

# **SWIM ENGLAND HERTFORDSHIRE**



## **ANNUAL REPORT**

**2017-2018**

## General

This annual report covers the year from April 2017 to March 2018. The Annual Council Meeting takes place in July, with the county financial year end being 31<sup>st</sup> March.

On March 1<sup>st</sup> 2018, the name of the county was changed from Hertfordshire ASA to Swim England Hertfordshire. This change was made to align the county with the national governing body and the region. The national governing body, the ASA, is now known as Swim England, and from 1<sup>st</sup> January ASA East Region became Swim England East Region.

The Management Board has met four times in the year to oversee the development and delivery of swimming within the county. There were four vacancies on the Management Board following the Annual Council Meeting 2017. 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 group, the disability committee and the swimming committee have met on a regular basis. The water polo committee functioned from time to time, but committee members have gradually left the committee during the year for various reasons. The diving committee has had issues with representation of clubs on the committee, and, for most of the year covered by this report, the committee was suspended, as were county diving competitions, until the issues could be resolved. The re-constituted committee met in January. Although the county has no synchronised swimming committee as such, Hertfordshire has a representative on the Swim England East Region synchronised swimming committee, which seeks to ensure development and competition for the athletes involved in this discipline.

During this year the county was shocked by the sudden death of Alan Doyle. Alan was a coach at Hemel Hempstead for many years, and he was much respected. He was solely responsible, as a volunteer, for the set-up and administration of the county's website. His contribution to the county and its athlete has been immense. The county website has been an excellent tool for communication, but, since Alan's death, because of access difficulties, the website has not been actively available.

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 Swim England East Region in many areas - for example, in the provision of forums, the delivery of a development weekend, and in the number of officials being trained. Sheila Mackenzie has again been the Hertfordshire representative on the Swim England East Region Management Board this year, and she will take issues to the region on your behalf, if necessary. Ian Mackenzie continues as an elected member of the Swim England East Region Management Board, and he has also been the regional representative to the Swim England Sport Governing Board, and a member of the Swim England Group Board. Swim England has now

become an incorporated body with charitable status and Ian Mackenzie is a Director/Trustee of the new company

Throughout the year, clubs in the county continued to benefit from the supportive work of Leanne Brace, as the Swim England 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/SwimMark process and the provision of courses and their funding, as well as support our athletes through the organisation of development days and camps. Additionally, Kevin Pickard joined the region during the year as the Regional Swimming Talent Officer. He has been a great support to the county and our clubs.

Again this year, many of the county's athletes have qualified to compete at national and international level, and their achievements are applauded.

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, either on the discipline committees or on the Management Board, so that the county can go on to even better things in the coming year.

## **Competitive Swimming**

2017-18 saw swimming in the county progressing well. There were some ups, and there were some downs, but overall the movement is in the right direction.

To start with:- the bad news.

It was planned for the county to be part of the Swim England County 1-Direction initiative.

Unfortunately there was insufficient willingness from volunteers, and it was not possible to get the team together to support the event in 2017. There is a team in place for 2018.

Two new events were also planned for 2017-2018 to focus more on skills, but after discussions at the Coaches Forum it was decided not to progress these events.

### **Inter-County:**

In 2017 there was a change to the coaching team for inter-county competitions. Mike Cole (CoStA) withdrew from the team owing to club commitments, and he was replaced by Jack Donoghue (Verulam). Jack joined Amy Thompson (Harpenden), Mary Wright (Hoddesdon), and Geoff Wood (Berkhamsted) and the team was again supported by Kate Burchell (Hitchin) who acted in a team manager role, collating all the paperwork and liaising with swimmers and coaches. Again this year, the coaches were to ensure cover by one male and one female coach per competition.

There is a problem with inter-county swimming, in that the first-choice swimmers to represent the county are not always available for the junior and regional competitions, and this often means that Hertfordshire does not perform as well as the county could at these competitions. The flip side of this, of course, is that other swimmers get an opportunity to represent the county and experience a different level of competition.

## **Regional Inter-County:**

### **Support team**

Coaches: Mary Wright and Jack Donoghue

Team managers: Anna Baker and Beata Klimaszcewska

A strong team of swimmers, from eleven clubs across Hertfordshire, attended Inspire: Luton Sports Village for an afternoon of exciting swimming. It is inevitable always that there are swimmers who are committed elsewhere, but the majority of swimmers who attended recorded excellent times - on or around the times posted in the qualification window from which they were selected.

There were four first place finishes. These were achieved by James Woodward (Open 200m individual medley), Luke Turley (17yrs+ 100m freestyle), David Shipman (17yrs+ 100m breaststroke) and Charles Rayner (15/16yrs 100m breaststroke).

