

TURTLES SWIMMING CLUB NEWSLETTER



Turtles Swimming Club is for anyone with a physical, mental health or learning difficulty

R.I.P. Neil Dew

The members of the Turtles Swimming Club were shocked and stunned to discover that Neil Dew had passed away, very suddenly, on Monday 2nd May at his flat in West Drayton.

Neil was just 24 years old and had been a regular Turtles Gala Swimmer since 2005 winning countless medals.

Neil was swimming with the Gala Team at Hatfield as recently as the 16th April.

Neil was always a happy chap who loved his swimming and playing his role in the gala team.

The Turtles played an important part in Neil's life and in return he brought his warmth, cheery nature, fun sense of humour and kindness to all he did with us.

We will all miss him.

Our thoughts are with Neil's family at this very sad time and our heart felt love goes out especially to Neil's mum and dad, Pauline and Paul, and to sister Laura, who understandably are struggling to come to terms with their tragic loss.



Some of Neil's greatest achievements are listed below:
2010 NASCH Mens 25 Metres Champion (National Level)
2005 Turtles Junior Champion
2006 Turtles Junior Champion
2007 Turtles Junior Champion
2008 Turtles Junior Champion
2009 Region 1 Junior Champion 25 Metres
2009 NASCH 25 Metres Runner Up (National Level)
2010 Turtles Junior Improver of the Year
2014 Region 1 Senior Male Champion 25 Metres

Back in 2011, Neil was invited to meet the Mayor of Hillingdon following his National Championship success. The photo, together with several others of Neil, can be viewed on page 2.



Neil Dew





AGM Chairman's Report

This has very much been a year of transition. I took over as Chairman as we lost several experienced older hands as time inexorably marches on. We did not operate a coach trip this year although we plan to this September but we did organise a couple of social events which all seem to have enjoyed.

We have had to cope this year with limited changing facilities, the pool being unexpectedly closed, the apparent inability of pool staff to set the pool up in under 10 minutes and the various lifts not working, both the one to the changing rooms and the one in and out of the pool.

Nevertheless the club seems to be thriving. We have welcomed a number of new younger families. We have a new level one teacher (me) and Level two teacher (Alice Evans, who also did her level one in the period and her level one coaching!) Thank you to all the Volunteers. The club only exists because of the fantastic volunteers who support the Turtles. At poolside, Jessica Grey and Jordan Mason are invaluable. Jordan is currently unable to swim yet it reflects her dedication that she still intends to attend as often as she can, Sarah Harrington left last Summer for University, yet she comes back and helps whenever she can!

We have acquired new equipment this year and new distance badges so I think we are in a very good place to move forward into the new year with confidence.

As ever our gala was a success last year despite the pool staff not knowing we were coming. We have some new swimmers in our gala team (step forward Tilly!) and the prospect of more to come.

We had a very successful event to celebrate Don Lamb's significant birthday. He was one of the few to consistently complete the bouncy castle course despite being older than everyone else who took part! We of course now have a new trophy to remind us of Don's involvement in the club for evermore to be awarded later.

We have had moderate success in our gala's entries but this has been handicapped by unavailability of regular team members. We won 112 medals in the 2015 season, a long way down from the 177 of the previous year. These were evenly split between gold silver and Bronze. Don Lamb topped the adult medal table with 11 and Charlie Laws the Junior table (although he and Sophie Gray both had 10 medals and equal number of golds Charlie won out on the number of Silver medals he acquired).

Fewer Turtles participated in the 2015 British Long Distance Swimming Association due to the unexpected closure of the pool but Thanks to Nigel and others we managed to get a few entries in!

Congratulations go to all our competitive swimmers who represented the Turtles and a thank you to the helpers and supporters of our gala squad.

We have this year survived small fires at Potters Bar, pool evacuation and the inevitable barracking from other teams.

The Treasurer, Rosemary Noyes, will explain the financial situation in her report, but suffice to say we have had an exceptionally good year with continued increase in our funds.

I won't steal Rosemary's thunder but we have made a successful application for Gift Aid from HMRC. I can assure you I pulled no strings myself (for those who don't know I work for HMRC!)

