



Kent County Amateur Swimming Association Annual Report 2014

The Management Committee of the Kent County ASA www.kentswimming.org has pleasure in presenting the Annual Report for 2014.

I feel that I must start the report with the sad news we received this summer, with the deep regret we learnt of the death of one of our Past Presidents, John Carrie.



John Carrie KCASA President 2006

John came into swimming when his daughters Anne and Fiona joined Sevenoaks SC in 1971 and, like so many parents, rather than sitting on the balcony became involved in the Club eventually taking over as Chairman. John was elected a member of the County Executive Committee when he became Secretary of the Kent County ASA in 1981 upon the retirement of Ernest Keighley. John held this post until 2000 but still remained on the Executive and when Regionalisation of the ASA Counties came into being in 2005/6 and the County became split between London and the South East Regions John took on the role as Secretary of the Kent Rural Swimming Association. He was President of the Kent County ASA in 1984 and 2006.

John, as County Representative, became a member of the Southern Counties ASA Executive when he took on the position as County Secretary; in later years he was elected as its Deputy General Hon. Secretary. John undertook the mammoth task of checking all the Club Constitutions in the District, at that time encompassing eight Counties, and upon Regionalisation carried on this role for the South East Region. John continued to help Clubs with their Constitutions up to the time of his death. Upon the sudden death of the Secretary Jeff Cook in 2004 John took over the reins as Secretary of the District up to the time Regionalisation was finalised in 2005/6. John was President of the SCASA in 1994, at the same time as his wife Pat was President of the Kent County ASA.

John represented the Southern Counties ASA on the ASA Committee for a number of years and again until Regionalisation came into being. He was Chairman of the Swim 21 Panel for the South East Region since its inception and vacated the Chair at the end of 2013.

He became interested in officiating and qualified as an ASA Referee for swimming events working at many National events but on numerous occasions as one of the Announcers. John assisted in the running of many

courses for the training of officials and carrying out examinations throughout the County. He officiated at Regional, County, League and Club events. He was Chairman of the Kent Junior League for a number of years and I believe he only vacated the Chair a year ago.

Despite being very involved with the Red Cross and the Rotary Club John dedicated most of his time to swimming activities, proving to be very efficient at all the roles he undertook. John's passing is undoubtedly the end of an era. His conscientious approach (he claimed that until recently he had never failed to attend a meeting), time freely given and commitment to promoting swimming at all levels has been a shining example to us all. It is clearly a sad time to Pat, Anne, Fiona and the rest of the family, but hopefully they will take comfort in the knowledge of the high regard in which John was held - most especially by his extended 'family' at Kent County ASA.

County Swimming Manager, Jean Scott, had a very busy time organising her 14th County Swimming Championships held at Medway Park during February and March. It was an excellent Championship with many Event Best Performances recorded. We are grateful to the many officials and also the volunteers – without them the Championships could not take place.

Jo King, Trophies Co-ordinator, ensured once again that all the trophies were available for the presentations and this Don Johnstone organised all the medals for all disciplines. We thank them both for all their work.

The Masters Championships in July were organised by Shelley Robinson, County Masters Secretary

Carina Enderby continued to do a sterling job as Swimming Officials Examinations Co-ordinator and Swimming Officials Appointments Officer, Carina has successfully re-organised training for officials across the county. As a result we have seen the number of licensed officials in Kent increase but there is always the need for more volunteers to come forward to train in this field.

Open Water swimming has been going from strength to strength and I am very grateful to Lewis Parnell who has offered to take on the Open water Swimming Secretary role for 2015.

Carolyn Crowe and Erica Moo took over as Synchronised Swimming Managers at the beginning of the year and have worked very hard publicizing Synchro across the county. We are grateful to them both for their continued support and organisation.

Paul Holehouse has continued to run Water Polo in Kent with some great results this year, Paul has organised the Water Polo Committee Meetings and Finances and I am pleased to say that Kent Water Polo continues to flourish.

Kent Diving has started to show the first signs of a resurgence in the able hands of Betty Allen. She is planning to run some training workshops over the next year, but we are still looking for a Diving Manager to coordinate the diving activity in the county.

