

# Turtles Swimming Club Newsletter



Established 1964

## Your Committee for 2017/2018



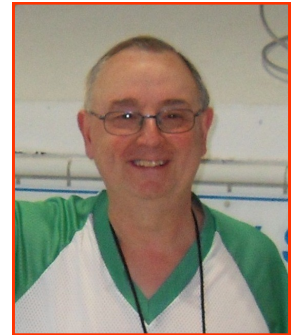
**ALISON GREY**  
**CHAIR**



**NIGEL GREY**  
**VICE CHAIR**



**ROSEMARY NOYES**  
**TREASURER**



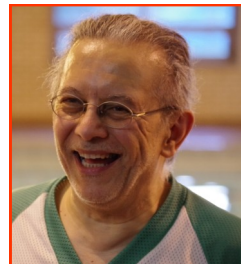
**DAVID LEE**  
**CLUB PRESIDENT &  
COMPETITION SECRETARY**



**ANDY WALLIS**  
**CLUB SECRETARY &  
CHILD PROTECTION  
OFFICER**



**LINDA CLARKE**  
**CHIEF  
INSTRUCTOR**



**BIJAN GHORBANIAN**  
**ASSISTANT  
SECRETARY**

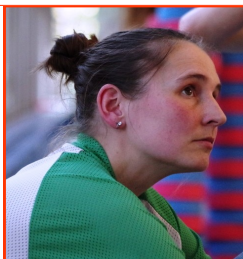


**PETER HORNE**  
**HEALTH &  
SAFETY OFFICER**

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS



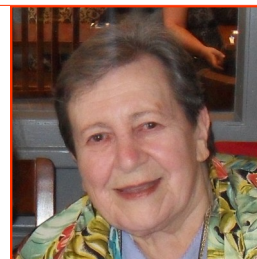
**DON LAMB**



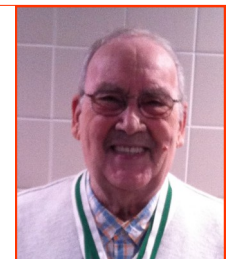
**EMMA HEWLETT**



**PATRICIA BONNEY**



**ANN CHIVERS**



**TERRY CHESHIRE**

**The Turtles Swimming Club is for anyone with a physical, mental health or learning difficulty. Based at Highgrove Pool in Ruislip, the club meets every Saturday between 5pm and 6pm.**