Second places went to the following seven individual swims:

Charles Rayner (15/16yrs butterfly), Lily Merrett (13/14yrs butterfly), Michael Klimaszcwski (13/14yrs butterfly), Tobi Laguda (15/16yrs freestyle), James Woodward (17yrs+ backstroke), Valeria Giron (11/12yrs butterfly) and Peter Soczewka (11/12yrs butterfly).

Five relay teams also came second : Male 11/12yrs medley relay team (Peter Soczewka, Eldrick Manela, Samuel Pyefinch and Enzo Lim); Female 13/14yrs medley team (Lily Merrett, Eleanor Williams, Jessica Woodward, Libby Dunford); Female 15/16yrs medley relay team (Mia Carter, Abigail Hurst, Josie Pretious-White, Emily Lush); Male 17rs+ medley relay team (James Woodward, David Shipman, Alec Burchell, Luke Turley); and the Male 11/12yrs freestyle relay team(Enzo Lim, Peter Soczewka, Alasdair Woolgrove, Samuel Pyefinch).

There were also 17 third places. The nine individual thirds were Emilia Dunwoodie (11/12yrs backstroke), Erin O'Meara (13/14yrs breaststroke), Libby Dunford (13/14yrs freestyle), Mia Carter (15/16yrs backstroke), Daniel Chada (15/16yrs backstroke), Cira Fletcher (17yrs+ breaststroke), Valeria Giron (11/12yrs freestyle), Daniel Murtagh (13/14yrs backstroke) and Luke Turley (17yrx+ butterfly).

The eight team thirds were the Male 15/16yrs medley relay team(Daniel Chada, Charles Rayner, Zachary Patel, Tobi Laguda); Female 17yrs+ medley relay team(Beatrice Barder, Cira Fletcher, Georgina Tallon, Elinah Phillip); Mixed 13/14yrs freestyle (Jessica Keogh, Marco Tontodonati, Jessica Woodward, James Corner); Mixed 17yrs+ medley relay team(James Woodward, David Shipman, Georgina Tallon, Katie Conyers); Female 13/14yrs freestyle relay team (Jessica Woodward, Lily Merrett, Jessica Keogh, Libby Dunford); Female 15/16yrs freestyle relay team (Shona McKenna, Josie Pretious-White, Mia Carter, Emily Lush); Male 15/16yrs freestyle relay team (Ayotobi Laguda, Michael Ripper, Ashley Coombs, Daniel Chada); and Female 17yrs+ freestyle relay team (Georgina Tallon, Beatrice Barder, Katie Conyers, Elinah Phillip).

It was an exciting afternoon of swimming, and the Hertfordshire team showed real commitment. Thank you to Murray Devine and the officials for supporting the team.

Place	Team	Points
1	Essex	254
2	Suffolk	238
3	Cambridgeshire	228
4	Hertfordshire	216
5	Norfolk	156
6	Bedfordshire	122

### **Junior Inter-County:**

#### **Support team:**

Coaches: Mary Wright and Geoff Wood

Team managers: Kate Burchell and Kevin Larkman



A strong team represented the county at this event, held again at Inspire: Luton Sports Village. The team gelled well under the leadership of Geoff and Mary, supported by Kate and Kevin.

Kevin led the swimmers in a short land session, on the grass round the back of the pool.

Interestingly, this went down really well, although it did seem a bit of an alien concept to some of the athletes.

The event was immediately following the summer break for most of the swimmers, but there were some very good swims taking this into account.

There were several good PBs and some excellent swims.

Geoff and Mary gave feedback to the swimmers who were able to get back to them between races – it was a hectic schedule!

Unfortunately the results are not available on the internet, so we cannot provide a detailed set of results or highlight personal performances.

Place	Team		Points
1	Essex		279
2	Warwickshire		248
3	Suffolk		217
4	Hertfordshire		215
5	Leicestershire		213
6	Bedfordshire		204
7	Lincolnshire		185

## **National Inter-County:**

### **Support team:**

Coaches: Amy Thompson and Jack Donoghue

Team managers: Tina Carroll and Beata Klimaszewska

The Hertfordshire ASA team travelled to Sheffield on Saturday 7th October for the National Inter-County Team Championships 2017, after a team training session at Westminster Lodge. The team were in good voice on the three-hour journey up, entertaining the adults with their enthusiastic, if sometimes out of time and tune, singing!

On Sunday the team made their way to Ponds Forge for the competition. Team captains Laura Copping and James Woodward had been entrusted with the obligatory face paint, and a blue and white stripe, dot and handprint extravaganza ensued in the topmost corner of the stands, as the team readied themselves for action with a healthy dose of fun.

