

# TURTLES SWIMMING CLUB NEWSLETTER



**Established 1964**  
Established 1964

*Turtles Swimming Club is for anyone with a physical, mental health or learning difficulty*

## Turtles 2016 AGM & Presentations

### 2016 AGM Agenda

1. Apologies for Absence
2. To Approve the 2015 AGM Minutes
3. Any Matters Arising
4. Chairman's Report
5. To Receive & Approve the Annual Accounts and Treasurer's Report
6. Secretary's Report
7. Election of Officers & Committee:
  - Chairman
  - Vice Chair
  - Treasurer
  - Secretary / Child Protection Off.
  - Assistant Secretary
  - Competition Secretary
  - Chief Instructor
  - 6 Committee Members
8. Appointment of Auditors
9. Any Other Business

### 2016 Presentations

Following the AGM, presentations will be made for the following annual awards:

Junior 3 Lengths Champion  
Ladies 3 Lengths Champion  
Mens 3 Lengths Champion  
Junior 1 Length Champion  
Ladies 1 Length Champion  
Mens 1 Length Champion  
Diving Champion  
Relay Champions  
Helpers Champion  
Family Relay Champions  
Junior Improver  
Senior Improver  
Volunteer of the Year  
Don Lamb award for 'Service to the Turtles'

Scout Hall  
Church of the Most Sacred Heart  
73 Pembroke Road, Ruislip, HA4  
8NN **Saturday 21st May 2016**  
**7.30pm**



## AGM Chairman's Report

This has very much been a year of transition. I took over as Chairman as we lost several experienced older hands as time inexorably marches on. We did not operate a coach trip this year although we plan to this September but we did organise a couple of social events which all seem to have enjoyed.

We have had to cope this year with limited changing facilities, the pool being unexpectedly closed, the apparent inability of pool staff to set the pool up in under 10 minutes and the various lifts not working, both the one to the changing rooms and the one in and out of the pool.

Nevertheless the club seems to be thriving. We have welcomed a number of new younger families. We have a new level one teacher (me) and Level two teacher (Alice Evans, who also did her level one in the period and her level one coaching!) Thank you to all the Volunteers. The club only exists because of the fantastic volunteers who support the Turtles. At poolside, Jessica Grey and Jordan Mason are invaluable. Jordan is currently unable to swim yet it reflects her dedication that she still intends to attend as often as she can, Sarah Harrington left last Summer for University, yet she comes back and helps whenever she can!

We have acquired new equipment this year and new distance badges so I think we are in a very good place to move forward into the new year with confidence.

As ever our gala was a success last year despite the pool staff not knowing we were coming. We have some new swimmers in our gala team (step forward Tilly!) and the prospect of more to come.

We had a very successful event to celebrate Don Lamb's significant birthday. He was one of the few to consistently complete the bouncy castle course despite being older than everyone else who took part! We of course now have a new trophy to remind us of Don's involvement in the club for evermore to be awarded later.

We have had moderate success in our gala's entries but this has been handicapped by unavailability of regular team members. We won 112 medals in the 2015 season, a long way down from the 177 of the previous year. These were evenly split between gold silver and Bronze. Don Lamb topped the adult medal table with 11 and Charlie Laws the Junior table (although he and Sophie Gray both had 10 medals and equal number of golds Charlie won out on the number of Silver medals he acquired).

Fewer Turtles participated in the 2015 British Long Distance Swimming Association due to the unexpected closure of the pool but Thanks to Nigel and others we managed to get a few entries in!

Congratulations go to all our competitive swimmers who represented the Turtles and a thank you to the helpers and supporters of our gala squad.

We have this year survived small fires at Potters Bar, pool evacuation and the inevitable barracking from other teams.

The Treasurer, Rosemary Noyes, will explain the financial situation in her report, but suffice to say we have had an exceptionally good year with continued increase in our funds.

I won't steal Rosemary's thunder but we have made a successful application for Gift Aid from HMRC. I can assure you I pulled no strings myself (for those who don't know I work for HMRC!)