# 2017 Club Awards




**LADIES 3 LENGTHS CHAMPION  
JEANNETTE PRENTICE**

**JUNIOR 1 LENGTH CHAMPION  
OLIVER REGAN**



**NEIL DEW CUP MENS1 LENGTH CHAMPION  
JOSH ARENDS**

**HELPERS CHAMPION  
ALICE EVANS**

**FAMILY RELAY CHAMPIONS  
GREY FAMILY**




**DIVING CHAMPION  
SOPHIE GREY**

**MENS 3 LENGTHS CHAMPION  
MARK BISHOP**




**JUNIOR 3 LENGTHS CHAMPION  
MATTHEW O'NEILL-CUADROS**

**LADIES 1 LENGTH CHAMPION  
GERALDINE LEONG**




**RELAY CHAMPIONS MENS TEAM,  
JOSH ARENDS,  
CHARLIE LAWS & GARY LEE**




**JUNIOR IMPROVER OF THE YEAR**



**UTTAN DHANJAL**

**SENIOR IMPROVER OF THE YEAR**



**TERRY CHESHIRE**

**VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR**



**JESSICA GREY**

**DON LAMB AWARD FOR SERVICES TO TURTLES**



**MAURICE WOODBRIDGE**

**Congratulations to all our 2017 Award Winners!**



**Turtles Swimming Club is a Registered Charity**

**Established 1964**

**Charity Number 1055545**

**Turtles email:**  
[turtlesswimming@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:turtlesswimming@yahoo.co.uk)

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

*Thank you to the organisations and individuals who support the Turtles*



**Phoenix Ladies' Club Pinner**



**Rotary Club of Uxbridge**

**Friends of Ken**



**HILLINGDON LONDON**

**Combined Charities of Ruislip**

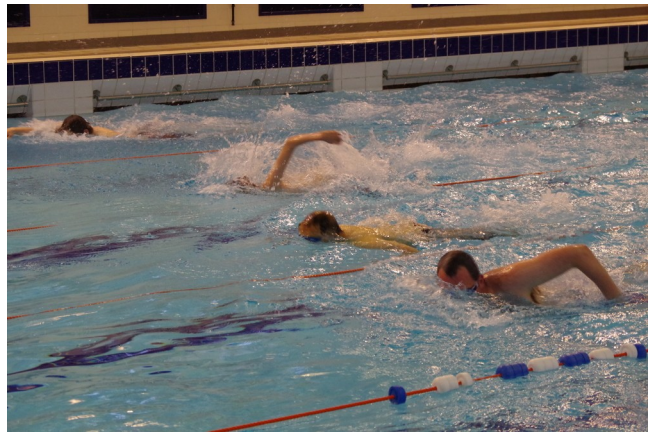
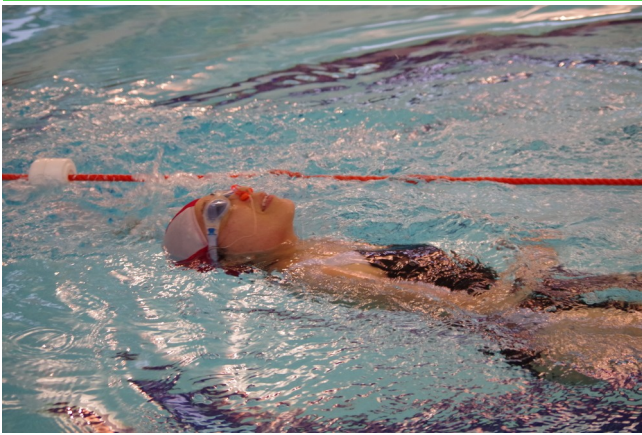


**names.co.uk**  
A DADA BRAND

**Four Wheels Uxbridge Rotary**

# 2017 Turtles Championship Photo Gallery





**2017 Turtles  
Championship  
Photo Gallery**



## Significant Changes to the Committee

At the AGM on the 10th June 2017, Alison Grey was elected Chair of the Turtles Swimming Club, Andy Wallis was appointed to the role of Club Secretary, and also to the role of Child & Vulnerable Adult Protection Officer, and Terry Cheshire was elected as a Committee Member.

David Lee was appointed to the honorary position of Club President, the role was last held by the much missed, Sylvia Smith OBE.

The AGM Reports from the 2016/17 Chair, Secretary and Treasurer are attached to this newsletter.

### Well Done Gabby!

Well done Gabrielle Burrige who has been awarded her 25 Metres Distance Badge by Peter Horne.



If you would like to swim for a distance medal, please make Peter Horne aware.

### Congratulations Once Again to Cheryl



Congratulations to Cheryl Lee who has successfully completed her Level Two Swimming Teacher Qualification. Cheryl has also recently passed her Level One Swim Coaching Qualification at the London Aquatic Centre, Stratford.



Cheryl has also passed the following additional Coaching Modules:

'Disability Swimming', 'Visually Impaired Friendly Swimming' and 'Deaf Friendly Swimming'.

Following a request from Chief Instructor, Linda Clarke, Cheryl has also agreed to be the Turtles Deputy Chief Instructor until the 2018 AGM.

## 2017 AGM Chairman's Report



It is with sadness that I present my final chairman's report (for now) The recent newsletter explained why I am stepping back (for now).

It has been a busy year once again.

As ever 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 two new Level two teachers and we now boast 4 level one teachers with another in the wings currently about to do her training. Since I have been involved with the club I have never seen such a great demand for our services but it is great to see the non-swimmers from last year suddenly spontaneously doing lengths on their own. Thank you to all the Volunteers. The club only exists because of the fantastic volunteers who support the Turtles. At poolside, Jessica Grey, Jordan Mason and Sophie Grey are invaluable. We are pleased to see that both Pippa Haggitt and Cheryl Lee have returned to the club after time away and we still occasionally see Alice Evans when she is not studying.

We have acquired more new equipment this year and now with Emma Hewlett in charge of keeping it in order and also supervising our training records then we are in a good position to keep our teaching up. (Although as I must stress teaching is not guaranteed. We are all volunteers and we can't always be there every week) Nevertheless the newsletter for the past twelve months shows a steady number of distance badges being awarded to an increasingly larger pool of recipients.

Our invitation gala was a success again last year (especially as they knew we were coming this year) We manfully coped with the noise levels that made it hard for swimmers and judges alike to hear the starting whistle especially in the early heats. Hatfield Platypus won the Gala for the third year running. The Turtles entered 2 teams but could only manage 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> in a close contest.

The Gala Team had a truncated 2016 season as we were unable to field a team for one gala and another of our regular events did not run last year. 17 swimmers won medals in that season with Shaida topping the medal table for the first time. It was encouraging to see three new gala team members last year and this year's galas have seen a further 6 debutants so far this season.

Our internal championships last month were an even greater success than our invitation gala. Since I have been involved we have never previously had to have heats as so many competitors wanted to swim. Congratulations to all the winners especially to those who won their first ever gold medals in their first competitive races. It was especially pleasing to see the family race over subscribed even though the Horne family this year consisted of the Hornes, the Hewletts the Boddan-Bryans and the Bishops.

Ten swimmers took part in this Year's BLDSA long distance swim. I have to say I am impressed if anyone can do more than 40 lengths in an hour as that is my usual pace and I see 7 of the 10 beat me and Jessica managed more than double that in completing 86.