Having been relegated to Division 2 in 2016 they had their sights set on promotion back to the top division, and their campaign began well with 8 PBs in the first 13 races. Leading the way was Ela Norton, who secured the team's first win and a PB of over two seconds in the Girls 12/13yrs 100m breaststroke. This was swiftly followed by the largest PB of the day, at over four seconds, from Thomas Ogden in the boys equivalent to claim eighth place. PBs in the first run also went to James Woodward (Boys 16/17yrs 100m freestyle); Reese Housden (Boys 14/15yrs 100m butterfly); Daniel Chada (Boys 16/17yrs 100m backstroke); Michael Klimaszewski (Boys 12/13yrs 100m freestyle); and Bryn Couser (Boys 14/15yrs 100m breaststroke). Shannon Stott closed out the first run of individuals with a PB of just under a second in the Girls 16/17yrs 100m butterfly.

The first run of relays proved a bit of a stumbling block, with two disqualifications, but the team had a chat in the break and resolved to dig in and try to close the gap back to the four promotion spots, in the second half. There were PBs for Thomas Ogden (Boys 12/13yrs 100m backstroke); David Shipman (Boys 16/17yrs 100m breaststroke); Valeria Giron (Girls 12/13yrs 100m butterfly); and Tobi Laguda (Boys 14/15yrs 100m backstroke) in this run, with almost all other swims less than a second off PB pace. Michael Klimaszewski also claimed the team's second win of the day with a dominant two second win over the field. The 16/17yrs Girls medley relay team of Josie Pretious-White, Laura Copping, Shannon Stott and Alice Fender claimed the highest finish of the medley relay teams, securing 4th in a very tight heat to kick off the second run of relays. The following two races both came in in 8th place after some great swimming by the teams.

There was discussion in the stands as to whether sticking to the age-old, girl-boy, youngest to oldest strategy was going to work out in the final 6 x 50m freestyle squadron, especially when Jessica Keogh set off against nine significantly larger boys! However, the six swimmers put their hearts on the line for the team and drew back into the race as the final few swimmers hit the water. James Woodward hit the water last, and brought the team home in 3rd position in the race.

Overall the team finished 7th in Division 2, not quite where they wanted to be, but a really strong showing from the swimmers. Top boy was awarded to Michael Klimaszewski for consistently strong swimming across all four races, including a 100m freestyle PB and a win in the 100m butterfly. Top girl was awarded to Jessica Woodward, who raced the final two relays back-to-back, with a fierce determination and with very fast results on the split times.

The team spirit over the weekend was really strong. From the non-stop singing both ways on the coach to the endless chatter around the hotel and on poolside, the swimmers set aside their different clubs allegiances and gelled as part of the Hertfordshire team. Everyone got involved and no one was left on the side-lines.

Thank you to Tina Carroll and Beata Klimaszewska for their team manager work; organising water, food, rooms, registers and swimmers for their races..., the list was endless, and everything was done with a smile. Thank you to Louise Hughes and Neil Cadenhead for officiating and ensuring Hertfordshire didn't get into trouble for not providing officials. Thank you to Ian Bays for accompanying the team in his capacity as President, and undertaking the unenviable task of sitting

on poolside in his President regalia all day! Thank you to Kate Burchell for all the behind the scenes work calling everyone up, and reacting calmly when there were last minute panics over the team. Thank you to Bryan Thompson and Ian Mackenzie for organising the training, coach and hotel logistics so the team was a team for the whole weekend. Finally, thank you to all the swimmers who took part in the event, raced so well and made it such a fun weekend for all involved. The team will make it back to Division 1 in the very near future – that is certain!

#### **Development Day:**

##### **Support team:**

Coaches: Kevin Pickard and Paul Wollaston

Having missed out on the 1-Direction programme, Kevin and Paul volunteered to head up a Development Day, working on starts and turns, with a guest coach leading the day. 40 swimmers and 27 coaches attended the day in which 20 clubs in the county were involved.

Whilst a bit squeezed for time it was a good starting point.

The county extends thanks to Kevin, Paul and Ann-Marie Keenen for pulling the event together.

#### **County Championships:**

Event Management Team: Bryan Thompson, Karen Huckle, Sheila Mackenzie, Anna Baker, Marcello Tontodonati, Graham Huggett, Louise Hughes, Ian Mackenzie, Graham Spratt, Pam Spratt

External Support: AfterDark, Mosaic FX, SkyVue Media

No excuse is made for focussing first on the work that goes into running County Championships, and some of the feedback from our visiting dignitaries.

It really is a mammoth effort behind the scenes to deliver County Championship. The number of man-hours that go into the preparation for this event is almost incalculable, but there are numerous meetings and an awful lot of work between meetings.

The set up and break down has become increasingly complicated over the last few years, and massive thanks need to go out to the small band of volunteers who give up their Friday evenings to set everything up, and then stay on after the racing on Sunday to take everything down again. Their reward is in the spectacle that the county now provides.

Other counties are starting to pick up the pace with streaming, but Hertfordshire is still leading the way.

For the event team, Fridays starts at 5:30pm and finish anytime between 10:30pm and 11:30pm, only to be back at the pool by 7:00 -7:30am on Saturday morning. Sundays finish between 6:30pm and 9:30pm. This includes the work that people from the county do and also the work of the county's partners AfterDark / MosaicFX / SkyVue Media. The transformation from pool to arena is quite spectacular.

