



# SAFFRON SEALS



SAFFRON WALDEN AMATEUR SWIMMING CLUB

## Newsletter October 2010

### NEWSLETTER – OCTOBER 2010

Welcome back to the start of another swimming year, which will incorporate our Club's Centenary celebrations. We do hope you all had an enjoyable summer break, you have settled back into School life, and are looking forward to resuming your regular training sessions.

#### From our Chairman

A warm welcome back after the summer break. Please take time to read this Newsletter - it has a lot of important information about the coming year. We have all the normal activities and galas being planned (please keep an eye on the website for latest information) but this year will be different for a number of reasons ~ as you will see .....

- From January 2011 there will be a slight rise in the monthly subscription. Please read the Treasurer's section below.

- For the past 14 years we have been very fortunate to have Howard Godwin as our Club Coach. He has expertly guided many hundreds of young people through the requirements of competitive swimming. It is therefore sad to report that Howard is going to retire from January next year. The Committee, lane coaches and teachers have already started to co-ordinate plans on how the Club will move forward without Howard at the helm, and we will make them known in due course. We will be advertising to fill the post so if you are already qualified or know someone who would like to be considered please would you let me, or a member of the Committee, know. Howard's commitment has been exemplary, running 8 hourly sessions each week with swimming skills ranging from new competitive to experienced competitive swimmer. He has also encouraged many youngsters to follow in his footsteps and become teachers and coaches to future generations. Clearly we will miss him very much and as a Club will organise something suitable nearer the time to thank him for his many, many years of support.

- This forthcoming year (2011) is the centenary of the Club ~ yes we have been around that long! We have a special sub-committee under the leadership of our President (as Jan knows more about the Club and its roots than anyone!) planning appropriate ways to celebrate the event (please read on to find out more). Naturally, as part of our celebrations we will again be taking a full and active part in the Carnival, including a float, running a "Family, 100 years of swimming, Fun Swim" and other events to support the town's Round Table - remembering that last time the Club was very well supported with a large donation from the proceeds).

Have a great year.

Neil Pottrill

#### From our Treasurer

Currently swimmers pay £17 if they swim once a week and £32 if more than once a week. Unfortunately, due to increases in costs incurred by the Club from January 2011 we will have to increase this to £18 for swimmers who swim once a week and £33 for more than once a week. A new standing order form will be sent out towards the end of this year.

Andy Dunham

#### Session Dates - Autumn Term 2010

- **Friends' School**

- **Wednesday**

8th Sept to Wed, 15th Dec Half term closure  
27th Oct and 3rd Nov (two weeks)

- **Monday**

13th Sept to Mon, 13th Dec Half term closure  
5th Oct and 1st Nov (two weeks)

After the recent closures experienced at Friends' pool you will appreciate that it is not always possible to give advanced warning of any difficulties with our sessions on Mondays and Wednesdays. As always we will do everything we can to contact everyone, either via the web site or by email, but would point out that this can sometimes prove difficult, as committee members may be working and unable to deal with the situation quickly enough.

- **LBF&LC**

- Tuesday, 7th September to Friday, 17th December inclusive

**Masters sessions** will continue on Wednesday evenings at Friends' School and Friday evenings at LBF&LC, between 8.30 pm and 9.30 pm. The Friends' session will continue to be open to Adult Improvers.

#### Forthcoming Fixtures



Saturday, 9th October Essex mini league - Braintree

December, date to be confirmed Newmarket VW Cars Trophy

Friday, 14th January 2011

Club Championships I

Saturday, 15th January 2011

Club Championships II



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## From your Team Manager

Is my child swimming in Mini League this month? This is a question I am frequently asked, and I hope the following will help to answer it.

Our team selection for a forthcoming fixture is made based upon 'age on day of gala'. Each event is covered, with a reserve swimmer also identified. As soon as confirmation is received from the host club - generally about 3 weeks before the date of the fixture - personal invitations are issued by email to those who are first choice to swim - usually about 2 weeks before the fixture. Therefore, it is important that all gala dates are entered in your diaries as and when they are published - please see above for the current dates, and the web site for future fixtures.

Please note, each individual swimmer will receive their own email invitation - we do not issue joint invitations by email - so we would be grateful for a reply from each swimmer, even if more than one child is selected from the same family.

All unanswered invitations will be followed up by a phone call in case of any technical problems with emails.

If you do not get an email invitation, you have not been chosen this time.

If an invitation is declined, then the reserve swimmer will be invited by email (and, if necessary, by phone) but this is usually at short notice. Therefore, you may get a phone call at late notice if a first choice swimmer unfortunately becomes ill.

Hopefully you can see why it is important for you to let me know if you are not able to make a gala.

You will have noted from the Club's Prospectus that if your child is picked to swim he/she is expected to participate and it is important that you, as parents, encourage them to attend ... and I would like to thank you all for doing just that.

Thank you for your help and support.

