synchronised swimming clubs in the county, seeing the three clubs (Aqualina, Potters Bar and Dacorum) take an active part in many regional and national level competitions. Another synchronised swimming club was set up late last year, as part of Hatfield Swimming Club. It is early days, but it is hoped to see the club grow and take an active part in competitions in the future.

Aqualina took part in the Scottish Nationals in October and the English National Age Groups in December; this being a first for them.

Many ASA East Region competitions have taken place during the year, with representation from the three established Hertfordshire synchronised swimming clubs.

The regional competition on the 25th June also doubled as the Hertfordshire ASA county competition, with medals awarded to the Hertfordshire competitors. The regional competition on the 19th November saw the introduction of a Masters section, with athletes from both Potters Bar and Aqualina competing and medalling.

A synchronised swimming development day was run in ASA East Region, with all Hertfordshire clubs present. This targeted both the swimmers and the coaches, who attended the session at St Albans school on the 10th February. Coaches were given guidance on routines and then put this into practice in the pool sessions.

Two skills assessment days have been run at Hartham pool in Hertford during the year, with many county swimmers taking part. January saw the introduction of a new skills grading scheme for synchronised swimming. This is a fundamental change for the sport, the first skills assessment day under the new scheme is due to be run in the county / region shortly. The impact of this is an unknown quantity at the moment, but it is hoped that this will ultimately enable more athletes to achieve the qualifying skills levels for national competitions.

Water Polo

The water polo section of Hertfordshire ASA was in 'life support' in the spring of 2016, but fortunately the forming of a new committee started to address this, and the Hertfordshire and District Water Polo League was organised.

Division 1 consisted of Watford, Hatfield, Bedford, Spalding and Dunstable. Division 2 consisted of Hertford, Biggleswade, Hitchin, Milton Keynes and Northampton. Watford won Division 1 and Hertford won Division 2.

The Hertfordshire & District Knockout Water Polo Competition was turned into a one day tournament. It took place in Northampton, and Watford were victorious. All agreed that this was an excellent format, and a similar approach will be taken in 2017.

Within Hertfordshire there are approximately 200 water polo players, across five clubs- Watford, Hertford, Hitchin, Bishop Stortford and Hatfield. This obviously creates quite a lot of ASA revenue as the majority of these players are Category 2 members. Added to this income is the £880 paid by clubs to enter the League (Northampton paid for two teams, but one did not complete the season).

Bishop Stortford, Hitchin and Hertford also combined forces to form an u16 team which played in the ASA East Region competition.

Both Hitchin and Watford contributed juniors to regional teams which played in national tournaments. Watford goalies Peter Pickford and Aril Pandaya were also selected for GB senior and U17 teams. As a result of success within the British Water Polo League, the Watford 1st team has been promoted to Division 2.

During the year, table courses were organised for Hertfordshire officials.

Awards

Roy Rogers Memorial Trophy

The trophy is awarded to the person, team or club who has made a significant contribution to the sport of swimming. This year the Roy Rogers Memorial Trophy was awarded to Ingrid Wilkes.

The President's Plate

The trophy is awarded, at the sole discretion of the President, for conspicuous service to Hertfordshire ASA. This year the President's Plate was presented to Heather Stott.

The Wilkinson Sword

The sword is awarded annually for achievement in the sport of swimming. There were no nominations received this year.

Finance Officer's report

During the year, Grant Chivers stepped down from the role of Hertfordshire ASA Finance Officer. The contribution made by Grant during his tenure is here acknowledged, and is greatly appreciated. Ian Mackenzie fulfilled the role of Interim Finance Officer, and the county is grateful to him for this. Simon Lever took over as Finance Officer in November 2016.

During the year the county invested heavily in equipment purchasing new Swiss Timing pads and AOE system as well as a new computer.

The county is in a healthy position financially, although obviously the cash resources have reduced owing to the purchase of the equipment.

The draft accounts show a loss for the year of under £1,000.

The major event of the year, which was the County Swimming Championships, made a loss of £1,361 which means that for the rest of the county things pretty much remained the same.

The Hertfordshire ASA Management Board has agreed to continue to keep the county capitation fee at the same level as for previous years.

There was minimal uptake of grant funding during the year but there has been an increase in the level of refunds for room hire for the running of courses

Draft financial accounts have been produced. These have still to be inspected by the independent financial examiner.

Appreciation

The county could not function successfully if it were not for the many volunteers who give their time freely to support our athletes. Help is always appreciated, whatever is the role you undertake, whether it is at your club, at competitions for your club, or at county events, and whether it is 'technical' or 'non-technical' support, it needs to be there, so thank you to all of you who work for the benefit of our athletes.

Murray Devine has been our President this year. Murray has represented the county and supported our athletes at competitions and events, presenting medals and trophies. Thank you, Murray!

Finally, sincere thanks to all our officers, board members and others elected to the various committees, who have given their time and expertise, freely, to develop the disciplines and the county association, in support of our member clubs and our athletes.

For, and on behalf, of the Hertfordshire ASA Management Board
Sheila Mackenzie
Association Secretary

President's Addendum

They say time accelerates as you age. Well, being President seems to hasten the process even more. I find it difficult to believe that my year is almost up!

It has been an honour to attend at least one competition for each discipline during the year, and also to see the hard work which goes on behind the scenes, in committees, to ensure that our sport functions so capably for the thousands of participants across the county. I have met the Presidents of all the other five counties which comprise the ASA East Region, and of course the President of ASA East Region (several times!). I have travelled to Norwich, to Luton, to Newmarket, to Southend and to Sheffield, as well as attending county and regional competitions at local pools in Stevenage, Watford and Borehamwood.

The greatest honour of being President, however, has been to receive the smiles as I have clumsily hung medals around the necks of competitors – both young and not so young. Our sport makes an outstanding contribution to the physical, social and psychological development of young people who, through it, enjoy healthy and enduring friendships. I have also been very taken by the tremendous commitment of coaches, team managers and officials, all of whom help foster that sense of inspiration which makes a real difference to lives, young and a bit older. I will look back on "my year of a thousand smiles" with genuine fondness. I am very grateful to have had this opportunity to be Hertfordshire ASA President. I wish my successor, Ian Bayes, every success and enjoyment for 2017/18.

Murray Devine
Hertfordshire ASA President 2016-2017

HERTFORDSHIRE
AMATEUR SWIMMING ASSOCIATION

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