There were approximately 15 people working as the core team behind the curtains, making sure the technology was working, and sorting out paperwork, as well as two others in the control room.

The touch screens for results seemed to be well received this year with issues resolved from last year, meaning they were updated more promptly and enhanced the user experience.

There were a couple of VERY busy sessions – especially the relay session. Consideration is being given as to how this can be better managed in 2019. Putting more screens around the building is the obvious answer, but it does increase costs.



This year card payment machines were introduced to process spectator entries more efficiently. They will be used again in 2019.

We were very pleased this year to have the Swim England President, Mr Richard Whitehead, and his wife Susan, attending sessions two and three. They possibly picked the best sessions to attend, with the evening session getting maximum benefit from the lighting and music. Richard emailed the following after the event:-

“Will you please pass on to your Executive, Susan and my thanks for the County’s hospitality on Saturday. We were incredibly impressed with the whole set up and the athlete experience you were trying to create. I hope that the rest of your championships run as well as those from last weekend” On the evening, when the officials paraded on, Richard was heard to say to his wife “WOW! That was worth seeing”. That is exactly what was aimed for – to give the Hertfordshire County Championships a bit of a wow factor.

At session four, the Swim England East Region President, Mr Stewart Murray, and his partner, attended, and both of them were very impressed with what Hertfordshire do and how the event is presented.

Both Richard and Stewart commented that other counties and regions should be looking to emulate Hertfordshire. Stewart acknowledged that enhancing the sports presentation side of the event is another and equally valid way to inspire swimmers to achieve. If for some that’s as good as it gets performance-wise, then it should be delivered as a special event.

Of course, Hertfordshire’s own County President, Mr. Ian Bays, was in attendance, and when he was unavailable Past President, Mr. Murray Devine, stepped into the breach.

All four Presidents thoroughly enjoyed handing out medals to our winners.

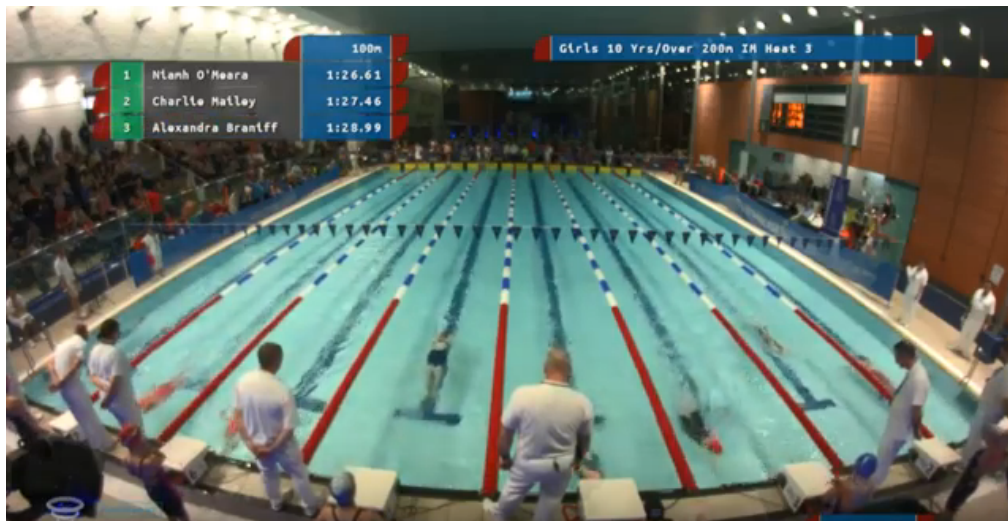
The Swim England East Region Swimming Talent Officer, Kevin Pickard, stated that the Hertfordshire Championships are by far the best in the Swim England East Region, in terms of scheduling, running and presentation.

There has been feedback from a Sky employee, and an ex-BBC employee that the quality of the feed put out on YouTube is “broadcast” quality, and they were VERY impressed with the coverage provided.



The Venue – transformed!





Improved graphics



Finalists in the spotlight

To the Championships - the NUMBERS...

6 days of racing

557 swimmers – 301 female / 256 male

3773 swims – including finals ... 1959 female / 1814 male

76 disqualifications – 38 from each gender

812 PBs from entry to heat – 398 female (40%) / 414 male (47%)

1166 PBs in finals – 564 female (58%) / 602 male (64%)

1978 PB's during the championships – 962 female (49%) / 1016 male (56%)

Impressive!!!

Some fantastic swimming, great races, excellent atmosphere, and worthy winners collecting numerous awards for their efforts. But let's not forget it's not all about the winners. Every single one

of the 557 swimmers deserve to be recognised for putting in the work during practice sessions at their clubs to get there. The county is often under the spotlight for the qualifying times being “too hard”. The bottom line is the swimmers are working hard and getting the times they require. The county’s philosophy is set the bar high, and watch the swimmers put in the effort to achieve – and they do!

