

## **Chairman's Report for 2016**

On behalf of the Committee I would like to welcome you all to the 2016 Annual General Meeting of Carnforth and District Otters Swimming Club.

### **Annual Summary 2016**

Another incredible year for our swimmers.

January, was Lancashire County's.

This year 25 of our swimmers competed including Mckenzie Ronson Horrocks George Wilby, Owain Heathcote-Jones, Hannah McMillan and Ace Bower, all who qualified for County's for the first time. Joining them was George Cookson, Rhys Ashton, Alice Sands, Kiera Richmond, Matthew Crabtree, Thomas Dugdale, Aimee Banks, Alex Livingstone, Ella Mounsey, Hannah Edwards, Sadie Spencer, Lydia-Louise Shenton, Ruby Frankland, Ben Winterburn, Richard Mead, Chris Stainton, Holly Salisbury, Josh Banks, Jess Shatford and Josh Thompson. Well done in particular to Aimee for Bronze in the 100m Backstroke and Holly for a Bronze in the 50m Freestyle.

At the next level, Regionals, only the top 5% of club swimmers qualify at this level. In 2016, George Cookson, Thomas Dugdale and Rhys Ashton competed in the younger age groups. George achieved top 20 finishes in all events. Rhys and Thomas had good swims despite Thomas suffering several broken fingers. At the older end, Sadie Spencer competed in her first regionals in 50m Backstroke, Ella Mounsey in the 400

freestyle and 50 Backstroke, Emily Reay in the 50 Freestyle, Aimee banks in the 50, 100 and 200 events in both Freestyle and Backstroke, Alex Livingston in 50, 100 and 200 Backstroke, Hannah Edwards in 50, 100 and 200 Breastroke, Jess Shatford in 50 Breastroke and Josh Thompson in 8 events across all 4 strokes. Well done to all 11 swimmers and in particular to Josh who won 2 Golds and 2 Silvers. Aimee who won 1 Silver and 2 Bronze.

On to Nationals. Only the top 25 ranked swimmers in the country qualify to swim in the British Championships and the next 20 are invited into the National Championships for England. Josh Thompson qualified for 6 events at the British Championship and 1 at the National Championships. Aimee Banks qualified for 3 events at the National Championships, Alex Livingston qualified for the 200 Backstroke.

Ben Winterburn qualified for the National Open Water Championships.

This is a fantastic achievement. Josh achieved a Bronze medal in the 200 freestyle with a time of 1:53.61 and reached the finals in 6 out of his 7 events. Aimee and Alex both had fantastic swims, with Aimee reaching the finals in 100 Freestyle and Alex in the 200 Backstroke.

It is of course not just our elite Regional and National qualifiers that have reached new heights this year. At the younger end, 2016 was a very special year for our Microleague teams. It has been 10 years since Carnforth Otters reached the Microleague Grand Final and this year we did it. Microleague A team saw off

Pioneer 79, Blackpool Aquatics A, Everton and Gaston to join the regions big clubs, Preston, Leyland and Southport in the final. A big congratulations to all 30 A team swimmers. Our B team was also incredible this year seeing off A teams from Lytham St Annes, Kirkham and Colne and was only compromised by the fact that the club is relatively small hence some relay teams remained incomplete. Congratulations to all 38 swimmers who competed.

Our club gala's, Had a change of format this year going from three competitive galas to two but still covering the same events. Hopefully with a sub committee now in place running them they will be a well attended excellent event. At our first gala in March, George Wilby broke the 10 year old 50m fly record with a time of 40.72 and Josh Thompson took yet another record in the 17 year old + category for 100 fly with a time of 1:00.04. In our second club gala in September 2016 even more records fell with a superb 25m Breastroke record in the 8 year old age group for Eric Inman with a time of 23.08, a new 100m Individual Medley record for McKensie Ronson Horrocks at 1:25.07 in the 10 year old age group and yet another for Josh Thompson with a 59.23 for 100 Individual Medley in the 17 year old + group.

As in previous years, over 50 of our swimmers have been applying their competitive swimming talents in the field of Triathlon and Pentathlon. Our very old World Champion, Sophie has had a go and we are proud to have an ex- ITU athlete, Christine Johnson swimming in our squad. This year 5 of our swimmers have been accepted on Regional and National Academies.

Ruby Frankland has qualified for the Regional Triathlon Academy, Emma Whittaker has won a place on the Pentathlon UK World Class Talent Program, Georgia Hannam is now on the Pentathlon Talented Athlete Scholarship Scheme and both Isabelle Woodman and Tim Woodman have secured places on the English Talent Program in Pentathlon. In addition to these mainstream Olympic sports, Biathle & Triahle have been popular activities this year with Ronan Maher, Isabelle Woodman, Tim Woodman, and William Howard competing at the World Championships. Well done to all athletes. A specific mention for two Carnforth Otters who have become British Champions in 2016. In September, Rhys Ashton became the British Triathlon Champion for the 12 year Tristar 2 age group at Strathclyde by winning the Inter-Regional Championship that brought together the 3 best triathletes from each region in the country in the Triathlon equivalent of the Nationals. An incredible achievement for Rhys. In addition, Isabelle Woodman took the National U15 title for Modern Triathlon at Birmingham in April 2016. Well done also to Georgia and Emma who have represented GB in Pentathlon.

Regarding achievements, the story continues as there is more. Back to April 2016 with a 29 strong Carnforth Otters team travelling to Blackpool Rocks to compete against 36 other clubs and take the Visiting club trophy. Podium positions were achieved in 40 events with Mckensie recording the 2<sup>nd</sup> fastest 400m freestyle time in Britain this year for a 10 year old with a time of 5:13.57.



Membership is looking healthy with 226 swimmers. Trail requests 7 and waiting list 16, 4 children due to start.

### Registration

Registration is an ongoing issue and will be addressed in the new year. Vicky Greaves is looking at the possibility of apps and technology required to implement, along with Nicola Robb.

### Child Protection

Sue Bishop doing an great job, various issues over the year, being dealt with effectively Thanks Sue.

### Shop

Thanks to Jill for an excellent job running the shop and of course Carole.

### Competitions

Thank you Viv Denby for all the time spent as competition secretary doing an excellent job.

### Website

Vicky has done an amazing job on the website this year, it looks great, with competition entries now electronic. She is constantly looking at ways to improve or incorporate any additional needs. Thank you Vicky  
Thanks to Lisa Bower and Vicky for setting up the Facebook page, which is an excellent way of communicating with members.

## Coaching

Thank you to all the coaches this year, all volunteers doing an amazing job.

Susan Good fellow, who stepped down from head of teaching, for all your years of excellent tuition.

Steve Maher who ran the Tank for most of the year and has now handed over the reins to Russel Rix.

But again to all the coaching team New or old for all your hours on poolside a big thank you.

## Sponsorship/Fundraising

Thank you to OSG for their on going sponsorship.

Funding application,

The Big Fund application is awaiting an outcome.

## Networking

Talks with the City Council and Lancaster City Swimming Club are in progress, Mike Sands, Noel Evans are currently meeting with them and looking at possibilities for both clubs at Salt Ayre.

We are currently in process of joining the Cumbria Swimming network, which has a number of clubs with in the area.

Also we still affiliate closely with Blackpool aquatics, we thank them for their ongoing support.

## **Thanks**

Once Again Thank you to all our Coaches and Committee for all their time and effort.

I wish you all a Happy Christmas and an excellent New Year..

**Keith Dugdale, Chairman**