

2013 2014 Presidents Report

We are now into the second season as an independent club and again at times it has proved challenging.

We have been working with solicitors regarding amending the ASC Inc. constitution. This has been required to accommodate the ASC Inc. separation from VenuesWest. The work is due to be completed in the next week where a special general meeting will be called to pass the special resolution to adopt the changes with the solicitor being present to go through any queries regarding the drafting.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with VenuesWest (VW) has finally been completed and is now ready for execution. It must be noted that this is an MOU and not a contract and as such items that have been agreed upon now, may be amended in the future depending upon circumstances at the time. I would like to acknowledge the role played by Bernadette Smith in our discussions with VW 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 at this point in time. However, charges for exclusive lane usage and office usage commenced 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 the next 3 years. This cost is in addition to the VW 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. I would strongly recommend that all club members contact the local mayor and MP and express your concern with the rising costs associated with the sport. These people are aware that this issue not only relates to the ASC, but to the wider swimming community, and it is hoped that with their support, and that of SWA, an appropriate solution will be able to be negotiated.

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 – if not too sure, ask, and put your name forward to assist on sub-committees – it is a great way to get to know other people within the club.

Rumour, innuendo, incorrect use of social media are diseases that can affect the success of any organisation. Unfortunately during my tenure as President there have been a few issues that have threatened to undermine the success of this club. I have always stated that if anyone has any issues or concerns within the club, to contact me to find out the true position on any issue. Most people have taken me up on my statement and the true position on issues has been advised and the rumours quashed. When issues continue to fester, we will take further action for the betterment of the club.

I would like to thank all the volunteers who have assisted the ASC during the past year and would like to make special mention of those committee members who have chosen not to continue in formal roles for the coming year. Louise in her role as joint uniform co-ordinator, Mike & Christine as treasurer, Paul as media/club promotion and Clare as secretary have provided invaluable support to the ASC. In the case of Louise, Mike and Clare they have been long standing committee people who

have always volunteered their time when requested. Christine had to resign her position as Treasurer after a short time on committee but continued to assist in the role to ensure that expenses (especially coaches payments) were made on time.

Sarah, Bernadette and Clare were pivotal to the successful management of the ASC. Their experience, knowledge, and attention to detail made implementing process change far easier (and cheaper) than if we had to outsource the majority of this work. It is pleasing to see that both Sarah and Bernadette have re-nominated for committee roles for the coming year.

We are fortunate to be a host club of the Northern High Performance Training Centre (NHPTC) and to have a coach of the calibre of Bud McAllister heading this program which is an initiative of WAIS, SWA, VW, City of Joondalup, and the 2 host clubs – Arena & Breakers. Bud works closely with Carey, as the ASC Head Coach, but has also provided significant feedback to our other coaches. For those people who attended the windup and heard Bud's speech, we truly do have a world class coach at our venue.

Carey has established the current swim program structure given the parameters imposed by VW and WAIS. She is in regular contact with VW staff in order to achieve desired outcomes for the swim program. Warren, Tiffany, Angie & Ashlee 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. We also have a couple of "new" coaches to the club – Brad Williams and Danae Okulicz (both National Swimmers) have completed their coaching qualifications and will be assisting the Junior Squads in the future.

During the past year we have diversified the swim program to incorporate water polo. "FlippaBall" is a junior water polo program and while still in its infancy we are hopeful that this program will flourish in the future. It also provides another option for our non-competitive swimmers.

The future holds many challenges. To ensure the long term viability of the Arena Swim Club, we must continue to look at ways of increasing and retaining membership, creating new programs (HPTC & Flippaball are 2 examples of diversification) 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 3 seasons. I wish the new committee continued success, thank all of you for your support of the ASC, and look forward to a continued rewarding and successful future for the Arena Swim Club.

Kind regards

Phil Wall
ASC President