

2011 2012 Presidents Report

The past season has again proved successful for the Arena swim Club. Not only did we win the “A Grade Premiership” for a third successive year, we had record numbers attend the National Age, Open and Open Water championships. These championships provided a great experience for our swimmers with a number of them medalling – an excellent achievement.

This year the committee was very inexperienced and a steep learning curve needed to be established. Despite this inexperience problems, or perceived problems, were overcome in the fullness of time. I would like to thank Louise Claxton, who attended meetings on my behalf when I was unable to attend, and Mike Meinema, who as the immediate Past President and current Treasurer, who provided sound guidance and support throughout the year. Clare Masolin, in her role as Secretary performed her duties magnificently, and it is very pleasing to see that Clare has renominated for the role of Secretary for the coming year. Sarah Kimber was the registrar and did a fantastic job in her first year in the role. There were a number of other ladies who assisted Sarah throughout the year and I sincerely thank all of them and trust we will have you all on board at some stage during the coming year. The registrar role is one of the most important, if not the most important, role within the swim club so I sincerely thank all those people who made this role work. Stuart Downes held the position of Meet Manager. He was entrusted with organising the race sessions and the Arena Long Course Meet – all of which were sanctioned by SWA. Problems, such as lack of officials and timing failures, did arise from time to time, and while extremely frustrating for Stuart and all concerned, were outside the control of the ASC. To all the other people on committee over the past year I thank you for your input and trust that you will continue to support the ASC both now and in the future.

Volunteers are an integral part of the club operation. It should be noted that none of the volunteers are remunerated by the ASC. I fully understand the time constraints on people, however it must be emphasised that without ongoing parental support – your children will be the ones who are penalised. There are many ways to get involved. We require a timekeeper co-ordinator, fundraising co-ordinators, sponsorship co-ordinators, and most importantly officials. We have already been advised by SWA that each club is required to have a minimum number of officials within their own club in order to conduct a swim meet. Unfortunately the ASC, at this point in time, only have 3 accredited officials. We do require more people to be willing to undertake these duties – if anyone is interested, please register your interest with me and the appropriate training and subsequent accreditation will be arranged with SWA.

The ASC forms the competitive arm of the Arena Joondalup VenuesWest Swim program. Our role is to provide support to the coaches and to support their program. We do not have any input into the management of the swim program. Recently we saw the departure of Michael Shaw, who had been acting as the Head Coach for a number of months as well as guiding our National Age swimmers. Michael is now working with SWA and still maintains a keen interest in the performance of “his swimmers”. I take this opportunity to thank Michael for his contribution over a number of years and wish him the very best for his future endeavours. To Rod and all the coaches, I consider that the ASC is extremely fortunate to have some very dedicated coaches and I thank each and every one of you for your dedication and support of our kids. An example of this is how the coaching staff embrace and promote “Tiffs Travels”. Over the past couple of seasons we have been to Rottneest and

Adventure World as a club, while the swimmers have had fun at venues such as darklight, paintballing and beach volleyball. I believe the next event will be "Tiffs Amazing Race" so please stay tuned for further information.

Now to the future....

As everyone is aware we are in the middle of a pool closure. I thank everyone for their patience and it is unfortunate that the re-opening may now occur in mid September – a delay of 2 weeks. However I have been assured that once we return the centre will be excellent and the facilities will be second to none in WA. Time will tell.

In my opening I commented that we were fortunate to have won the "A Grade Premiership" for a third successive year. As with all winners, the winner becomes the hunted. Current performances indicate that we will struggle to retain our mantle as the number 1 swim club in 2013. This will prove a challenge to the coaching staff, and I wish them all the best in their endeavours.

Swimming is a sport that is measured by performance, and specifically the number of medals won (the current Australian Olympic Team is a testament to this). To continue to win, and everyone loves a winner, the incoming committee may have to consider different strategies for the future. Our main competitors, Western Sprint and West Coast, have expanded their catchment areas with a view to long term success. They have also been active, and successful, in promoting their club structure to other clubs swimmers, with a view to having those swimmers join their clubs.

The ASC, in conjunction with VenuesWest, will need to ascertain the future direction of the club. In this regard, and at a meeting I attended this afternoon, VenuesWest have advised that it is their intention not to continue with parts of their overall swim program. VenuesWest have indicated that they will retain the "Learn to Swim" however the Junior, Aussie Surf and Competitive streams will be privatised. As such it is imperative that working group be formed to liase with VenuesWest to ensure an appropriate outcome is reached for the Arena Swim Club.

Do we require a club just for participation, are we chasing eliteness, or are we chasing a combination of the 2. If we are to continue to "win" then change will have to occur otherwise we will be unable to compete with the larger clubs. This is the challenge for the future.

Phil Wall
ASC President