The County dinner this year was organised by Norma Nyaulingo and very well attended.

Kay Grimshaw continued as Secretary Kent London SA and Shelley Robinson as Secretary Kent Rural SA and I would like to personally thank them both for their continued help and advice over the past twelve months.

Kathy Hook, this year as well as our President is County Treasurer, and as usual has done an excellent job keeping our financial affairs in order and we are grateful to her for producing the Annual Accounts of the Association.

This year we have seen the formation of the Kent Coach Forum, which has had several successful meetings and we encourage all qualified Coaches in Kent to attend these meetings.

Our thanks go to Ann Hunt (Welfare Officer) and Dr Beverley Choong (Medical Adviser) for their work on behalf of the County, and especially to Barbara Upton who has continued to keep in the County loop, despite having been very ill over this last year. We continue to send our best wishes for her recovery.

I wish to thank everyone within the county for their help and support throughout the year.

Sarah Coe

Honorary General Secretary on behalf of the Management Committee

President's Report 2014

Kent County is a special County and I am deeply privileged to have had the honour of being your President during 2014. I would like to thank the Past Presidents for electing me.

We have had a remarkable year and continue to bring the best in aquatic events to all of those in the county. I have had the opportunity to attend and present awards at Club, County and Regional events in most disciplines. I have thrilled at watching Synchro and cheered on our teams at Water Polo. Manning the medal table at the Swimming Championships gave me the opportunity to meet the up and coming generation and to shake many wet hands. All these duties were an honour and a delight. It was a thrill to watch the high standard of swimming at the Inter Counties and to be in Sheffield representing Kent. Congratulations to Jean Scott and the team on their eleventh place.

I would like to thank the Management Committee for all their hard work and support this year. A special thank you to Sarah Coe, who as our Secretary keeps things running smoothly.

I have totally enjoyed my year and look forward to supporting Scott Walker who takes over the chain from me.

Kathy Hook
President 2014

Swimming Report

Following an excellent well documented 4th place at the National Inter County Championships, 2015 started in earnest with the county championships. The largest ever entry to the championships was accepted. There were worrying times ahead to ensure that sessions were completed within the licensing regulations, the appropriate numbers of officials were in attendance, safety during warm ups was not compromised and that it would be an enjoyable experience for all. Without a doubt and with the compliments flowing in from club coaches and team managers the 2015 championships were one of the best series of competitions I have ever witnessed and been part of.

The Development Camp took place at the Sennocke Centre in early February. Many of the swimmers who took part in the Development Meet the previous November were already on course for swimming at the 2014 County Championships. Both the Development Meet and follow up camp give the swimmers an experience of a county run event and what to expect at the County Championships.

On 16 March there was an attempt to set up a Kent Coach Forum. However, what should have been an initial welcome, as to how the meetings would be organised, was hijacked with the draft proposals of what was to become the 'Competition Review'. In old language the Long Term Athlete Development' (LTAD) programme or 'Success is Long Term'. Kent coaches were asked to keep the information, imparted, under their hats until such time as British Swimming published the information for swimming in 2015 and onwards. A meeting was planned for 18 May with the expectation of news. There was none, only delay. I expected to be able to update the coaches on 8 September the normal club coach/club administrator meeting. By this time I had already re-arranged 2015 county dates, twice. 8 September, still no information but would be out by the end of September – information was prepared to go on to the Kent web site immediately but then we heard on the grapevine that British Swimming was not meeting until 5 October. Without further ado, as agreed at the meeting on 8 September, Kent County ASA could wait no longer and published the QTs and took the decision to keep age as at the end of the championships and the youngest age group at 9 yrs. The last meeting of the Kent Coach Forum will take place on 23 November by which time I feel confident!!! the 'Competition Review' will be almost finalised where it affects county swimming. It will be shortly after this date the Kent County web site will be updated with details for 2016 championships – to pave the way for clubs to organise their training programmes. It is also anticipated that the format for the Development Meet in November 2015 will be changed to accommodate the effects of the competition review for the county championships in 2016

While all this was going on Kent swimmers still maintained a presence at Regional and National championships. There were the successes and the disappointments but you got there and competed. Kent swimmers still continue to make their mark at the highest level.

