

SCOTTISH HILLS SEA LIONS HISTORY

The first Scottish Hills Sea Lions swim team was organized by Roger Bieberich and began training under John Castranio the first full week that the pool was open. Initially, 58 children signed up for the team; but due to the conflict of football and vacations, some children dropped out during the four weeks of practice. An inter-squad meet was held on 8/31/78, with about 40 children participating. Special "inaugural swim meet" ribbons were presented to all swimmers.

The swim team joined the TSA in 1979. Paula Zaring, a club member, was our first coach and was assisted by Betty Baker. We were placed in the lowest division, but the final won-lost record was 0-7. We knew we had a good thing started as we saw super spirit developing in our swimmers.

For the 1980 season, Larry Malloy was head coach with Matt Knight assisting. We were division champions with a 4-3 record. Things were looking up. In 1981, Shay Cole was hired as head coach and Matt Knight again served as the assistant coach. We won our division championship with a 7-0 record.

In 1982 we attained a second consecutive 7-0 record, our third division championship and a team roster of over 120 swimmers. A third coach, Tracy Cole, was hired to work with the 6 and under.

Shay, Matt and Tracy returned in 1983 and again led us to a 7-0 season record and another division championship.

Phyllis Blanton was head coach in 1984 and was assisted by Tracy Cole. Our 6 and under coach was Dawn Bodenheimer and her assistant was Terry Maness. We were again division champions with a 4-2 record.

In 1985, Shay Cole returned as head coach and was assisted by Heather Stroupe. Our 6 and under coach was Sharon Butler. Having moved up a division proved to be a challenge. Our record was 2-4.

In 1986 we were placed in Division II. Our record improved some with a 3-3 season. Our coaching staff was headed by Dave Cowell with assistants Carrie Knittel and Eva O'Neill. Our 6 and under coach was Lisa Brown. Highlights of the season included wins against Division I teams Northbrook and Triangle.

In 1987 Hunt Reifschneider, assisted by Pat Olsen coached the team. Mark Irwin and Michelle Turner were the 6 and under coaches. We ended the Division II season with a 0-6 record.

Pat Olsen returned in 1988 as head coach. Mark Brenner assisted her. Our 6 and under coaches were Mark Irwin and Milly Hodges. The season ended 4-2.

Pat Olsen, with Jeff Morgan assisting, again coached our 1989 team. Milly Hodges was the 6 and under coach assisted by Kara Davis. Jeff, Milly and Kara swam for the Sea Lions in addition to coaching. Our record was 2-4.

Our 1990 season was headed up by coach Jodi Gore. She came to us with 3 years of high school coaching experience as well as 3 years of summer league coaching experience. Sharon Butler assisted. Our 6 and under coaches were Milly Hodges and Kara Davis. We ended the season 0-6, but the scores did not reflect the fabulous effort put forth by the team all year.

Our 1991 season was a great season. All four coaches from 1990 returned and we had a 5-1 record.

Our 1992 season started off cold and rainy, but we didn't let that dampen our spirits. Head Coach Craig Strong, and assistant coach Jeff Morgan, and 6 and under coach Milly Hodges and assistant Kara Davis led us to a 2-4 record.

The 1993 season was managed by Ann Leary and Beth Rhame. Head Coach was Millie Hodges with Michael Sheek as assistant coach. Tanya White and Cori Oppenheim were the coaches for the 6 and under. With approximately 165 swimmers on our team, more help was needed so Mitzi Pederson was hired to assist wherever she was needed. We ended the season with a 1-5 record.

In 1994 we were moved to Division 8. The season was again managed by Ann Leary and Beth Rhame. Tanya, Michael, and Cori returned to the coaching staff and we added Julie Bahrman as our fourth coach. Hopes were high for a great season. The team ended up with a 3-3 record, with the highlight of the season coming in the last meet. A victory by our 15-18 girls in the freestyle relay (the last event of the night) gave us a 3-point win over Manchester, which was at the time undefeated in our division. Spectators circled the pool three-deep to watch the race, and the entire team and coaches "hit the water" when the final results were announced.

The 1995 season was preceded by a fire that on April 22nd destroyed the pool clubhouse. Reconstruction began soon afterwards and the team was able to use the pool for practice by May 30th. Tammy and Bruce Harvey served as parent Co-Chairs. Jeff Morgan was the head coach as well as assistant pool manager. Julie Bahrman returned to assist him and Willem Koetse was hired as the 6 and under coach. After two early, close losses to clubs a division above us, the team closed with 4 straight victories to win the division championship. The division title was not decided until the last couple of events against Oxford Hunt in the last meet of the season.

For the 1996 season, our coaches were Matt Ellenburg, Julie Bahrman, and Ashley McVeigh. Tammy and Bruce Harvey remained as parent Co-Chairs. Our regular season record in Division II against a very competitive schedule ended at 3-3, with one of the victories against Division I foe Kildaire Farms. The highlight of the 1996 season was Scottish Hills hosting the Cary City Invitational. Over 1000 swimmers descended on SHRC the day after Hurricane Bertha passed through the area. The Sea Lions sent the second largest team to the meet and finished in a strong third place in the final standings behind perennial powers Lochmere and Triangle.

The 1997 Sea Lions' season actually began in April with a month of "unofficial" practices at Saint Mary's College's indoor pool attracting 30-40 swimmers per session. Tammy and Bruce Harvey served their third year as parent Co-Chair. Head coach Matt Ellenburg and assistant coaches Ashley McVeigh, Matt McFarland, and Josh Brown helped a record 150 swimmers endure early-season cold temperatures and a difficult non-division schedule to post a 4-2 record (2-1 in Division II). The key meet of the year against divisional rival Cary Swim Club was not decided until the 15-18 freestyle relays.

