



# SAFFRON SEALS



SAFFRON WALDEN AMATEUR SWIMMING CLUB

## Newsletter September 2009

Welcome back to what is already proving to be a memorable Autumn Term. We do hope you all had an enjoyable summer break, that you have settled back into School life, and are looking forward to getting back into the pool again.

Here is the first Newsletter of 2009/2010, and we hope it will help to explain what is happening with our Club, as well as acting as an aide memoir for when things return to nor-

### From our Chairman

As you will have seen from our recent emails



we are in constant touch with the Management of the LBF&LC over the reduced pool time this year ~ i.e. not just the current problems with the pool.

The Committee have discussed at length – almost the whole of one meeting – the impact and management of the cost (financial & membership wise) to the club. It is our intention to try and reimburse members for the loss of pool time and are in negotiations as to how to do this. In essence the reason why this is not just a case of a direct refund to members is the additional running costs of the club over and above the pool hire from LBF&LC. As soon as we have an agreed package I will be writing to all club members again. Our plans to re-organise the training stages has been placed on hold until we can get back to using the LBF&LC pool but we will let you know when these will come into force.

Looking forward on a positive note, we are again starting a new year with all the normal activities / gala's being planned; please keep an eye on the website for latest information.

Neil Pottrill

### Troubles at LBF&LC

The problems with the swimming pool have been well documented and we won't go through them again here. We hope you are happy (perhaps not quite the right word!) with the way in which we have managed to keep you informed. You can be assured that you know as much as we do about what is going on and how Management at LBF&LC are coping with it all.

However, the Committee have been working hard to secure pool time elsewhere so that we can continue with our training sessions, and arrangements have been made to allocate groups to available pool time as soon as possible. We suspect that the new arrangements will not suit everyone, but we will try to arrange for all groups to have some training at some time during the week. Please bear with us during this very difficult time, and do try to attend your designated session(s) when they confirmed. The Wednesday children at Friends' School will, of course, benefit by not having their training disrupted, and the remainder will, hopefully, be able to take advantage of what is being offered.

Alongside these sessions, it is hoped that some form of dry training will be put in place – so watch out for details relating to how, when and where. Also, Howard intends to produce two or three training schedules for each group for use by individual swimmers in public sessions at other pools, and these schedules can be used for additional training even when our problems at our own pool have sorted themselves out.

Remember to tell us if you have moved or changed your email address or telephone number.

secretary@saffronseals.org.uk  
01763 838687





# SAFFRON SEALS



SAFFRON WALDEN AMATEUR SWIMMING CLUB

## Newsletter September 2009



### Other Matters

It is a real shame that all the problems experienced by LBF&LC meant that your Family Fun Sessions were disrupted, and training made impossible, but the following is a reminder of fixtures already arranged (if you haven't already got them marked on the family calendar!):

Obviously the Janet Bright Trophy scheduled for November has been put on the 'to be decided' list, as have the actual dates for training at LBF&LC, but as a reminder for when things do get back to normal, the following are the dates for the Autumn Term 2009:

#### **LBF&LC**

Tuesday, 8th September, to  
Tuesday, 15th December, inclusive

#### **Friends'**

Wednesday, 9th September, to  
Wednesday, 16th December, inclusive

#### **Half-term (two weeks)**

Wednesday, 28th October and  
Wednesday, 4th November

Also available will be these additional sessions –

#### **Masters LBF&LC**

Friday, 8.30 pm to 9.30 pm

#### **Adult improvers' Friends'**

Wednesday, 8.30 pm to 9.30 pm

#### **Water polo - All sessions, on a rota basis**

Details for **Club Championships** will be issued towards the end of October. As is usual, the timescale for entries will be the usual two weeks, so please keep a lookout and, when the Entry Form is published, complete it and return it a.s.a.p.

### Forthcoming Fixtures

**Saturday, 10th October**  
Basildon

**Saturday, 5th December**  
Newmarket – VW Cars Trophy

**Friday, 16th January 2010**  
Club Championships I

**Saturday, 17th January 2010**  
Club Championships II



# SAFFRON SEALS



SAFFRON WALDEN AMATEUR SWIMMING CLUB

## Newsletter September 2009



### A Message from your Team Manager

Unfortunately, we were unable to attend the Essex mini-league fixture at Rochford back in July. We then had the summer holidays, which I hope you all enjoyed. Now we have our problems with training at LBF&LC, so I would like to say a big 'thank you' to all who came on Saturday to the mini-league fixture held at Dagenham. It was great to see that you haven't given up on us, and we appreciate your support and patience at this difficult time.