As I write this report, the county team has been selected for the National Inter counties at Sheffield in October. All invitations have been accepted and it is fingers crossed that the swimmers remain fit and well until competition day. A team get together was organised for late September. The starting point for selection

of a county team is the current year's championships and thereafter from rankings. Both short course and converted long course times are taken into consideration.

DO NOT forget to claim those county swimming records. Records achieved at the county championships DO NOT have to be claimed but all other potential records achieved, you SHOULD claim the record yourself in the stipulated time, even if the swim was done at the Nationals. Details are on the county web site.

It is quite disconcerting to note that the ASA calendar does not show a date for the National County Team Championships in 2015 but seeing as it is mainly short course swimming from September to December according to the 'Competition Review', I cannot see any reason why this competition does not continue. I would ask that you keep an eye on the ASA calendar before making plans for training camps or going off on the last family holiday of the year, as a date to avoid, 17/18 October 2015.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all Kent swimmers in their swimming achievements this year from club level to National level and beyond. Again swimmers have achieved academically with GCSE and A level results. I continue to marvel at the dedication that these swimmers put into their swimming during an external examination year and at the same time produce outstanding results academically. Likewise the transition from primary to secondary school also places different pressures on younger swimmers.

I finish by taking this opportunity to thank the Swimming Committee for their support throughout the year in particular Daphne Geer for taking the minutes of the meeting and producing these so promptly the next day; Jo King, Trophy Secretary, for calling in and cleaning the trophies in readiness for the county championships (swimmers please return these when requested in the same immaculate condition that they were presented to you); Don Johnstone, Medals Secretary, for arranging the medals to be available at the championships; Kim Longland for providing the music at the championships and warm up march; the host clubs Bexley, Bromley, Maidstone, RTW Monson, Sevenoaks and Thanet. There is a massive workforce of volunteers who all deserve to be individually mentioned but then someone would be left out. Parents/guardians who ferry their children to training sessions and competitions. Club coaches training swimmers to national and international standard. Club administrators who more often than not have the difficult task of trying to keep members happy. I can only give an enormous thank you for your support of swimming in the county because without you we cannot run and organise competitive swimming in Kent.

Last but not least I extend a warm thank you to Paul Simmons of Dover for all his help over the years with the 'retired' Kent County web site and with the swimming side of this in particular. His children gave up competitive swimming years ago but he always maintained a quiet presence in the back ground giving valuable assistance with the old web site when asked.

Jean Scott
Swimming Manager

Open Water Swimming Report

The 2014 Open water event was once again very well supported. The Championships events run over four distances, 3K, 2K, 1.5K and 1K. There were 28 Kent entrants in total for all the distances, which was a great improvement on entry numbers from last year. The Open Water championships continue to grow in numbers each year.

For the past two years the event has been held in July at Surrey Docks and has been a very successful day for Kent swimmers. The event has been run in conjunction with London Region.

There were several Kent Clubs represented, Beckenham, Sevenoaks, Saxon Crown, PWASC, Canterbury and Hythe Aqua. We look forward to seeing many more of our Kent swimmers there in 2015.

Sarah Coe
Open Water Manager

Masters & Seniors Report

For Kent Masters, 2013 ended with the ASA Inter-County Competition which was hosted by Sussex. As usual around sixty invitations were sent out to recruit a team of thirty or so, although I should add that for many, marriage, pregnancy, milestone birthday celebrations and injury were most probably valid excuses. In the final

analysis we came fifteenth out of thirty counties nationally which was a respectable result but clearly not in the same league as the age groupers who had performed exceptionally well in their inter-county competition.

The first big competition in the Masters calendar was the South East Region LC Competition at the beginning of February. Kent swimmers set three EBTs which was an excellent result:

65/69	Brian Hunt	RTW Masters	50 Back	35.93
18/24	Lou Gates	Thanet	400 Free	4:41.49
18/24	Lou Gates	Thanet	200 IM	2.30.07

But, although out-of-county, the highlight of the weekend had to be watching and cheering on Surrey's John Harrison as he set world records in the 100-104 age group - a testimony to lifelong participation. And, as usual, our thanks must go to Geoff Stokes who so ably organises it.