*Janet Rogers*

## Musings from a home Essex Mini League fixture

The first time I went to an Essex Mini League was when Trixie had first joined the Club and I was one of those spectators crammed into the viewing area at the end of the pool.

Although I have been to many galas since and stood poolside and cheered on all the kids, nothing quite beats the enormity of hosting a home gala with limited spectator space. The teams taking part on Saturday were Romford, Maldon, Dunmow and Witham.

All the races were swum very competitively - the swimmers gave 100% to their races and should have times to be very proud of.

To the poolside people who came forward or were press-ganged into helping, I would like to say a big, big thank you. You all did your jobs wonderfully and Saffron Seals should be proud that we have such a supportive parent group. A particular mention must go to Sam Awberry-Maskell for printing the programmes and Jackie Tearne and Jan Bright for all their support.

On a positive note, as we had a number of raffle prizes we were able to charge separately for the raffle tickets in addition to the entrance fee, which has given Club funds a much needed boost.

Needless to say, the storm has passed, I have weaned myself off the Valium, had a very large glass of wine, and life has returned to normal ... until the next time (Club Championships).

*Fi Snow*

*Fixtures Secretary*

## Fund Raising Event



On Saturday, 27th November, Club members will be taking part in a sponsored swim at LBF&LC. We will be raising money to buy much-needed new starting blocks.

The swim will last for up to three hours (from 7:00 to 10:00 pm) and participants will try to do as many lengths as possible in their given time. If your son/daughter would like to take part please contact me on [marksanders@bopenworld.com](mailto:marksanders@bopenworld.com)

Please also visit the website [www.thebigswim.webs.com](http://www.thebigswim.webs.com)

*Mark Sanders*

## Centenary Celebrations



You will all now be aware that during 2011 Saffron Walden Amateur Swimming Club (now known as Saffron Seals) will celebrate its 100th birthday. A sub-committee has been formed and plans are now in hand to mark this anniversary, and Club Championships will be our first event. Of course, it is Carnival Year too ... 1st to 9th July 2011 inclusive ... and we hope to have an eye-catching float in the Carnival Procession as well as running a Fun Gala which will likely be a team relay event. Other events have yet to be decided upon, so watch out for more details in forthcoming newsletters.



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## Club Championships

14th and 15th January 2011



Look out for the Entry Form and list of events, which will be issued during November. All members are eligible to enter and, indeed, are urged to do so. Club Championships gives everyone a

chance to compete against swimmers in the same year group, across all four disciplines, with an opportunity to improve on Personal Best times and gain medals and trophies. Your entry should, therefore, be completed and returned as quickly as possible and within the two weeks timescale allowed. Remember ... times achieved over these two evenings will also assist your Team Manager in the selection of swimmers for fixtures during the year.

## Training Courses for new ASA Officials

Our recent problems with the swimming pool meant that our proposals to arrange for an Essex ASA officials training course to be held at LBF&LC had to be postponed. We would now like to consider this again. Our thanks go to all those who registered an interest in becoming an ASA Official, and we would ask those people to please watch forthcoming Newsletters and the web site for more information.

If you are new to us and would like to become a part of the Saffron Seals poolside team, either as a Timekeeper, Judge, Starter, or very valued poolside helper, please contact Fi Snow, who will be more than pleased to talk to you.

Swimmers ... remember ... the lane timekeeper qualification is open any member aged 14 years and above. It could prove to be another useful qualification in years to come.

## Did you know ... ?

A minimum of 15 people (qualified officials and poolside helpers) is required to successfully run a Home fixture; and two officials to travel to each and every away event.

## Walden 24

Were you one of the swimmers training on Tuesday, 18th May, when filming for the above documentary was done. Saffron Walden Initiative, who undertook this task, launched the film (which is 80 minutes long) at Saffron Screen and copies of the DVD are now available to order at a cost of £12.00 each. Order forms are available through the Tourist Information Centre on the Market Square.

## Sponsored Swim

On Saturday 27th November 2010 members of the SWASC (Saffron Seals) will be taking part in a sponsored swim at the Lord Butler Leisure and Fitness Centre, Saffron Walden.

The swim will last for three hours and participants will try to do as many lengths as possible in that time. If you would like to take part, please download the permission form by going to <http://www.saffronseals.org.uk/Support.html> and return it to Mark Sanders Sponsored Swim Permission Form.

If you would like to sponsor a swimmer please speak to them or otherwise you can make a donation via paypal if you go to this link [www.thebigswim.webs.com](http://www.thebigswim.webs.com)

The swimmers are...

Ella Sanders

Joely Wright

Georgina Dunham

Megan McLean

If you think you're not receiving emails or calls from the Club it might be because you've forgotten to tell us a change of email address or we haven't an up to date mobile number for you. Remember to tell us if you have moved or changed your contact details.

[secretary@saffronseals.org.uk](mailto:secretary@saffronseals.org.uk)

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