We renewed our independent insurance arrangement with Hiscox (via Swimsure Brokerage) for a further year. In hindsight the decision to leave NASCH and their tied insurance was the right one a couple of years ago.

AGM Chairman's Report (contd.)

I am pleased that the current Commiiee has agreed to stand again for re-election, especially Ann Chivers following the sad loss of her husband Alan, another stalwart of the club social events! But going forward we could do with some new faces on Committee.

The work involved in running a club like the Turtles is demanding and much of that work falls on the Club Secretary functions. Alison and Nigel Grey work tremendously hard for the Turtles Club and I am very grateful to them both for their conscientious application and dedication. I would ask if anyone could help out by taking the register occasionally, Alison would be eternally grateful.

A special thank you to Patricia Bonney who has managed the system change over to pool entrance fees and the associated raffle. Patricia has managed the raffle for the club for many years and is also a Committee member, (although it is noticeable that she seems to have had more helper Elves this year (especially Bijan) as she seems to be going on holiday more often).

Another special mention goes to Dave Lee who despite his ill health still manages to produce the newsletter, teach at the pool, operate as gala team manager when able and kicks the chairman into doing things on a regular basis.

We must also remember the sterling Service Peter Jones has given to the club. He was sorely missed at the long distance swim and our internal championships. We wish him well as he too has suffered ill health this year.

I cannot close without commenting on the sad passing of Neil Dew at the tender age of 24. A stalwart of our gala team even if he never swam further than one length! We will miss his smiling face and gentle humour.

Peter Horne

Chair



Treasurer's Report

Once again the Turtles balance sheet is in a healthy position at the end of this financial year despite there being a considerable overall reduction in donations.

However, we have had a welcome 'hand out' from Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs by having 4 year's worth of Gift Aid credited to our account.

Receipts from subscriptions and the weekly pool entry charge are a little higher this year. There have been some increases in expenditure. Our insurance is higher and we have restocked on medals for our gala and championships. We have also contributed to training costs this year. Transport costs are reduced as we didn't have any social events when we would have expected to have funded the cost of a coach. Overall our expenses are in line with previous years.

As always I would like to thank everyone who assists in raising funds and also grateful thanks go to our generous donors.

Rosemary Noyes

Hon Treasurer

Thank you to our 2015/16 Sponsors

**Four Wheels
Uxbridge Rotary**



**Combined Charities
of Ruislip**





Secretary's Report

It has been another successful year for Turtles Swimming Club. We continue to welcome new members throughout the year which results in a very healthy membership base for our club. As always we have had an active year; participating in galas, organising our own gala, running social outings, holding fun sessions with the inflatable and competing in the long distance swim award.

All the events, communication with members and general day to day running of our club happens because of the work of the Turtles' committee. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all committee members for their hard work. As with all organisations, you can never have enough help and we would welcome any members who would like to be more involved to join our committee. As the saying goes; "Many hands make light work."

One of the highlights of this year for me was the fabulous occasion of Don's special birthday. He very generously funded a celebratory inflatable session and party afterwards for all members of our club. It was safe to say a brilliant time was had by all. Thank you Don on behalf of everyone and we look forward to the inaugural presentation of the Don Lamb shield for service and commitment to Turtles Swimming Club following our AGM meeting.

In the current climate of austerity and financially difficult times for clubs like ours, here's to another successful, healthy and happy year for Turtles Swimming Club and all its members.

Alison Grey, Secretary

2016 Committee & Officer Elections



Peter Horne
Chair
& Health & Safety
Officer



Alison Grey
Secretary &
Child Protection
Officer



Rosemary Noyes
Treasurer



Nigel Grey
Vice Chair



Bijan Ghorbanian
Assistant Secretary



David Lee
Competition
Secretary



Linda Clarke
Chief Instructor



Patricia Bonney
Committee Member

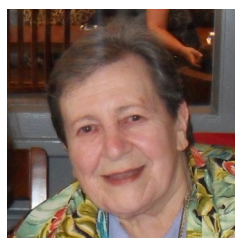


Andy Wallis
Committee Member



Emma
Hewlett
Committee
Member

Ann Chivers
Committee
Member



A warm
welcome to
new
Committee
Member
Don Lamb

Congratulations to all our 2016 Award Winners!