The county Masters and Seniors championships were held on 13 July with the number of entrants almost identical to last year (165) and ranging in age from 19-77. There were 50 novices to the Championships and, overall, a vastly improved male:female ratio of 3:2.

Between them the entrants produced an impressive set of 24 new EBTs, many of which were also County Records: Rebecca Stewart (3), Jenny Vick (2), Pauline Caven, Barbara Wiles, Shauna King, Teresa Stringer, Clive Bates (2), Paul Hancock, Mark Russell, Paul Fakley, Alan Burrows (2), James Melvin (3) and Brian Hunt (3). RTW Masters once again took the Top Club award although a number of other clubs had made the strategic move of maximising their entries to try to push them off top spot! As in previous years, I am eternally grateful to Jean Scott and Carina Enderby who bear the administration and officials' burdens for this competition.

The decision has been made to fix the date in the calendar as the last Sunday in June (28 June for the 2015 Championships) - hopefully too late to clash with school fetes but before schools start to break up for the holidays.

There has been plenty of Kent representation in National and International events which has helped produce the 80 or so Masters & Seniors records either set or broken during 2014 - a testimony to the grit and determination of the county's Masters & Seniors.

Kent clubs have entered a number of local competitions, discovering that one way to get round the inability to fill a team is to enter as an amalgam of two or more clubs. This has been an effective strategy and provides some good competition with the aim of not being an elite squad but giving the opportunity for Masters of a whole range of abilities to take part in this type of competition. Great fun indeed!

We are now almost back where we started. At the time of writing, the final competition in the annual calendar has yet to be swum. Kent are hosting the Regional round of the 2014 Inter-County competition at Beckenham Spa. Counties often do better on home turf ... watch this space.

Shelley Robinson
Masters Manager

Synchronised Swimming Report

We had a very successful Kent championships, held on 9 November at Kingsmead Leisure Centre Canterbury. The event was held in conjunction with an invitational competition. All 5 Kent clubs were well represented, as were the 3 invited clubs. 134 girls participated in figures, which were compulsory, followed by 32 routines which were well received by guests, audience and swimmers. We were lucky to have the Kent president, Kathy Hook, as well as Amy Campbell and Jodie Cowie, two GB squad swimmers who started their careers in Kent, to present the medals and trophies.

Progression trophy was won by Emma Botley, Medway Mermaids, and the Synchronised Swimmer of the Year (Senior Solo trophy) by Rachel Crowe, Medway Mermaids.

Both Medway Mermaids and Hythe Aqua have been pro-active in promoting the sport, taking part in the Medway Big splash, Medway free swimming promotional videos and Sports Relief promotional events. All clubs have held open days / shows to give the swimmers performance experience and to encourage recruitment locally.

All 5 Kent Clubs have maintained or grown their number of swimmers this year and there have been a number of new officials and coaches successfully trained. Medway Mermaids gained Swim 21 accreditation.

There have been successes for all clubs throughout the year in competitions at Reading Novices, SE Novices, Potters Bar and SE recreational regional competitions.

Kent clubs will be represented at NAGS in December this year by swimmers who have qualified from Erith & District (2), Hythe Aqua (3) and Medway Mermaids (1). Recreational teams from Hythe Aqua and Medway Mermaids will also be competing.

Carolyn Crowe & Erica Moo
Synchronised Swimming Managers

Water Polo Report

Junior Player of Year: Ben Tinkler-Davis (Beckenham Water Polo Club)

- Integral part of Kent U16 triumph in the SE Regional Tournament
- Playing for Invicta Seniors whilst a junior in British Water Polo League

Senior Player of Year: Patrick Baker (Beckenham Water Polo Club)

- Stalwart of all Kent and Invicta sides over many years, rising through the junior to senior ranks.
- Helped motivate and mentor Kent and Invicta juniors.
- Maintained a calming and thoughtful influence during team meetings and finally his contribution to the websites and branding.

