



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

CHAIRS REPORT 2017 - 2018

Monnow have had another successful year both in and out of the pool. Our swimmers have competed in 7 Open Meets, our own Sprint Championships, the County Championships, 3 inter club galas and the Regional Championships in January. New Records were set in the Sprint Championships and the County Championships with swimmers including Gwen nan McConnell-Lawlor, Emma Nock and Eleanor Emes, breaking multiple records. Eight of our swimmers took part in the South East Wales Regional Championships; Nanci Edwards, Katie Cameron, Laura Willis, Lucy Creasey, Emma Nock, Alicia Jones, Ben Smith and Abi Agami. All the swimmers did fantastically well, producing excellent times against some really strong competition. Nanci Edwards came 3rd in the 200m Backstroke and 4th in the 50m Backstroke and Emma Nock came 4th in the 200m Breast stroke and 6th in the 50m Breast stroke.

Monnow held a local gala in October and hosted Cwmbran, Chepstow and Barry. We came third behind Chepstow and Cwmbran, and when we visited Barry last month to compete against the same clubs we were narrowly beaten into second place by Chepstow. We took teams of nearly 30 swimmers to compete in Barry and Bristol, putting on a coach to transport swimmers and parents for the first time thanks to our Competition Secretary Helen Edwards. For many of our younger swimmers it was their first experience of competition. The atmosphere was great, particularly at the Barry gala. Thank you to all the parents who came along and helped cheer the children on, and the coaches who gave up their time again to help poolside.

There have been some changes on our Committee, with Victoria Hughes taking over from Jo Chick as Treasurer and Jo moving over to Welfare Officer to replace Zara Bieler. Many thanks to Zara for her assistance and for again offering the use of her lovely farmhouse for the Club's Summer Social event. We have been successful in obtaining funding from the Town Council towards coaching costs and the money we obtained from the Community Chest Grant last year helped to pay for a series of training inputs for our Coaching Team. We also received £230 from the Waitrose Community Fund.

Our Coaching Team has changed and developed. Sadly, coaches Theresa Hault, Kate Jarvis, Mike Baylis and Frank & Josy Russell were unable to carry on helping the club. However, Ian Ridyard, Debbie Walker, Jane Goddard, Beccy Russell and Eddie Phillips have joined the coaching team. Debbie, Eddie, Beccy and myself have completed level 1 Teaching Courses and Ian and myself have recently qualified as level 2 ASA Coaches. This takes the total Coaching Team to 9 coaches who are supported poolside by some of our swimmers working

towards the Duke of Edinburgh Award and a team of parental helpers. I'd particularly like to thank Harold Nock, who has started swimming with the club and supported us all year as a poolside helper. I'd also like to thank Bryan Hughes, Matt Williams, Juliet Ley-McFarlane and Dave Jones for their assistance poolside and all the other parents and swimmers who volunteer in many different capacities and without whom the club could not continue.

Our President Alan Roberts and his wife Sheilah have continued to provide invaluable support to the Committee, as well as providing their time to official, manage results for our local events and help to train new officials. Last year Alan and Sheilah received Lifetime Achievement Awards from Swim Wales in recognition of their service to the sport over many years. They give up considerable amounts of their time to supporting both the club and the sport and as Chair I have been very grateful for all their help and advice.

The Committee have recently been investigating a new club software system called Swim Club Manager. We expect to go ahead with it and this will allow all of the information in relation to swimmers, coaches, finance, policies and results to be put in one place. It will make the administration of the club much more straightforward, but also allow swimmers and parents a separate login to check on their own personal information. It will be a challenge for the new Committee to set up SCM and get it working properly, but it will provide a much easier way to manage the club going forward.

Finally, I'd like to offer the Club's congratulations to Dylan Hughes, who has qualified to swim with Team GB in the Downs Syndrome World Championships in Canada this July. We will be eagerly waiting for updates on Dylan's performance,