



# RUISLIP TURTLES SWIMMING CLUB

DECEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER ISSUE 132

RUISLIP TURTLES SWIMMING CLUB IS A REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1055585

**We wish you all the very best for  
Christmas and let us all hope and  
pray for a far better 2021**



**Alison and Nigel  
Grey resign  
from the Turtles  
Committee**



Turn to page 2

## **THANK YOU TO THE GREY FAMILY**

**The club is very sorry to announce that our Chair and Vice Chair have both decided to step down with immediate effect.**

**Under Alison's stewardship, the Turtles have prospered and grown and we owe a tremendous debt to the entire Grey Family whose hard work and dedication has helped to make the club what it is today.**

**Having been members of the Turtles since 1997, Alison initially joined the committee in the Summer of 2012 as a Co-opted member, becoming Assistant Secretary before moving up 3 years later to the role of Secretary. Alison took over as Chair in 2017 and was supported by her husband Nigel who was Vice Chair from the Summer of 2013 and he also organized our home galas for several years.**

**These resignations bring to an end the Grey family association with the Turtles which began 23 years ago when they first brought Sophie to Highgrove. Since then the whole family had been involved with the club. Sophie still tops the all time medal table with 147; she was nominated by the club and won Hillingdon Disability Sports person of the year for 2012 after winning 2 NASCH National titles and topping the medals table. Sophie also went on to compete in the 2016 Rio Paralympic trials in Glasgow in Spring 2016. Jessica, before she went off to University, was a regular feature in the pool teaching and became Turtles first of several homegrown Level 2 swim teachers. Jack was also starting off as a poolside helper and currently has aspirations to be a swim teacher.**

**Both have cited their reasons for leaving, as a difference of opinion on a personal, strategic and operational level as to the direction the club is embarked on.**

**We wish the whole family all the very best for the future and thank them for all they achieved for Ruislip Turtles Swimming Club.**



## **CHIEF INSTRUCTOR—CHERYL LEE**

### **RETURNING TO THE POOL**

**We remain unclear as to when we are likely to return to our Saturday Swim sessions. The Committee has continued to meet regularly courtesy of Microsoft Teams.**



**We have been reviewing all our Saturday operating procedures, drawing up our Risk Evaluation Schedule, liaising with GLL (Highgrove) and Swim England and trying to assess who is likely to be available to help for our eventual pool re-opening plan.**

**Many of our key volunteers have been shielding throughout the pandemic and so are unlikely to be available to help in the short term .**

**So we are going to need extra resources as we enter a very challenging period for the club.**

**However, when we do return, it will be a phased return as we rebuild the Ruislip Turtles back to its former glory. As part of the phased return, we will be swim testing all returning members to ensure compliance and safety in these difficult times.**

**Stay safe and hope to see you all soon!**

### **HEALTH & SAFETY HELP REQUIRED**

**Peter Horne has decided to step back from his Health and Safety responsibilities due to personal reasons but will continue as a committee member and will still be at the pool when we re-open.**

**Anyone who can help fill this void would be very much appreciated.**

## COULD YOU LEND A HAND?

Losing valuable committee members is a blow at any time, but especially so right now. So we are going to need more help to rebuild the club. We are in effect re-booting Ruislip Turtles as soon as it is safe for us to do so.

If you think you may be able to help by either joining the committee or by just taking on certain tasks then please contact Club President, Dave Lee , on 07730 047500 to discuss how best you can support the current committee.

We are going to have to reallocate our resources to fill the following positions:

**Club Chair**

**Club Vice Chair**

**Child Protection Officer**

**Competition Secretary**

**Committee Members**

**Health & Safety Officer**

Reception / Stewards

Swim Teachers

Website manager

Gala Team Manager

Home Gala Excel / Results Co-Ordinator (Next September)

Home Gala Organiser (Next September)



Those marked in blue would not necessarily require the volunteer to become a committee member.

Returning to the pool is going to be very challenging and so we need all the help we can muster.



## **RUISLIP TURTLES AWARDED 'ACTIVE HILLINGDON GOLD ACCREDITATION'**

We are delighted to have been awarded gold standard by Active Hillingdon, a tremendous accolade, achieved for the first time in the club's history. The club has never managed any higher than bronze standard in the past and so congratulations go to Alison and Cheryl who both worked on our 2020 submission.

The award reflects the range of activities we offer, the support we provide and the general well running of the club. So praise indeed!

## **SWIM ENGLAND**

We are also delighted to announce that the club has now been cleared to become a Swim England associated club having met all the criteria. We intend to submit our application to take effect from January 2021.

Swim England (formerly the ASA) will provide our club with a source of valuable information and support across the full range of swimming activities.

This will bring an end to our 7 years of independence, we ended our association with NASCH in December 2013.

Swim England has already provided useful help and guidance regarding our planned return to the pool.

**THANK YOU TO  
THE  
ORGANISATIONS  
AND  
INDIVIDUALS  
WHO SUPPORT  
THE TURTLES**



**TURTLES**  
SWIMMING CLUB

**Hillingdon  
Council**



**Waitrose**

**Eastcote Methodist Church**

**Tesco**

**ASDA**

**Ruislip  
Combined  
Charity**

**IBB  
Charitable  
Trust**

## AUDREY BUCKINGHAM RIP

Sadly Audrey Buckingham one of our Founder Members passed away in August., aged 84

Audrey was a very active member of Turtles and made many friends within the club , enjoying Socials, Fund Raising Swims and taking part in numerous galas.

In the beginning Swimming terrified Audrey but her physio encouraged her to swim . So each Saturday accompanied by her Sister Margaret she would take buses from Uxbridge to Watford where there was an indoor swimming pool. Slowly but surely she improved and soon she was taking part in Galas up and down the country including Blackpool, Ipswich. Wakefield, Birmingham.

It would be a few years later when Highgrove was opened that she was able to swim nearer home. Joining the Dolphins and subsequently the Turtles

Audrey was always a great club member and was equally excited and happy with other people's achievements . She really enjoyed her swims but would often drive to Highgrove simply to meet up with friends.

Audrey was a very good local artist, enjoyed wheelchair dancing and supported the Polio Fellowship and Harrow Disabled Drivers.

Mark Buckingham (son).



**Sylvia, Dave & Audrey at the club's 50th year celebrartion in 2014(above) and with Sylvia & Elisabeth (below)**



## FINAL GALA MEDAL TABLE 2020

**Just like everything else,  
Covid-19 decimated our gala  
season.**

**We do have one gala booking  
for 2021, but of course we do  
not know yet quite when we  
will be returning to  
competitive swimming.**

**So watch this space!**

<b>Medal Table</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>B</b>
Gary	2	1	1	0
Anthony	2	1	0	1
Sophie	2	1	0	1
Momoka	2	1	0	1
Don	1	1	0	0
Jeannette	1	1	0	0
Jamie	1	1	0	0
Josh	1	1	0	0
Stuart	1	1	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>

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

**Ruislip Turtles Facebook Page**  
[www.facebook.com/groups/RuislipTurtles](http://www.facebook.com/groups/RuislipTurtles)

**Turtles  
Swimming  
Club  
Established  
1964**

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

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

**Chief Instructor:**  
Cheryl Lee

**Secretary:**  
Heather Johnston

**Club President:**  
Dave Lee

**Gala Team  
Manager:**  
Dave Lee

**Deputy Secretary :**  
(reception desk)  
Bijan Ghorbanian

**Treasurer:**  
Rosemary Noyes