There were a couple of unusual problems this year, with the excitement (is that the right word?) of an evacuation because of a fire caused by candles on a cake at a child’s party. Normal service was resumed on being allowed back into the building, and the events continued from where they had stopped. The second problem was a power outage due to a slight overload with all the equipment being used, but this was quickly addressed, with no delays.

All-in-all, the County Championships 2018 was a great event, a step up from 2017, and a bar set high for 2019. Thanks to EVERYONE – swimmers, coaches, team managers, volunteers, partners, event staff and spectators for helping, in whatever way, to make the event. Planning has already started for 2019!

#### **Other matters:**

An ambitious development plan has been put in place for 2018-19, including stroke clinics, skills competitions, and encouraging the involvement of more people as active team managers at the various events being run.

Look out for updates, and get involved!

#### **Masters**

The 2017 Herts Masters gala took place on 24th June, 2017. Overall swimmer numbers were similar to 2016. In the team competition, St Alban’s Masters beat Hemel Hempstead into second place, and Hartham Masters were third. It was again another closely contended gala. There was a good turnout of officials and other volunteer support on the night.

Full results were:

1 St Albans Masters	447
2 Hemel Hempstead	309
3 Hartham Masters	306
4 Ware	208
5 Potters Bar	207
6 Berkhamsted	139
7 Hatfield	72
8 Stevenage	38
9 Cheshunt	24
10 Hoddesdon	23
11 Hitchin	21

For the 2017 Inter-County Masters gala, only eleven swimmers signed up for the event and then one withdrew. Consideration has been given to the promotion of this event, possibly at the county masters gala, with posters and flyers, and with the provision of contact details and maybe ‘entry’ type forms, so that a spreadsheet of interested athletes could be compiled.

## **Open Water**

The 2017 ASA East Region Open Water Championships took place on July 17th at Whitlingham Country Park (Norwich), and, as usual, on the same occasion Hertfordshire swimmers competed for the Hertfordshire ASA Open Water Championships 2018.

Hertfordshire swimming clubs were well represented, and there were some outstanding performances from the competing swimmers.

63 swimmers took part at the Championships (30 males and 33 females), achieving a total of six gold medals (3K Women 35/39 years old; 1.5K Women 12/16 years old and 35/39 years old; 5K Men 13/16 years old and 17/19 years old; Multi-disability), five silver medals (800m Men 15/16 years and 17 years and over; 1.5K Women 17/19 years old; 5K Men 13/16 years old and 20/24 years old), and two bronze medals (3K Women 13/16 years old; 5K Men 13/16 years old and 50/59 years old). Six swimmers qualified for the National Championships for the 1.5K, 3K and 5K events.

A special mention to Max Jeffs (Hatfield SC), who was selected to represent Team GB at the European Junior Open Water Championships held in Marseille, competing in the 7.5K event.

## **Club Development Group**

In the year to the end of March, the Club Development Manager, Karen Lawson, stood down, and Ian Mackenzie stood in as interim manager. Committee meetings, when they occurred, were not quorate. It is, however, really important that the committee continues, and thus supports the county to generate the necessary courses and continued professional development for our volunteers.

The swimming officials are catered for by Jonathan Pope, and his report is elsewhere in this Annual Report.

Team manager, safeguarding and coaching courses are all supported by Swim England East Region. The region is also very supportive of the county at its Development Weekend. This was moved to the weekend after half-term this year, so that it did not clash with club camps and other holidays. That proved to be a success, and there were greater numbers participating this year. A subsidised strength and conditioning course for our coaches was also delivered this year. A large number of courses were run – officials (various levels), three safeguarding courses, team manager 1 and team manager 2 courses, and a Time-to-Listen session.

A Paralympian came to the weekend and gave a motivational speech and that was followed by disability regional training, with athletes attending from all over the region.

Communication with clubs continues to be a challenge, but four of the committee have split the clubs into quartiles, and they communicate with the workforce co-ordinators in each club, getting information to and from the clubs.

Club, officials' and coaches' forums have continued, but the club forums in particular, have been poorly attended. The solution to this lack of interest and support is yet to be found. The county continues to financially support its members for some courses. This is also the case regionally. There are also other funds available to support club development, with application forms for funding available on the website.

## Disability Swimming

Disability and Para swimming continue to thrive in Hertfordshire, with athletes starting on their swimming journey and other athletes taking the next step in representing Great Britain on the international scene.