We had a very successful Neil Dew Memorial Bouncy castle session and we will hope to run another in the autumn. This is very much part of our strategy to aim our social activities at our younger families. We have not now run any coach outings for a couple of years. We did organize a summer meal at the Old Orchard last summer which was aimed at our older clientele but we also ran a bowling event in April which I understand was a great success which again was aimed at families. If anyone has any ideas for other social events please approach a committee member. (And no we are not going to go with James Lesnek's annual suggestion of a coach trip to Blackpool as this CAN'T be done in a day despite his protestations that it can!

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.

The committee is currently in the process of reviewing and updating its various policy documents that can be found on the website. Again if anyone has any suggested changes could they pass them to us to save us doing the work!

## 2017 AGM Chairman's Report

Going forward we could do with some new faces on Committee as the more people volunteer the easier it is to share jobs around. It is often forgotten that we do this in our spare time and I'm sure I am not alone in wondering why I never seem to have any spare time left.

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 have worked tremendously hard for the Turtles Club and I am very grateful to them both for their conscientious application and dedication. Alison is stepping down as Secretary this year and will be sorely missed.

A special thank you to Patricia Bonney who is still managing the raffle. Patricia has managed the raffle for the club for many years and is also a Committee member, and has still returned to us despite a serious operation this year which kept her out of circulation for some time.

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 soon to be ex-chairman into doing things on a regular basis.

Another mention must go to Ann Chivers who despite ill health still attends committee meetings even though she is currently unable to swim: she also provided valuable help at the Invitation gala.



It was with great sadness that we must remember that our president Sylvia Smith OBE passed away on Wednesday 24th August 2016. She was a wonderful and dedicated ambassador for disability swimming which was recognised by her highly deserved OBE. The Turtles Club was founded in 1964 and Sylvia Smith attended the club from the outset as a young Red Cross poolside volunteer. Her award was for her 45 years of dedication and commitment to the development of swimming for those with disabilities, not just for the Turtles but also at a national level through the NASCH organisation (National Association of Swimming Clubs for the Handicapped). Whilst she had been unwell for some time she still kept a keen interest in the club right up to her death. To date we as a committee have felt that no one could replace her as President.

I'm sure I have missed thanking someone and my apologies if I have offended anyone by omitting them. I won't say goodbye as I remain on Committee but I wish every success to my successor.

## AGM Treasurer's Report



I am pleased to say that once again we end the year in a very healthy financial situation.

We are aware that other clubs have had their pool hire funding withdrawn in the recent past. Our current position would enable us to continue while new funds are sought, should we find ourselves in a similar situation. However, I would emphasise that we have had no indication that this might be happening to us.

Income is much in line with previous years.

We will again be claiming Gift Aid for the year.

Donations are higher this year, mainly due to people's generosity over the sad passing of Neil Dew.

Expenditure is as expected with no unusual items needing to be purchased this year.

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



## AGM Secretary's Report — Alison Grey

At the end of another successful year for Turtles Swimming Club I am able to look back and reflect on the many highs and lows of the year.

Our membership continues to grow and it has been lovely to see the development of some of our newest members both young and more mature. Our club depends on so many people who work tirelessly at the pool on Saturdays and behind the scenes throughout the week. We are blessed with a growing number of volunteers who spend their own time and money to gain swim teacher qualifications and then support our members in so many ways. I would like to thank each and every one of our volunteers who make our club the success it is.

Our members have had the opportunity to participate in an inflatable session at Hillingdon Pool, bowling at Heathrow and a Sunday lunch at the Old Orchard. These outings are an important aspect of our club that we organise in addition to Saturday swim sessions. It is always great to see people in these different social contexts and to see them develop confidence and independence further.

Our Gala team goes from strength to strength and as a club we participate in as many galas as possible. We have been able to recruit many new competitors from our newest members. Our house championship was also a successful event. We had more swimmers than ever and a good time was had by all. It was especially lovely to see members supporting each other, even once their own event was over. That is the true spirit of Turtles Swimming Club.

Our newsletter continues to be expertly produced by Dave and is a great source of information about everything that goes on at our club. Members should receive this by e-mail. If not it is available via our website or paper copies are available on our reception desk. Please read this so that you don't miss any of our news.

I would like to thank Peter for his work as our chair and wish him well with everything else that is currently going on in his busy life. We will still see him around as he continues his work as one of our qualified swimming teachers.

On a different note, we had some very sad news this year when Sylvia Smith OBE, our longstanding president, passed away in August. Sylvia was a truly inspirational lady. She was a wonderful and dedicated ambassador for disability swimming which was recognised by her highly deserved OBE, she had been a Turtle for many years and through her continued interest in us and the wisdom she imparted, helped shape our club into what it is today. However, her resilience, positivity, kindness and care for others shone through in the adversity she faced in recent years making her a truly unique and special person. She is sorely missed.

## Turtles Diary Dates

Saturday 24th June	Barracuda Potters Bar Gala
Tuesday 27th June	Committee Meeting
Tuesday 18th July	Committee Meeting

