

Clyst Hydon Swimming Club 2008 AGM: Chair's Report

Well, it's been another challenging year for the pool thanks to the poor weather we have experienced pretty much all summer long, but despite this significant disadvantage the pool's finances have not suffered too badly thanks to loyalty and support of those individuals and families that make up the club's membership and also to those that attended our various fund raising events. Melanie [Whitehead] has presented the club's finances in the Treasurer's Report [see www.clysthydonswimmingclub.org.uk], but in summary the club's outgoings have exceeded its income by some £500 this year. As a comparison, the club lost £1700 last year, so given this year's miserable weather, coupled with the increased running costs of keeping the pool open through the summer plus the purchase of a new pump, we seem to have done relatively well.

Our fund raising events included the very successful Elevators Dance night, the popularity of which surely must be attributed to the astonishingly good looks and golden voice of the band's lead singer who drew in female and no doubt a few male admirers from far and wide. Other fund raisers included the usual tombola at the Xmas Fair, a New Year's Eve fancy dress party, and the ever-popular breakfast swim which was attended by over 70 people. Steve the 'eggs-pert' Moore's hold on the title of the Egg-Man looks increasingly tenuous due to his absence at the last two breakfasts and the discovery of a new contender for the role this year in the form of Paul from Legats. Unless Steve can regain his hold on the role next year, I fear he may have to resign himself to being more of a Walrus than an Egg-Man, a role which, nonetheless, he is eminently suited and no doubt would perform with style and aplomb.

We also held a successful Gala, despite the unavoidable absence of several Committee members.

In terms of improvement works to the pool, this year Steve and John [Maynard] more or less re-built the pumphouse with a little help from others and it now has a higher ceiling, more storage space and a contiguous new roof which covers both pumphouse and men's changing rooms. We also installed some new H& S signs on site, purchased (but failed to install) a new pump and filter sand, a new hatch for the supervisor's hut and some drainage pipes for the washbasins in the loos. We held two site meetings with Plymtree Power to discuss the potential of installing solar heating systems to heat both the pool and showers, but due to the combination of the significant costs involved and safety concerns associated with having a cover over the pool, it was decided not to progress with these ideas for the time being. However, we will be asking Plymtree Power to install a new pump to circulate water from the pool down the slide, which should avoid the pool becoming overfull and reduce water use.

In terms of publicity, an article on the pool was published in the Culm Valley Gazette in which thanks was made to Alcoa for their very generous financial support which enabled the club to purchase the pool outright last year. The club's website has been updated and re-formatted by John's son-in law James this year and should now be easier to maintain than was previously the case.

For next year, it is unlikely that we will undertake any major improvements to the pool as no urgent improvements are presently required and given that we have made small losses over the last 2 seasons we need to be careful with our expenditure. We are presently in the fortunate position of having some £5000 of savings in the bank which has provided the club with some security over this last year. However, we cannot afford to keep losing money and need to set the club's finances back on a positive trend to ensure its long-term sustainability.

To this we are very much beholden to the weather to generate the club's main source of income which is, of course, people wanting to come for a swim on a warm and sunny day, but we as a committee will endeavour to make savings and efficiencies where possible and so minimise outgoings. We will also continue to organise fundraising events to boost our income, hopefully without exhausting the committees' reserves of time and energy and our supporters' goodwill.

Finally, and most importantly, many thanks to all supervisors without whom the pool would not be able to function, all those who support our fundraising efforts, and last but not least, all the committee members, all whom give up their time and energy to make the pool the success it is. Regrettably we are losing three committee members this year due to other commitments; many thanks to Kate [Laurence], Pete [Laurence] and Jane [Murray] for their involvement in the club over the past few years, although we are fortunate as all three are willing to continue to help out when needed. If anyone knows of anyone who might be interested in joining the committee, we'd be delighted to welcome new members.

Simon Murray