We renewed our independent insurance arrangement with Hiscox (via Swimsure Brokerage) for a further year. In hindsight the decision to leave NASCH and their tied insurance was the right one a couple of years ago.

## AGM Chairman's Report (contd.)

I am pleased that the current Commiiee has agreed to stand again for re-election, especially Ann Chivers following the sad loss of her husband Alan, another stalwart of the club social events! But going forward we could do with some new faces on Committee.

The work involved in running a club like the Turtles is demanding and much of that work falls on the Club Secretary functions. Alison and Nigel Grey work tremendously hard for the Turtles Club and I am very grateful to them both for their conscientious application and dedication. I would ask if anyone could help out by taking the register occasionally, Alison would be eternally grateful.

A special thank you to Patricia Bonney who has managed the system change over to pool entrance fees and the associated raffle. Patricia has managed the raffle for the club for many years and is also a Committee member, (although it is noticeable that she seems to have had more helper Elves this year (especially Bijan) as she seems to be going on holiday more often).

Another special mention goes to Dave Lee who despite his ill health still manages to produce the newsletter, teach at the pool, operate as gala team manager when able and kicks the chairman into doing things on a regular basis.

We must also remember the sterling Service Peter Jones has given to the club. He was sorely missed at the long distance swim and our internal championships. We wish him well as he too has suffered ill health this year.

I cannot close without commenting on the sad passing of Neil Dew at the tender age of 24. A stalwart of our gala team even if he never swam further than one length! We will miss his smiling face and gentle humour.

Peter Horne

Chair



## Treasurer's Report

Once again the Turtles balance sheet is in a healthy position at the end of this financial year despite there being a considerable overall reduction in donations.

However, we have had a welcome 'hand out' from Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs by having 4 year's worth of Gift Aid credited to our account.

Receipts from subscriptions and the weekly pool entry charge are a little higher this year. There have been some increases in expenditure. Our insurance is higher and we have restocked on medals for our gala and championships. We have also contributed to training costs this year. Transport costs are reduced as we didn't have any social events when we would have expected to have funded the cost of a coach. Overall our expenses are in line with previous years.

As always I would like to thank everyone who assists in raising funds and also grateful thanks go to our generous donors.

Rosemary Noyes

Hon Treasurer

## Thank you to our 2015/16 Sponsors

**Four Wheels  
Uxbridge Rotary**



**Combined Charities  
of Ruislip**





# Secretary's Report

It has been another successful year for Turtles Swimming Club. We continue to welcome new members throughout the year which results in a very healthy membership base for our club. As always we have had an active year; participating in galas, organising our own gala, running social outings, holding fun sessions with the inflatable and competing in the long distance swim award.

All the events, communication with members and general day to day running of our club happens because of the work of the Turtles' committee. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all committee members for their hard work. As with all organisations, you can never have enough help and we would welcome any members who would like to be more involved to join our committee. As the saying goes; "Many hands make light work."

One of the highlights of this year for me was the fabulous occasion of Don's special birthday. He very generously funded a celebratory inflatable session and party afterwards for all members of our club. It was safe to say a brilliant time was had by all. Thank you Don on behalf of everyone and we look forward to the inaugural presentation of the Don Lamb shield for service and commitment to Turtles Swimming Club following our AGM meeting.

In the current climate of austerity and financially difficult times for clubs like ours, here's to another successful, healthy and happy year for Turtles Swimming Club and all its members.

Alison Grey, Secretary

If you are interested in joining the Committee please step forward for nomination

## Committee & Officer Elections

The following are standing for election or re-election



Peter Horne  
Chair  
& Health & Safety  
Officer



Alison Grey  
Secretary &  
Child Protection



Rosemary Noyes  
Treasurer



Nigel Grey  
Vice Chair



Linda Clarke  
Chief Instructor



David Lee  
Competition  
Secretary



Bijan Ghorbanian  
Assistant Secretary



Emma Hewlett  
Committee Member



Patricia Bonney  
Committee Member



Andy Wallis  
Committee Member



Ann Chivers  
Committee Member

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