### Classification

World Para Swimming (WPS) announced a revised version of the WPS Classification Rules. This came into effect on 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2018, and it meant that the majority of swimmers worldwide would have their classifications reviewed. This was well timed as Paralympian Josef Craig MBE was invited to speak at the Hertfordshire Development Weekend in February. Josef, at 14 years old, was Paralympic Champion at London 2012, winning his gold medal in 400m freestyle S7. Following London 2012, Josef's classification class was routinely reviewed, and his classification was changed to S8, which meant that he was now competing against stronger swimmers. At Rio 2016 Josef won a bronze medal in the 100m freestyle, the first athlete to medal at a Paralympic Games having changed up a classification. Josef recounted his swimming journey from memory, with no props, and was an inspiration to everyone. The message to the swimmers, parents and coaches is, that it does not matter what your classification numbers are, just train hard and enjoy your swimming.



Josef Craig MBE with Janet Warrington and swimmers from Hoddesdon SC

### Disability hub clubs

Hemel Hempstead SC and Hoddesdon SC remain as Swim England Disability hub clubs, providing assessment opportunities for swimmers with a disability. Janet Warrington (Hoddesdon SC) and Oliver Waddington (Hemel Hempstead SC) continue to support coaches and train swimmers, both in the county and in East Region.

### 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 2018, swimmers from Swim England East Region and from the London Region travelled to Hertfordshire Sports Village for a regional training session. Following the motivational talk by Josef Craig, Carl Cooper 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.

### **Level Water**

Level Water provides free, one-to-one swimming lessons for children with disabilities (physical and sensory). Level Water works in partnership with the Borough of Broxbourne and Hoddesdon Swimming Club to provide these lessons. The teachers/coaches are employed by the Borough and based at the John Warner Sports Centre (Hoddesdon) or the Laura Trott Leisure Centre (Cheshunt).

For the majority of this year, there have been three staff who have been working with eight swimmers, however, recently two other level 2 teachers have been taken on. It is hoped to encourage them to start working with Level Water swimmers. There are five swimmers on the waiting list.

Swimmers who have been on the Level Water programme and moved on to the pathway of a club total three, and three other swimmers have joined a swimming club without going through Level Water. Two swimmers have progressed through the Level Water programme and are now able to swim confidently with their families or friends, but have not joined a club.

The partnership of Level Water with the Borough of Broxbourne and Hoddesdon Swimming Club is successful and working well.

### **Special Olympics East Herts**

Special Olympics East Herts (SOEH) is a branch of SOGB in the Eastern Region. There are twenty different sports and social clubs within the District of East Herts and the Borough of Broxbourne. Hoddesdon Swimming Club is one of the SOEH clubs and provides swimming training on a Tuesday evening, as well as two leisure disability swimming sessions for people with a disability (learning, physical or sensory) and their carers/families, at the two leisure centres in the Borough - John Warner and Laura Trott - every Sunday.

SOEH/Hoddesdon Swimming Club and Special Olympics St. Albans host a swimming competition which is held at Herts Sports Village in Hatfield and attracts between 120 and 150 athletes, all of whom have a learning disability. The athletes travel from all over the country; Cheshire, Coventry, Basingstoke, Bristol, Cardiff, Enfield, Essex, Fareham, Norfolk, Orpington, Peterborough, St. Albans, Wycombe, Windsor and Maidenhead. The swimming competition is supported by Swim England Hertfordshire officials, and is an event not to be missed.

### **Competitions**

Grace Harvey and Louise Fiddes 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 they 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 British Summer Championships 2017 in Sheffield was the trial meet for the Para World Championships in Mexico. Louise Fiddes achieved the qualifying standard, and was selected for the British team, but alas the World Championships were cancelled following the Mexico earthquake.

The new Junior National Para Meet was in Sunderland, and Janet Warrington accompanied her junior swimmers up North. This was their first competition requiring an overnight stay. All swimmers had a fantastic experience and were able to build on skills acquired in training.

The snowbound National Para-Swimming competition in Manchester did not stop the county's swimmers and their coach, Janet Warrington, making the long journey, and gaining medals and personal best times.

Louis Hines (S14, Watford SC) continues to be competitive, winning the Elite Men's Para race at the 'Swim Serpentine' event.

Hatfield SC and Verulam SC swimmer Lucy Jordan-Caws, 14, was selected to represent Great Britain in the European Deaf Championships 2018, in Lublin, Poland in July 2018.

Sam Carter and Louise Storey both competed at the Hertfordshire ASA County Swimming Championships for the first time. The Swimming Committee assisted with the entries from Para-swimmers by having additional Para entries added to the programme of events.

Volunteering in Disability Swimming and Special Olympics continues and is very popular, especially with teenagers seeking new skills and undertaking other activities such as Duke of Edinburgh award. Naomi Harvey and Eleanor Short also volunteered at the Swim England East Region Para Meet in Newmarket for the second year.

### **Para-Swimming programme selection**

Congratulations to the three swimmers who have been selected for talent programmes for 2018.

