

# Walsall Swimming & Water Polo Club

## 2015 Annual Swimming Report

2015 has seen the club continue to struggle against declining numbers whilst striving to attract new swimmers. However the swimmers that the club does have continue to make good progress.

Even with reduced numbers the club has still managed to compete in 3 leagues and were able to fulfil all commitments albeit with a struggle. Once again the older age group swims being fulfilled by the goodwill of some of our former swimmers returning to help out or our current younger swimmers swimming out of age.

Results achieved in the leagues were:

- ◆ Junior League in which the club finished in 20<sup>th</sup> place in Division 2.
- ◆ Mercian League in which the club finished in 20<sup>th</sup> place overall and 4<sup>th</sup> place the final gala 4.
- ◆ Staffs League in which the team reached consolation final 2 finishing in 4<sup>th</sup> place.

At the 2015 Staffordshire County Championships the clubs entry was at a similar level to that of the previous year with twelve girls and 6 boys competing. Nevertheless the swimmers who did compete performed extremely well.

In the BAGCAT and SADCAT categories in which top eight awards were made to Joe Bourne, Alicia Dingle, Lauren Rattenberry, and Courtney Poxon.

Once again the club did not compete in the relay championships due to the reduced number of competitive swimmers in the club. Alicia Dingle, and Courtney Poxon were chosen to compete in the skins event.

During the year only one swimmer – Alicia Dingle has been chosen to represent Staffordshire.

At the 2015 Staffordshire County Masters Championships Caroline Jones performed extremely well gaining 3 Golds and 5 Silver medal placings.

At Midland District Level we had no swimmers representing the club at any level during the year. This is the first time for a very long time that this has happened and was due mainly to the change made to the qualifying age date.

Three club members did compete at Midland District level but representing their squads, Alicia Dingle and Courtney Poxon representing the Royal Wolverhampton School and Luke Skelding representing the City of Birmingham.

Alicia and Luke went on to compete at National level with both reaching finals, Alicia taking the silver medal in the Girls 12/13 100m Freestyle Final.

I would like to say a big thank you to Caroline Jones, Rick Taylor and Chris Somerfield for all the poolside help they have given to the coaches throughout the year.

Also thanks to Team Managers Amanda Taylor, Andrea Crump, Chris Somerfield, Michelle Tromans, Imogen Jones, and Georgina Carpenter-Clay, Gala Officials Caroline Jones, Keith Cross, Dean Bourne, Rick Taylor, Chris Somerfield, Karl Nicholls, Andy Cooke Craig Mason and Lee Arnold and scorers Sue Mason, Pauline Stanley and John Randle.

Finally I would like to congratulate club members Caroline Jones and Barry Davenport on being elected to serve on the Staffordshire County Executive. Caroline for Masters Swimming and Barry for Water Polo.

To summarise, 2015 has once again been a challenging year trying to stem the decline in numbers together with trying to encourage new swimmers into the club. It is a slow process and one that is not going to happen overnight but the committee together with the help of the swimmers and their parents are determined to succeed.

Well done to all the swimmers in the club and a big thank you to all those parents that have stood by us and for all their hard work throughout the year.

Thank You,

***Terry Brindley***

Terry Brindley  
Swimming Secretary