

## 2012 2013 Presidents Report

The past season has again proved successful for the Arena Swim Club, in what has been a challenging environment.

In my address last year I mentioned that “Current performances indicate that we will struggle to retain our mantle as the number 1 swim club in 2013”. Therefore, It was extremely pleasing to see that we were able to consolidate our position as an “A Grade” club by running 2<sup>nd</sup> in the “A Grade Premiership” – an event we have won in the previous 3 seasons. This was despite a 10 week pool closure for Arena Joondalup and a change in organisational structure due to VenuesWest not wishing to continue their swim program.

We have been operating in our own right since 1 May 2013. We have established a memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with VenuesWest which provides for security of pool and office space for the next 5 years. I would like to acknowledge the role played by Bernadette Smith in our discussions with VenuesWest in establishing the MOU, as she has provided significant legal and accounting support at minimal cost to the club. All in all a fair outcome has been achieved. VenuesWest have been supportive of the change and have provided a number of discounts during our initial year. However, charges for exclusive lane usage and office usage will be commencing as at 1 May 2014 and will continue to increase in future years. Initially it will cost the club an extra \$40k per annum, which increases to \$120k within 4 years. This cost is in addition to the VenuesWest memberships and pool entry costs that are already being paid by our swimmers. This issue is well known to Swimming WA (SWA) as we are not the only club with this long term problem which threatens the viability of all swim clubs, and ultimately, the sport itself. We cannot rely on members being able to cover future cost increases. If not the sport will become an “elite sport” – not for the elite athlete, but a sport solely for the wealthy. The local mayor and MP are aware of this issue relating to the ASC, and it is hoped that with their support, and that of SWA, an appropriate solution will be able to be negotiated.

Sarah Kimber who in her role as Vice President, assisted when I was unavailable. Sarah was also the Registrar and did a fantastic job in the role. There were a number of other ladies who assisted Sarah throughout the year and I sincerely thank all of you for your dedication to the cause. 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.

Mike Meinema, who as the immediate Past President and current Treasurer, provided sound guidance and support throughout the year and was also instrumental in preparing budgets for the new club regime.

Clare Masolin, in her role as Secretary performed her duties magnificently. Her record keeping, note taking, and willingness to “make things happen” is excellent and she has been an excellent support to me.

Coaching Staff – Rod Bonsack has been involved with the ASC since it’s inception. Rod managed the swim program while employed at VW and was instrumental in athletes achieving success at National and International level. It was a testament to his service to the ASC that he was bestowed with Life Membership at the 2013 Awards Night. Carey Martin is the clubs head/senior coach. Carey assisted

in establishing the new program structure given the parameters imposed by VenuesWest. She is in regular contact with VW staff in order to achieve desired outcomes for the swim program. Warren, Tiffany, Emma, Ashlee and Alicia as our support coaches perform extremely well. This is confirmed, not only by the results of swimmers in their squads, but also by the number of excellent comments received from both swimmers and parents. I sincerely thank them for their efforts and dedication

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.

The future holds many challenges. To ensure the long term viability of the Arena Swim Club, we must look at ways of increasing membership, creating new programs and establishing new business relationships. Succession planning is another area which is of vital importance. I thank you for allowing me the honour to have been President of the Arena Swim Club for the past 2 seasons and look forward to a continued rewarding and successful future for the Arena Swim Club.

Kind regards

Phil Wall  
ASC President