Kent Seniors: Kent Cup was won by Sevenoaks again beating Bexley in the final. The Kent League title looks like Beckenham will retain, although Hythe and Folkestone are still in with a chance, a very competitive year.

Juniors: We have continued to build on the Kent Festival successes from 2011, 2012 & 2013 with over 100 youngsters playing ranging in age from 9 to 16 - a major success! The knock on effect continues to be increased participation in the annual junior tournaments - Woolwich Trophy (born 98 and later Mixed) & renamed Sean King Shield (born 2000 and later Mixed) both won by Beckenham in September/October, who continue their dominance in these age groups.

New Junior clubs: Greenwich are now up and running with a small weekly junior training session and also Bexley have in the last few months established a junior section, which is excellent news as we continue to try to expand water at grassroots level in Kent.

New Ladies Tournament: More fantastic news we held an inaugural Kent Ladies tournament which was a major success with Beckenham proving too strong for the other clubs.

County Squads: Kent continue to be a dominate force in SE & London Regional completion. The Kent U19 Girls were winners in fantastic style totally outclassing the opposition, I competition I am very proud of as I launched this on behalf of Kent 3 years ago. Kent U16 Mixed were also fantastic winners playing some of the best water polo I have seen Kent play over the last 4 years. Kent Over 40s and Kent U16 Girls were also r/ups. This continues to be a massive logistics exercise for me arranging trails and training nights with no money in water polo to speak of.

Future Plans: Kent/Invicta have drawn up a development plan to be presented to SE Region and Kent ASA, where grassroots is our continuing theme and the future for Kent Water Polo. If we really want to make a difference and make Kent Water Polo the best we must have a professional approach I still need to attract more help in Kent to help make our plan succeed and then our ability to attract funding via sponsors etc.

Paul Holehouse
Water Polo Manager

Swimming Officials

As always and most importantly a big thank you to all the officials who have helped at galas, run courses, sat on committees and helped me in any other way during the last year. It is very much appreciated.

Year on year we are still growing a little stronger, but can never afford to sit back as need to feed a steady stream of newly qualified licensed officials into the system to ensure seamless succession.

Last year we launched a new system for officials' training to cover the Contemporary Issues CPD, Rules Update CPD, J1, J2, and J2S classroom sessions and advertised the courses via the kentswimming.org website. Candidates then made up the required courses by attending the relevant session/s from a list of sessions organized to run across the county. This approach allows candidates to go at their own speed and helps to overcome the problems that arise when candidates miss a session and get behind.

We will be continuing with this approach in 2015, but unfortunately due to lack of interest last year, when course leaders were sometimes turning up to find empty classrooms, we will be cutting the number of opportunities in each area down.

All officials are encouraged to further their officiating career by attending further courses and/or CPD seminars. Please remember that The Rules Update CPD and The Contemporary Issues CPD are mandatory for licensed officials.

Please help me by ensuring that everyone knows about the courses and encourage them to sign up and come along.

Carina Enderby

Swimming Officials Examinations Co-ordinator & Swimming Officials Appointments Secretary

Education Report

We have three independent ASA Approved Centres delivering teacher/coach courses in the county: Aquability (<http://www.aquabilityttc.co.uk>) based at Eltham College, Pulse Training & Development (<http://www.pulsetnd.co.uk>) based at JAGs, Dulwich, and The Excellent Performance team based in East Kent (ellie.purvis65@gmail.com), as well as a number of venues round the county with courses run by the IoS.

The use of blended learning (doing core units on line and then attending a course for the practical units) is increasing all the time, as is qualifying via RPL (recognised prior learning) by providing evidence that meets the qualifications - work experience, other qualifications, etc. We are also working on even more flexible learning programmes that could be a mixture of traditional courses, on-line, RPL and assessment opportunities to suit individuals as a way forward in the county - watch this space!

There is information on funding sources available at http://www.kentsport.org/funding_index.asp and, of course, the SER Bursary Scheme is still running, providing funding for teacher/coach and other qualifications - visit <http://www.southeastswimming.org/education/> for full details.

Next year Kent is planning to run a Development Day for all its volunteers, officials, teachers, etc. The date has yet to be decided (where are the free dates in the calendar?) but it will include workshops and other training opportunities for the whole range of workforce and volunteers.

