



Amateur Swimming & Lifesaving Club

(Affiliated to ASA South West & North Wilts. RLSS)

Members Newsletter September 2011

IMPORTANT NOTICE: At the Extraordinary General Meeting held on Monday 18th July the proposal was passed to amend and simplify the fee structure.

The new structure and monthly fees will be as follows-

Learn To Swim / Junior Development	£13
Senior Development	£17
Competition squad.....	£20
Life Saving	£16
Masters	£18

Subject to sorting out the administration these changes will take effect from 1st November 2011 and the Treasurer will advise you of the changes required to your standing orders.

Competition Squad



Congratulations to the comp squad for a great performance in the Summer League.

Racing in 4 meets they won each gala comprehensively and as a result were run away winners of division 4 and have gained promotion. Competition will be even stiffer next summer and distances increased.

Thanks also to the very vocal support the swimmers received at each gala. The great Otters support and team spirit is often commented on by other team coaches.

Winter League dates

Round 1 - Nov 26th

Round 2 - Jan 14th

Round 3 & 4 - TBC

Polite reminder from Dave that all Competition

Squad members are requested to swim a minimum of twice a week. If they are experiencing problems, they should contact Dave to discuss.

Masters

We currently have approx 40 swimmers in the Masters section, swimming Sat and Sundays 8-9am at Next Generation. Over the summer Masters have taken advantage of extra training on a Tuesday and Thursday evening, alongside the main squads, completing up to 4500m in a session!

From Sept 2011, coaching will take place on the second full weekend of the month, which is when any new swimmers would be welcome to start. Please contact Mark Hopkins in advance.

On 1st October Masters will be taking part in the third Wiltshire Masters Gala of the year at Salisbury.

Thank you and congratulations to the new volunteers that have come forward and have successfully passed their Level 1 Teaching. Also, for a period of 3 weeks in the near future, some of the coaches will be benefiting from an experienced outside coach coming in and sharing ideas and techniques during our Tuesday evening sessions. All of which will benefit the swimmers.

Lifesaving



Don't forget Otters also has a successful Lifesaving section which offers an alternative for those who love the water, who want to be challenged and who want more than just swimming lessons. The Lifesaving section provides opportunities for children to keep interested and active in aquatics, offering a fantastic opportunity to learn valuable water skills that could save their own life or the lives of others, whilst enjoying fun sessions and receiving recognition for their achievements.

If you'd like further information check out the Otters website or e-mail Gary on garyusher1@sky.com. Lifesaving meets on a Thursday night at Next Gen, between 7:30 and 8:30pm

Club Championships and Presentation night Advanced notice

This year's club championships will take place on dates between 8th and 20th November. The main events (25m, 50m and 100m) will take place at the Link Centre on Saturday 12th and 19th. Longer distance events will be held at Next Generation. Entry forms will be distributed soon and as always we will be seeking numerous volunteers for various roles at each session.

Trophies-We will be writing in October to everyone who won trophies in the Club Championships last year to ask for their return by the middle of December. In the meantime, this is just a polite reminder that the trophies need to be engraved and cleaned/polished before they are returned. Some of the trophies come back in a shocking state and we are always having to chase people for returns right up until Christmas because they have not been engraved. Any queries in the meantime, please ring Karen or Iain on 851374.



Cancelled Family Social Evening 9th September

The Committee would like to thank club captains Ciaran Alstowe and Katie Leviers for all of their efforts in organising the family social evening which unfortunately had to be cancelled due to the lack of ticket sales. This was disappointing as we like to think of ourselves as a socialable club and not just a Competitive Club

ANNUAL PRESENTATION NIGHT Sat 21st January 2012 Hilton Hotel, Swindon



Once again, we are holding our Annual Presentation the big social event of the year. To enable more people to attend, we have changed our venue to the Hilton Hotel at J16. We anticipate a good turnout as in previous years it has been a great success and a sellout. In keeping with the new venue, it is requested that the dress code is smart.

All tickets will cost £8 per head. This includes the venue, disco and a hot buffet. There will be a private bar in the room where drinks can be purchased.

The evening starts with an opening speech by the club chairman, followed by the presentation of certificates, trophies and medals won at the Club Championships in November. There are also other awards for Lifesaving and other individual awards. Following conclusion of the formal part of the evening, the disco will commence and the buffet will be served. Please note that during the presentation, the bar will be closed and all guests requested to be seated.

In previous years, tickets have been in great demand and have been available right till the day of the event. This year due to the change of venue, we will need all tickets to be bought and paid for by **FRIDAY 9th DEC** at the latest.

Unfortunately tickets **will not** be available following this date.

Although this is a family social evening, The Hilton Hotel has stated that all children must remain within the main hall at all times under the supervision of their parents. Young children must be accompanied to the toilet by their parents.

Finally, the Otters Committee would like to thank all club members and their families for their continued support throughout the year and look forward to seeing you at what we know will be a fantastic evening celebrating the club's successes.

Tickets will be available from the beginning of October at usual swimming times. On Sunday 2-4pm from Binny Upham and on Tuesday and Thursdays 6.30-8pm from Louise Alstowe. However, we do appreciate that some of you may wish to wait until the club champs finish in November.

LIME KILN



Thanks to all of the Swimmers and parents who turned out before the summer break at the Area Board Meeting supporting the need for a for a new pool to be incorporated in any new 'Community Campus'. In addition to giving a very positive message of the demand for a pool in Wootton Bassett we also got the opportunity of seeing Inge walking down the High Street in Swimming hat and goggles!!

We hope the views have been taken on board and the Otters have also made formal representations to the Shadow Community Board regarding the Swimming need in Wootton Bassett, not only for Otters but for the community as a whole.

PLEASE regularly check the Otters notice board at Next Generation which is located in the corridor opposite the changing rooms.

Next Generation Emergency Evacuation Procedure.

At Next Generation, in the event of a fire or other emergency, NG staff will chaperon all swimmers, giving space blankets as necessary, to the outside of the building via the doors leading to the outside pool. Parents and children will reunite at the front car park. Parents/carers are requested not to go to the changing room and try to find their child at poolside but listen to Next Generation staff and join your children at the front of the building.

Parents are also reminded that they are to stay on the premises for all children under the age of 12, in the event of any sudden illness at poolside. Otters volunteers are not able to look after unwell children. If parents are unable to stay then they must ensure that a nominated adult is willing to help with their child should anything occur. Children over the age of 12 and under 16 years of age can be left but again a nominated adult needs to remain on the premises in the event of an emergency.

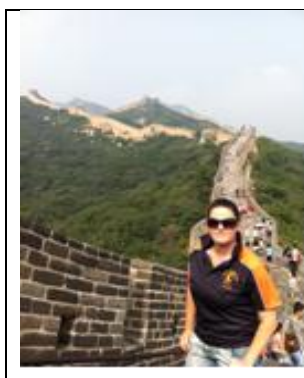
REMINDER

We are trying to keep the website updated with dates, events etc and where every possible communicating with parents/teachers and coaches via email. Please continue to check the website, and emails. **It is also very important** that you let us know of any changes in personal details, such as phone numbers, email and especially **any changes to a swimmers' health.**

And finally....

How Far Can an Otters Shirt Travel ?

Apparently 5,000 miles.



Thank you to Martin Frith who sent us this photo from the Great Wall of China.

Let's see where else in the world, near or far the Otter shirt has been worn!

Please send photo's to jandjsutton@talktalk.net