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North Shore Amateur Swimming Club Inc

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Dear NSS Swimmers, Families and Supporters

In our last letter, we announced Andy McMillan as our new Head Coach and in turn, Andy introduced Tim Holden as our new Assistant Head Coach. I have had nothing but positive feedback on both of these appointments. We asked them to initially focus on the ongoing coaching aspect of their jobs and gaining the confidence of their squads. Whilst this is a constant, their other responsibilities (along with the Board) are in setting and driving the future strategic direction of our club. With the changes we have had, it has been a very good opportunity for the team to do a complete health check of NSS and ensure we are best placed to continue to deliver exceptional results to all of our members. These are certainly exciting times and I can assure you that the future plans are bold and backed by both scientific and international research.

Some of our focus over the last quarter has been political in nature. As you will know, there have been some changes at High Performance Swimming which have resulted in discussions around the structure and future opportunities of swimming throughout New Zealand. As one of the largest (and most successful!) clubs in the country, it is important for us to strike a good balance of being supportive of Swimming New Zealand and delivering the best outcome for NSS. We continue to have meetings with all key stakeholders as we position ourselves to contribute positively and provide solutions.

Andy and his team are looking at all aspects of the current structure so that we can continue our goal of continuous improvement. We understand this is a time of change for our club. We ask for us all to support Andy as he starts the communication and transition phase of these initiatives. Like with any transition, it is the execution and communication within that which will ultimately drive NSS's future success. It is important to the entire board that we give every opportunity for all members to be well informed in all aspects of our club and we will endeavor to create many different ways in which to do this. This may look like broadcasts (such as this) through to opportunities for chats over a sausage sizzle at a club night. Watch this space!

We also want to take this opportunity to thank Shane and Helene Helms. The sponsorship from Golden Homes is nothing short of outstanding and we can announce that they have committed to a further three years support. You will soon see one of the outcomes of this sponsorship which I am sure is going to create a massive buzz around the club. More on this to follow but it is a good example of the future direction and mindset Andy and his team hold in their desire to give our members the very best and our swimmers every chance of succeeding.

A huge thanks to all our major sponsors, Golden Homes, Allproof Industries and Speedo, your support is very much appreciated.

And finally, the net result of all of this? Swimming, and swimming well. I was so proud to see the NSS team at the National Short Course Champs last month. Clearly our team and individual performances were outstanding and led us to win this National Meet. However, my lasting impression was the commitment and support our swimmers, parents and supporters had for NSS. I received a number of comments centered on the impressive spirit in which NSS conducted themselves. Likewise, I was at the more recent Auckland Junior Meet. Once again, our performance in the pool was outstanding and I look forward to the stats on the number of PBs and medals as I am confident it was significant. I loved hearing the 'North Shore Power' chant at every win – the pride in the team was clearly evident. Thanks Andy and your team – you did us proud.

If we don't bump into you pool side before, have a fabulous break over the upcoming festive season.

Kind regards

NSS Board