Junior Improver of the Year & Junior 3 Lengths Champion



Tillie Hewlett

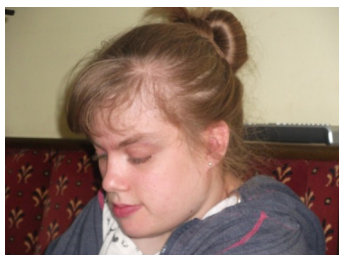


Junior 1 Length Champion
Charlie Laws



Diving Champion
Jamie Woodbridge

Senior Improver of the Year
Kerry Henderson



Volunteer of the Year
Jordan Mason

Ladies 1 Length Champion & Ladies 3 Lengths Champion
Jeannette Prentice



Mens 1 Length Champion
Gary Lee



Mens 3 Lengths Champion
Don Lamb

Family Relay Champions
Lee Family



Turtles Contributor of the Year and winner of the Don Lamb Shield
Jacqui Mason

Relay Champions Ladies Team,
Jeannette, Shaida, Karen



Helpers Champion
Dave Lee

Club 2016 Championship Results

Event	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
Junior 3 Lengths	Tillie Hewlett	Oliver Regan		
Ladies 3 lengths	Jeannette Prentice	Karen Hoffmann	Shaida Ghorbanian	
Mens 3 Lengths	Don Lamb	Gary Lee	Jamie Woodbridge	
Junior 1 Length	Charlie Laws	Anthony Laws	Tillie Hewlett	Oliver Regan
Ladies 1 Length	Jeannette Prentice	Karen Hoffmann	Shaida Ghorbanian	
Mens 1 Length	Gary Lee	Jamie Woodbridge	Don Lamb	
Helper Race	Dave Lee	Peter Horne	Bijan Ghorbanian	
Relay Race	Karen, Jeannette & Shaida	Tillie, Antony & Charlie	Gary & Don	Jamie & Oliver
Family Relay	Lee Family	Wallis/Laws Family	Regan Family	Ghorbanian Family
Diving	Jamie Woodbridge	Karen Hoffmann	Erich Hoffmann	Shaida Ghorbanian

The winners above have all been added to the Turtles Hall of Fame @ <http://www.ruislipturtles.org.uk/HallofFame.htm>

Congratulations to all our 2016 award winners.

In total we had 17 competitors participating in the 2016 Club Championships.

The updated Medal Table is shown below. Congratulations to Shaida Ghorbanian who currently leads the table after 3 events.

	2016 Total	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Gala Events	2015 Total	2014 Total	2013 Total	2012 Total	2011 Total	2010 Total	2009 Total
Shaida Ghorbanian	8	3	1	4	3	10	10	6	9	10		
Karen Hoffmann	7	3	4	0	3	7	11	13	15	11	10	11
Gary Lee	6	1	3	2	3	7	20	10	13	11	12	12
Jeannette Prentice	5	3	2	0	2	10	14	8	11	9	15	
Jamie Woodbridge	5	1	3	1	2	5	6	12	4			
Tillie Hewlett	5	1	2	2	3	1						
Oliver Regan	4	1	2	1	3	7	15	14	14	11		
Charlie Laws	3	2	1	0	3	10	12					
Antony Laws	3	1	2	0	3	8	15					
Don Lamb	3	1	0	2	1	11	12	11	12	4		
Sophie Grey	3	0	1	2	1	10	14	25	26	9	14	1
Neil Dew	1	0	1	0	2	10	4		4	7	9	13
Scarlet Regan	0	0	0	0	2	0						
Others	0	0	0	0	0	16	44	84	66	72	54	57
Totals	53	17	22	14	3	112	177	183	174	144	114	94

**Club 2016
Championship
Photos**

You can view many more photos from our 2016 galas on the Turtles Website @

<http://www.ruislipturtles.org.uk/gallery/Album21.htm>

Great photos, big thanks to Maurice Woodbridge





**Club 2016
Championship**



2016 AGM Annual Awards Photos



Turtles email:
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Turtles website:
<http://www.ruislipturtles.org.uk/>