The 1998 Sea Lion's season was managed by Al and Susan Parks. The Head Coaching responsibilities were shared by Matthew McFarland, Nathan George, and David Leach. The Assistant Coaches were Julie Symons and Kari Powers. The Highlight of the 1998 season was the Cary City Meet, hosted once again by SHRC. Dan McFarland and Bruce Harvey, along with many parent volunteers, were instrumental in coordinating this event. More than 1,000 swimmers took part. We ended the 1998 season with a loss against Shepherd's Vineyard. As a result, we stayed in Division II for 1999.

The 1999 team was co-chaired by Jeff and Cindy Kager. Head Coach was Nathan George. Assistant Head Coach was Kimberly Gaffney, and Assistant Coaches were Julie Symons and Kari Powers. The season got off on a rough start because we only had one (1) day of practice prior to the Time Trials. Our overall record was 2-4, with two of the meets decided by less than 20 points! We had approximately 150 swimmers. Spirit Wear was re-introduced, and was a big hit.

The 2000 team was once again co-managed by Jeff and Cindy Kager. Head Coach was Julie Symons, Assistant Head Coach was Kari Powers, and Assistant Coaches were Justin Johnson and Chris Doughtie. The competition was once again very strong. Again, we finished 2-4. Our concessions operation was very successful. The highlight of the season came on July 15, when SHRC hosted the Cary City Invitational Swim Meet. The SHRC Sea Lions finished in 7th place overall. 110 Sea Lions swam in this meet, which included 1,265 other swimmers from 21 different clubs.

The 2001 team which was co-chaired by Mark & Cathy Hipps was the largest team to date...220 swimmers w/ 44 six & unders. Julie Symons & Kari Powers returned to lead this large Sea Lions team with Alison Parks joining the coaching staff as Asst. Coach. We remained in Division II w/ a record of 3-3 for the season. The highlight of the season was a 1-point win over Division I, MacGregor Downs. Our 13-14 girls & 15-18 boys freestyle relays came from behind to win their heats and capture the win for the Meet. The Sea Lions took home the 5th Place trophy at the Cary City Meet out of 22 teams.

The 2002 team was again co-chaired by Mark and Cathy Hipps. Our coaching staff was led by Brian Benfer with Caroline Curran as Assistant Head Coach and Alison Parks and Magda Jenc as Assistant Coaches. We had 211 swimmers that lead us to a winning season of 4-2. The highlight of the season was on July 13th, when SHRC once again hosted the Cary City Invitational Swim Meet. In addition to successfully hosting such a large function, our Sea Lions finished a respectable 8th place out of over 20 other clubs.

The 2003 team was co-chaired by Mike and Amy Lamb. Our head coach was Cameron Moccari. Magda Jenc served as Assistant Head Coach with Lauren Kager and Brian Post completing our coaching staff. Our team of just over 200 swimmers worked hard and competed in a tough schedule. They led the team to a winning season of 4-2, which placed SHRC second out of four for our division one standing team.

The 2004 season was once again co-chaired by Mike and Amy Lamb. All four coaches from the 2003 season returned to lead our 200 + member team. Cameron Moccari served as Head Coach, Magda Jenc as Assistant Head Coach with Lauren Kager and Brian Post completing our coaching staff. Our Sea Lions ended the season with a 3-3 record. The Cary City Meet was hosted by SHRC on July 13th with our Sea Lions winning the 4th place trophy out of the 28 teams that participated.

The 2005 season was co-chaired by Peter and Donna Howard. Head Coach was again Cameron Moccari, with Magda Jenc as Assistant Head Coach. Kate Hipps and Casey Hyman were assistant coaches. We finished our dual meet season 2-4, but soared to finish 3rd at the Cary City Meet, certainly a high mark of achievement! We had 4 events where we placed first in the CCM. Early in the day, our 9-10 Girls took first place in the Medley Relay. The team consisted of Brennan Textor, Stephanie Calleja, Caroline Mitchell and Laura Schnoor. Soon after Olivia Hair took 1st place in the Girls 6 & Under Breaststroke. Near the end of the morning session, the 9-10 Boys took first place in the Free Relay. Benjamin Miller, Patrick O-Mara, Arden Emery and Matthew Long comprised this team. At the end of the early session, SHRC was 2nd overall. In the afternoon session, Melinda George took first place in the 15-18 Girls Breaststroke. Eight team records in all were broken in 2005.

The 2006 season was co-chaired by Ken and Karen George. Head Coach was Brian Post, assisted by David Rojas, Kate Hipps and Matt Merry. We began the season with a record 240 swimmers. It's tough to pick a highlight of the season because there were so many magic moments that helped us to achieve a 5-1 record, undefeated in Division 1, the Conference Title and a 2nd straight year of 3rd at Cary City Meet. After winning the expected first 2 meets that were Division 2 teams, the first hint of magic was at Shepherd's Vineyard when after splitting the medley-relays we won an extra free-relay to steal a win by only 7 points. Later at Wellsley, thanks to strong Butterfly finishes, we won by 63. Our last meet of the season was with arch rival Cary. We pulled out an 11 point victory! We were 3-0 in the division while every other team was 1-2, a 3 way tie for 2nd. (or last, depending on whether you're a Sea Lion or not!)