Louise Fiddes	Hatfield SC	S14 SB14 SM14	World Class Podium Potential
Grace Harvey	Hoddesdon SC /High Performance Centre, Manchester	S7 SB6 SM7	World Class Podium Potential
Louise Storey	Hoddesdon SC	S9 SB9 SM9	Swim England Development

### **County Colours**

The Management Board have requested the criteria by which county colours are awarded to Disability Swimmers. The Disability Committee decided that full colours would be awarded if the athlete was invited on to a World Class programme, and half colours would be awarded for an invitation on to a Swim England Talent Programme.

A recommendation was forwarded to the Management Board for full county colours to be awarded to Louise Fiddes.

### **Diving**

No report has been received.



## SwimMark

The SwimMark accreditation is regarded by Swim England 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 SwimMark accredited as at 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2018.

Aqualina Synchronised SC	Beaumont Diving Academy
Bishops Stortford SC	Cheshunt SC
City of St. Albans ASC	Harpenden SC
Hatfield SC	Hemel Hempstead SC
Hertford SC	Hitchin SC
Hoddesdon SC	Letchworth ASC
Potters BarSC	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 SwimMark status, remained available. Whilst it might appear onerous to commit to being a SwimMark club, 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 SwimMark accredited.

## Swimming Officials

The training of Swimming Technical Officials in the county continues to meet the key performance indicators, set by the Swim England, Swim England East Region and Hertfordshire ASA (now Swim England Hertfordshire) 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 2017/2018:

Timekeepers - trained and passed	-	149	(+60 previous/yr.)
Of which - young timekeepers	-	36	(+3 previous/yr.)

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

Judge Level 1	29, of which 2 young officials	(+11 previous/yr.)
Judge Level 2	6	(-4 previous/yr.)
Judge Level 2S	11	(+11 previous/yr.)
Referee	1	

Total young officials passing assessment: 2

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

Judge Level 1	90	(+54 previous/yr.), of which 7 were young officials
Judge Level 2	11	(+6 previous/yr.), of which 1 was a young official

Judge Level 2S	4	(-2 previous/yr.)
Referee	2	

Total young officials in training: 8      (-2 previous/yr.)

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

Continuing Professional Development (CPD) courses have also been run in the county, with above average attendance, to deliver mandatory elements required for re-licensing. This has been achieved by offering these courses as part of the Hertfordshire Officials’ Forum. Thanks is extended 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 (formerly the ASA), so that core databases are updated.

FINA Rules 2017	71 officials attended various courses from September 2017
Contemporary Issues	33 officials attended during 17/18

The Guide to Refereeing course for J2S officials to help them fulfil a referee’s role, was delivered at the Hertfordshire ASA Development Weekend. The take-up was good this year. Swim England continue to offer this training 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:

- 65 officials volunteered to work over the fourteen sessions
- 32 officials volunteered to work per session on average
- 17 officials received mentoring
- 6 officials were successful in their assessment

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

Disclosure and Barring Service training, and Safeguarding training was introduced as a requirement for course presenters. This requirement was extended until May 2018.

Hertfordshire ASA, as part of Swim England East Region, has seen volunteers reduce in this area and the county is now short of course presenters. Efforts have continued to try to recruit new volunteers, but this has slowed owing to the new regulations.

Currently the county has six course presenters, and the need to increase numbers in this area is accepted, in order to support the existing team.

It is important to thank those who are part of the training process - course presenters and assessment teams who volunteer their time to the county to deliver training, present courses and conduct assessments. Their valuable work is much appreciated, as it is for the benefit of our volunteers who are undertaking Swim England qualifications to support the athletes in the county in attaining qualifying times for regional and national events.

## Synchronised Swimming

The last year has seen some significant progress for synchronised swimming across the county, with the continued growth of the newest club, Hatfield, and Aqualina medalling at national level. The other two established clubs, Dacorum and Potters Bar, have both reported reductions in the number of members, but Aqualina's growth has remained steady, and Hatfield is continuing to grow.

The table, below, summarises some of the key statistics across all clubs, notable points being the growth of master's swimmers with Aqualina. This has really taken off over the period. The number of officials in the county remains low. The number of Level 2 synchronised swimming coaches is also low. Both areas can be considered as target areas to push for increased numbers, and any support available to achieve this would be welcomed. Over the period, three competitions were held at regional level. These all took place at the Stevenage pool. Three Grading days were also held at regional level. These also took place in the county at Hartham pool in Hertford.

Category	Aqualina	Dacorum	Hatfield	Potters Bar
				(estimated)
Total swimmers (includes masters)	32	14	13	16
Masters swimmers	7	0	0	0
Weekly training hours	3 pool, 1 land	2.5 pool only	2 pool, 1.5 land	3 pool, 1 land
Competitions entered	4	0	2	3
Officials	5	0	1	3
Coach L1	4	1	1	1
Coach L2	1	1	1	1

### Synchronised Swimming National Combo Cup 2017 16<sup>th</sup> Sep 2017

During the last 12 months, the world of synchronised swimming, has seen a lot of changes - one of them being the addition of the Combo Cup. A new national competition, open to all clubs in the UK, and applicable to various different age groups -split into two divisions to accommodate those clubs with swimmers who have achieved higher skill grades of Grade 3 or above, and a division specifically for those clubs with swimmers at Grades 1 or 2 and below. (Aqualina was the only club from the county which entered).

