



MAY 2010 NEWSLETTER

HADEN HILL SWIMMING CLUB

(Affiliated to ASA and ASA West Midlands Region and WCSA)

Ross League Final

The club has already reached the final of the Ross League with one gala still remaining. The final is on Saturday 12th June at Gloucester. The Ross League Final swimming hats that you may see some of our swimmers wearing have already been ordered. With the hats, t-bags and new hoodies that some of our swimmers have ordered we should look like quite a team in the final.

Relegation Fight

Both teams were in action last Saturday in The Diddy's. Though the A team came 6th the swimmers all swam really well and we had some first places and some individual PB's. After coming 5th in the first gala we now have only three points and so with the final gala on June 26th we are involved in a relegation fight to stay in Division 1. The B team also swam and they performed brilliantly with limited swimmers and came 5th only 4 points behind the team above them – **See Sue Hazel's report on notice board** and on www.hadenhillasc.com. Results will be posted on the notice board soon but we also had the Haden Hill Open meet this weekend so our results team are a bit snowed under at the moment.

Why have a B team?

Many parents are asking why we have a B team when we have so few swimmers. There is a waiting list to join the Diddy league and we were lucky enough to gain our place after Brierley Hill folded last year. We are a relatively small club at the moment but we are hoping to expand, we know we are struggling to field two teams on the same night at the moment but hopefully next year things will improve. Having come from a club without a B team I know how frustrating it is for both parent's and swimmers to train all week and never get picked for a gala if you're not in the top 4 or 5 in your age group. Sue's report showed that the B team had a great time and really enjoyed themselves, so if you are picked for the B team don't be shy, tick your name as soon as possible. **Remember swimming tends to change quickly, it was only as recently as 2006 that our A team were in the Division 1 Diddy league final.**

Club Website

Please check our website regularly as it has loads on information on which we often can not fit on the notice board - www.hadenhillasc.com

Chosen for a gala

Please could we ask all swimmers and their parents to check the notice board each time they train as things are changing all the time. **Can swimmers chosen for a gala make their availability known as soon as possible as late notification of non-availability makes it really difficult for the team captains who have to start making last minute phone calls to other swimmers.** If you know in advance you will not be available for a gala then please tell Neil or a member of the committee so that we can pick a team of available swimmers.

Haden Hill News

You may have seen that The Halesowen News printed an article about our excellent performance in Ross League last week. Though the article is written by the club and we try and include as many names as possible please be aware that our article is rewritten by the newspaper and their article is often different to the one we sent. It is hoped that we can now have regular articles in the Halesowen News.

Learning to swim Programme

We have an excellent learning to swim programme at the club led by Carole Sidaway which is proving to be very successful. We have a programme running at the moment and the next one begins in July. If you know anyone who is interested in learning to swim, Carole's contact number is 01384 287229 or check out the website and look for the teaching link at the bottom of the page.

Volunteers

The club has changed much over the last few years and many of our older swimmers and their parents have now left. This has meant that we are often short of helpers to do time keeping, poolside, splits, drinks at galas, recording and announcing. We have seen some new parent getting involved with Karl and Rachael helping Neil and Graham poolside, Helen Rea doing the recording at gala's, and Mark and Sab helping Graeme do time trials on a Friday night. Therefore if you think you would like to help please ask any of the committee as we can always find something for you to do. But please don't wait to be asked as all the committee are volunteers giving up their own time and they didn't wait to be asked they actively asked how they could help.

Who's on the Committee?

Just in case you don't know who they are;

Rob Bowden – (Chair), Sue Hazel (Secretary), Patricia Taylor (Membership Secretary), Lynne Willetts (Social Committee), Susan Sekula (ICT co-ordinator), Malcolm Oates (Work force Development), Christine Oates (Fixture secretary), David Harris (Newsletter / publicity), Paula Overfield (Treasurer), Craig Belmore (Learning to swim), Carole Robbins and Sue Stryde (Marketing and Publicity). Most of the committee are around on a Thursday night so if you have anything you want to discuss please grab one of them – We are hoping to put pictures to faces and put them on the notice board in the near future.

Parents Meeting

We are hoping to hold another meeting very soon but the swimming calendar is very full over the next month with the Midland age group championships covering several weekends so and we are struggling to find time when committee members are available, details will hopefully follow shortly. It is hoped that in the future the newsletter can be used to answer some of the questions that parent's put forward at the last meeting.

Alton Towers

The social committee are presently arranging a date in July for our annual trip to Alton Towers. It has been decided that all children of 12 years and under will need to be accompanied by an adult, and children of 13 years and above can come unaccompanied once parental consent and a medical questionnaire has been completed. Details will be posted on the notice board soon.

Mac Millian Swim the Channel

Many of our swimmers took part in 'Swim the Channel' arranged by Lyn Willets in aid of Mac Millian and they raised a total of £1432. It was decided before the swim that the money would be split equally between the club's social committee and Mac Millian and therefore a total of £716 was given to Mac Millian with Graham Short our JAGS coach making a personal donation of £284 to bring the grand total to £1,000. Well done to all those swimmers and sponsors who helped to raise so much money – if you look at the club website www.hadenhillasc.com you can see the pictures and detailed report of the event.

District Swimmers

Three of our swimmers, Mike New, Bethany Willets and Alison Peakmean gained such good times that they had the opportunity to take part in the Districts at the beginning of May and some of our younger stars will get their opportunity in the coming months, Connor Oates, Grace Sadler, Ashley Markall, Shane Hazell and Lydia New. Well done and good luck to all of you.

What is a speeding ticket?

This is probably one of the most asked questions at a gala so we thought we'd try and answer it. A speeding ticket is given to a swimmer who swims too fast for a particular event? How can you swim too fast you ask, well the idea is that the Ross League where speeding tickets are used is more of a development meet for swimmers and so it allows improving swimmers to swim in an event that they might not otherwise swim. You will therefore often not see swimmers in their best events in The Ross League as if a swimmer is too fast and breaks the time set they score no points for the team. You may have seen that at the recent Ross League gala we were last after 10 events even though we had won a majority of events because our swimmers were too fast.