A new format was piloted this year for training officials, with workshops timetabled for the whole year. The intention was to allow people to plan their progress to suit themselves, but the response has been mixed, with some workshops very under-subscribed. Despite that, we are getting more officials out there on the poolside which has to be good.

Finally, the new website has proved a success being - as it is - a mine of useful information. Do visit it if you want more details on education and training opportunities - it is your resource!

Shelley Robinson

Education Officer

Development Report

Progress on a 50m pool has been minimal due to a lack of enthusiasm for the idea from the coaches' forum. Coaches are more concerned to have an 8 lane 25m facility with plenty of around the pool space for the Kent Championships. Plans are in hand for a Development Day in 2015 for club administrators, volunteers, teachers and coaches - date to be decided. A structure for a KCASA development plan to work to (as with other county ASAs) was forwarded for consideration at the recent September management committee meeting.

There has been little progress in coordination of the development requirements of the various discipline representatives (some posts remain empty) which must be addressed shortly. Initial exploratory discussions have begun with various organisations (Kent Universities, Kent Independent Schools, Sports Facility Operators and Borough Councils) regarding joint initiatives with KCASA for our mutual benefit.

John King
Development Officer

Item 9 on the Agenda: Presentation of Awards

Keighley Memorial Trophies (Swimming Championship Points Winners)

Ladies/Girls: Beckenham SC
Men/Boys: Thanet SC

Kent Schools Swimming Association Trophies (Runners-up)

Ladies/Girls: Sevenoaks SC
Men/Boys: Beckenham SC

John and Pat Carrie Trophies (3rd Place)

Ladies/Girls: Thanet SC
Men/Boys: Sevenoaks SC

Age Group Trophies (Swimming Championship Points Winners)

Girls: Sevenoaks SC
Boys: Thanet SC

Masters' Swimming Club Points Trophy

RTW Monson SC

Masters Swimmers of the Year

Female: Della Jenkins (RTW Masters)
Male: Mariusz Barcikowski (Black Lion)

Edward G Maples Memorial Trophy

Mr K Surry (Maidstone SC)

Swimmer of the Year

Lauren Walton (Beckenham SC)

Junior Swimmer of the Year

Theo Haslam (Bromley SC)

Diver of the Year

Synchronised Swimming Progression Trophy

Emma Botley (Medway Mermaids)

Synchronised Swimmer of the year

Rachel Crowe (Medway Mermaids)

Water Polo Player of the Year:

Junior: Ben Tinkler-Davis (Beckenham WPC)
Senior: Patrick Baker (Beckenham WPC)

Keighley/Mayes Trophy:

Molly Haynes (Orpington Ojays SC)

President's Cup:

Bromley SC

Item 10 on the Agenda: Election and induction of the Vice President for 2014

Mrs Jean Scott (White Oak SC and Beckenham SC)

Item 11 on the Agenda: Election and induction of the President for 2014

Mr Scott Walker (Dover Life Guard SC)

Item 12 on the Agenda: Declaration of the Election of the Management Committee

Honorary Treasurer and Trustee:

General Secretary:

Secretary Kent London SA:

Secretary Kent Rural SA:

Mrs Kathy Hook (Beckenham SC)

Mrs Sarah Coe (Petts Wood ASC)

Mrs Kay Grimshaw (Bromley SC)

Mrs Shelley Robinson (Sevenoaks SC)

Elected Representatives – Kent London SA:

Mr John Handley (Beckenham SC)

Mrs Norma Nyaulingo (Bexley SC)

Mrs Jean Scott (White Oak SC and Beckenham SC)

Elected Representatives – Kent Rural SA:

Mrs Carina Enderby (Maidstone SC)

Mrs Ann Hunt (RTW Monson SC)

Mrs Barbara Upton (Larkfield SC)

Mr Scott Walker (Dover Life Guard SC)

Vacancy

Item 13 on the Agenda:

Vote of thanks to the host club: Dover Life Guard SC

Item 14 on the Agenda:

Vote of thanks to the Scrutineers