Aqualina Synchronised Swimming Club's Head Coach Kerri Brennan decided that this was a competition she wanted ALL her swimmers to compete in. This was a totally new and exciting experience for many of the swimmers, who had never competed at a national level before. It took place on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2017. Three teams were formed. With a team of ten (the maximum allowed to swim) aged from 13 to 18yrs, she had one team, which meant that, within the category, she could enter a second team, which was another eight swimmers. An Under 12 team of six swimmers was also assembled, with the youngest being just nine years of age. Every (junior) swimmer in the club, regardless of ability or prior performance, took part.

Aqualina exceed all expectations and took gold and silver in the 13 to 18yrs category, and the Under 12 team came a respectable 8<sup>th</sup> out of 21 clubs.

## **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. The Roy Rogers Memorial Trophy was not presented this year, as there were no nominations.

### ***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 Louise Hughes.

### ***The Wilkinson Sword***

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

## **Finance Officer's report**

The latest set of accounts for the county will be available as a separate handout at the meeting. These accounts have been approved by the Management Board, but are still awaiting inspection by the Independent Examiner.

The accounts for the year ended 31st March 2017 have now been approved by the Independent Examiner.

Once again, the format of the 2018 accounts has changed slightly to reflect the more normal layout of the figures.

Income from disciplines has reduced for the year, with the most notable reduction being from swimming. This reduction is due to insufficient receipts at the annual County Swimming Championships, resulting from some qualifying times being higher than necessary. Lessons have been learned, and this should be corrected for the 2019 championships.

There is an increase in the level of capitation fees compared with 2017, as the basis on which these are paid has changed. Capitation fees are charged on a calendar year basis, which is different to the county's accounting year. In previous years the capitation fees for a particular year were not paid out by the ASA until April each year, meaning that, as the income is recognised on a receipts basis, this was not brought into the accounts until received.

For 2018 The Amateur Swimming Association (Swim England) Limited. has changed the payment basis, and **this** has accelerated some of the membership payments. Therefore, for the 2018 accounts year, the capitation fees are those received for 2017 as well as an initial payment for the 2018 year, making the amounts received higher than would otherwise be the case.

Membership numbers continue to increase, with the number of paid members for 2017 being 6,318, an increase on 2016 numbers of 340.

During the year the county acquired a number of computers for nil cost, but they did need some updating for batteries etc, and this cost has been shown as an increase in fixed assets.

Overall, despite there being a deficit for the year, the county has a healthy balance sheet and will be able to support the aquatic endeavours of its athletes well into the future.

## **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.

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

Finally, sincere thanks to all the 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 the member clubs and athletes.

**For, and on behalf, of the Swim England Hertfordshire Management Board**  
**Sheila Mackenzie**  
**Association Secretary**

## **President's Addendum**

Firstly, I would like to say what a privilege and a pleasure it has been to serve the county as president for the year. The time has flown by, and, as we approach the end of the year, I fear I have not supported as many events as I would have liked.

I was fortunate enough to join the Hertfordshire team at the National Inter-County Team Championships in Sheffield, and thank all concerned for making me feel part of the group.

I attended a regional synchronised swimming event, and was impressed by the endurance and stamina of the competitors and supporting families.

Unfortunately, I have not witnessed any diving or water polo events during my year, but I wish them well especially as facilities for their disciplines are so hard to come by.

My first engagement of the year was the Hertfordshire Open Water Championships, within the regional championships, with Hertfordshire athletes competing whose names were familiar to me from pool competitions. This event is always a grand day out, and has almost a holiday atmosphere, with picnic blankets and burger stands.

The County Championships for competitive swimming were held over three weekends, and the swimmers' performances were outstanding. The event was staged with many features often only seen at national events, such as live streaming and the presentation of finalists. Those organising this, and those helping it run so smoothly, are to be congratulated.

I must also commend all those in the background who enable these fantastic sporting events across all the disciplines to happen in such an effective way. Officials, promoters, team managers, club committees, county committees, helpers, competitors, supporters and sponsors all play their part. The county is always looking to boost the ranks of helpers and officials.

Thank you to all who have made my year so enjoyable.

Ian Bays  
Swim England Hertfordshire President 2017-2018

# SWIM ENGLAND HERTFORDSHIRE

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[www.hertsasa.org.uk](http://www.hertsasa.org.uk)

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Synchronised Swimming:

Swimming, including Masters and Open Water: Water Polo

**Events: Courses: Contacts: Galas: Competitions**