

NEWSLETTER

February 2012



Stirling Swimming

Welcome to the Winter e-newsletter of Stirling Swimming. It has been a busy few months since the last newsletter, with highlights including the Club Championships and the National Short Course Championships in December and the latest edition of the Stirling Junior Open Meet in January. A lot of people are involved in making these events successful, and I'd like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to all of them – coaches and parent volunteers in particular.

If you have any questions about any of the articles in the newsletter, or about the running of the Club more generally, please feel free to contact me or anyone else on the Committee. The contact details are at the bottom of the second page.

David Rogerson

David Rogerson
President, Stirling Swimming

The Club has been actively seeking grants for various activities, and we are very grateful to Club Sport Stirling for providing money to buy an underwater camera that will be used to improve swimming technique. We have also received funding for skipping ropes – a pair to be given to all swimmers for use in warm up and land training. There are a couple of other grant applications pending. More details next time.

*A new SASA membership year starts in February and this year all families with swimmers under the age of 18 are being asked to forward nominate at least one SASA parent/volunteer member. As agreed at the AGM in September, the Club's parent membership fee has been reduced from £40 to £20 and will include the SASA registration fee. Forms will be sent out shortly and should be returned to the Membership Secretary by the end of February. One volunteer position we urgently need to fill is Technical Officials Co-ordinator. If you are interested please speak to **Anne Wilson**.*

*The Stirling Junior Open Meet was held on 21-22 January 2012. It was good to see that twice as many Stirling swimmers made the entry times this year, with **Ella Shilliday**, **Cara Smith** and **Daniel Hesp** all collecting medals. The event was a significant financial success, netting £5,000 for the Club. Many thanks to all those who supported the event: as technical officials, providing cakes and tombola prizes, and volunteering over the weekend.*

Photo and video policy

With the purchase of an underwater camera (see previous page) it is a good time to review the club's policy on use of cameras and video equipment. The policy is on the website. To improve the management of the policy we will be moving from 1 March 2012 to an opt-out approach to consent. If you are not wanting your child to be photographed you need to let Jill Matthewson know. A separate letter will be sent out via the squad reps.

2012 Olympics

Excitement is rising as London 2012 approaches. Head Coach Kerry Wood and four of our swimmers are currently focussed on the Olympic Trials to be held in March -**Martin Cremin, Joe Welstead, Hope Gordon** and **Jim Anderson**. Good luck to them and fingers crossed that they obtain their qualification times.

Water Polo

The water polo section continues to develop, and it was pleasing to note that the club had its first win recently (18-12 against Falkirk) and two of the squad - **Sara Morrison** and **Skye Campbell** - have been selected to play with Dunfermline in the Ladies Scottish Cup.

Swimmer of the Month

Congratulations to **Rosie Stanger** who was named as our latest Swimmer of the Month. We have a new volunteer (Patricia Malone) to co-ordinate and publicise this regular award, so hopefully we will manage this better in the future.

Scottish Short-Course

The Club enjoyed a fun and successful visit to Inverness in December for the Scottish Short-course Nationals. **Martin Cremin** came home with two Golds (400m and 1500m Freestyle); **Peter Stewart** won silver in 50m Freestyle; and both featured with **Cameron Brown** and **Joe Welstead** in the silver-winning Men's 4*50m relay team.

The Water Polo squad showing off their new polo caps



Swimmer Code of Conduct

Please remember that Stirling Swimming operates a swimmer and parent Code of Conduct (it is available on the website). Over recent weeks there have been a couple of poolside incidents in which swimmers have not followed the requirement to "respect each other at all times". These incidents were resolved satisfactorily, but more care needs to be taken to ensure that our Club is free from physical or verbal abuse of any kind.

Team Managers

The Club needs Team Managers to accompany swim teams when travelling to away events (e.g. the National Age Groups in Sunderland in March) and for swim camps. Ideally we should have a small group of trained Team Managers to call upon as required. A training course will be held on Sunday 26th February. We have several spaces available and the Club will pay the cost of this course. Please contact **David Rogerson** if you are interested.

Stirling Swimming website – an update

The Stirling Swimming website has now been transferred to a new host and new functionality has been added to grant access to a range of authors. We hope this will result in more accurate and up-to-date content. Please have a look through the website, and if you have any suggestions on how to improve the site further, please contact our website manager, **Brian Russell**.

Awards Night and Ceilidh

The annual awards night will be held at Stirling Rugby Club on February 25th. This is always a good evening for parents and swimmers alike – Club Championships medals will be issued and there will be a buffet dinner followed by ceilidh/disco. Tickets are available now from the **Julie McGregor**.

Contact points

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