The enthusiasm and commitment from the children made the event very enjoyable. We had a swimmer who attended his first training session on Wednesday and was surprised to be thrown straight into a gala just 3 days later - so thank you to Albert for grabbing hold of the challenge with both hands.

We got D/Q (disqualified) in nine races! However, I'm pleased to say that four of those were T/F (time faults), which means the swimmer was too fast. This is a good sign!!!

We declared age in two races (swimmers were over-age, but were used to make up a relay team), and one race was time only. These three events did not count.

We were unable to enter five races because we didn't have enough

swimmers.

So ... bearing in mind the pool was 33m long and a few swimmers lost goggles when diving in (but carried on nevertheless), our swimmers did their best and most importantly had fun.

I would like to congratulate our swimmers in making this gala very enjoyable. Also a big thank you to all those who helped.

The next Essex mini-league gala is hosted by Basildon on Saturday, 10th October, at Gloucester Park Swimming Pool, Basildon, SS14 2EB, 7pm for a 7.20pm first race. Please note this is also a 33m pool.

I would really appreciate it if you could let me know ASAP whether you are OR are not available for this gala. It will make choosing a team so much easier.

We are really struggling with the 13+ years age group, so come guys, come and join us. I know Maia and Ed would really enjoy the support - they do their best but they can't do it on their own. It would be great if we got a full team.

A minibus may be made available, depending on demand. Please let me know if you would like to use it ASAP as I will need to organise it. The likely fee will be £3 each assuming we can get a full bus. Parents are welcome to use the minibus and it does give the event a team spirit.



# SAFFRON SEALS



SAFFRON WALDEN AMATEUR SWIMMING CLUB

## Newsletter September 2009

### ASA Officials

We would thank all those who have registered an interest in becoming an ASA Official, and Fiona Snow is now getting in touch with the Essex ASA officials training organizer to hopefully arrange for the tutorial to be held here. For those people concerned – watch the next Newsletter and the web site for more information.

If you are new to us, and would like more information about becoming an official, you should contact a Committee Member, who will be more than pleased to help you. A complete list of committee members is on the Seals Noticeboard opposite the Wet Change changing room door. We look forward to hearing from you.



### Swimmers' Poolside Registration

You will remember from past Newsletters that there was a long-standing vacancy for someone to pull together a rota of parent helpers to register the swimmers poolside for Tuesday and Friday sessions. Marion Grainge (who organizes the rota for Friends' sessions) has now taken this on – and we thank her for offering her time.

So .... Mums and Dads, Grandparents and Friends of children who swim on a Tuesday and/or Friday .... we now need you to contact Marion (01799 500505) with an offer to cover a session poolside. Remember, the more people who volunteer, the less sessions each person has to undertake. Marion awaits your call!





# SAFFRON SEALS



SAFFRON WALDEN AMATEUR SWIMMING CLUB

## Newsletter September 2009

### Child Welfare Officer Report September 2009

I am catching up and doing the checks for all the new volunteers and the coaches who need their CRB checks renewed. We have some come renewals come in very quickly but some have been slow as we have to do the additional paperwork for the ASA membership applications as well.

I have received a large file from the ASA, the Wavepower 2009-2011 document which I have not started to read yet. The accompanying letter gives a summary of the work of the ASA in Safeguarding Children, there is one paragraph announcing that the ASA has achieved the Advance Level Standards of the Child Protection in Sport Unit Standards for Safeguarding and Protecting children. The work involved in achieving the standards has led to the creation of the "Child Power Your Voice" website specifically for children and young people. This site is accessed through the main ASA website, [www.britishswimming.org](http://www.britishswimming.org) then clicking on the Child Power link. This site gives important safeguarding information as providing fun and informative aquatic information.

If anyone is interested in working with me to find out more about the Child Welfare officer role and doing the CRB checks, I willing pair of hands and morale support always welcome.

•

**Arlene McLean**

### Finally,

Joanne Raynham and I would like to join Janet Rogers in saying a big 'thank you' to those swimmers who made the trek to Dagenham for the Essex Mini League fixture last week (12th September). From our vantage position as poolside officials, we were impressed with the way in which you all dealt with the competition from some of the bigger clubs in the Essex league, the 33 metre pool and only one training session beforehand. Well done all, and a particular well done to those swimmers who managed to win their race without breaking the cut off time – not an easy task at the best of times. The results of this fixture will be on the web site ([saffronseals.org.uk](http://saffronseals.org.uk)) shortly.