

Chairman's Report 2014

Colin Vickery

I thought it would be nice this year to format the Chairman's Report into a month by month review of 2013 a bit like when they do a 'Sport's Review of the Year' each December on the TV. As usual I will leave the clubs finances for our Treasurer Graeme to present when we arrive at that part of the meeting.

January It doesn't seem a year ago that in January last year we missed 2 sessions due to snow and it was early in January 13 that we received a cheque from the Yeovil Branch Lions to help us pay for Tee shirts for our swim teams.

February February was fairly uneventful except for our AGM where our special guests were Paul Allaway from the Yeovil Round Table and Ian White who was one of our early members who had moved away from the area but was a Flame Ambassador for Weymouth and Portland during the Olympic year.

March In March, I attended the Westland's Latin and Ballroom Club, at the invitation of Edith and Brian White, for those of you who don't know Edith used to be one of our Lifeguards, where I was presented with a cheque for nearly £500 for the Apollo Club.

We held our first Coffee morning of the year on 30th March where we also staged our Easter draw raising £300.

Alan Robus drove the minibus for the first time for us on 19th March. March was also the month when we met Ed Breadon for the first time and took him out for a test drive. In this early part of the year we also entered teams into the annual Lions Swimathon.

April We missed 2 Tuesday swimming sessions in April due to essential maintenance being carried out on the building at Sherborne boys school. The Keynsham gala was held on 13th April where we came 2nd overall winning 23 individual medals and also winning the Team Endurance Award. In April we also all started frantically collecting tokens for the WG wish campaign which would eventually result in us collecting over 1000 tokens and winning 3rd prize in the Western Gazette / Yeovil Round Table competition and a donation of £1500.

May On 11th May we attended the Street Gala and on 15th a Sailing trip to Poole took place. May was also the month of our annual Woodlarks camp. Around the beginning of May we sadly lost one of our longest standing Committee members Jean Crowdie. Jean had been the Club's Secretary for

many years, on occasions attending the Woodlarks camp. Around this time Joan Livesley also died. Joan was a member from many years ago and although she stopped coming swimming regularly, when she moved out of town some years ago, she remained in contact with the club through Edith and others.

June And in June we lost Brian Taylor again a very long standing member who had been a lifeguard and drove for Apollo. In his younger days Brian was also well known in the community as a Special Constable and towards the end of the year Madeline Gibbs sadly passed. All four of them will be sadly missed but fondly remembered.

July On 6th July it was the Plymouth Gala where every one of our swimmers came away with a medal, both our adult and junior teams coming 2nd overall.

By 21st of July the hot summer had really started to set in and the sun shone all day when a group of us went along to the Clapton Fun day near Crewkerne which was run by the Crewkerne Lions Club where we had a stall and was followed by an event at Joan Owens house the following week. The combined events raising £200 for the club.

In July we received another donation from the Yeovil Branch lions this time for nearly £300 for lifejackets for our Thursday evening sailing.

August Paul again took a sailing party to Poole on 14th August which was the second Trip of it's kind of the summer.

September There was a third trip to Poole on 1st September and in September we were also handed a donation of £200 by one of our members David March from the Battens Charitable Trust.

Although not very well attended, we again had a display at the Bucklers Mead *ThisAbility* day on 15th September.

October Was a quiet month but

November Sunday 3rd November saw our annual interclub gala held at Sherborne School followed by the presentations at the Digby Hall. This was to be the third year running in which we would win our own gala.

On 27th November we held a table top sale at the Lysander Road Scout Hall where at least another £300 was raised for club funds.

December On Sunday 15th December our annual Xmas Gala was held, entered by over 20 of our members representing all age groups, followed by an excellent Christmas party at the Birchfield Hall in Yeovil and at the end of

the month there was a subsidised outing to see Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs at the Octagon theatre.

Summary

As you can see from what I've already said, apart from some sad things, there were many highlights during the year from which we all gained tremendous enjoyment and for which we can all be proud. I am pleased to say that there seems to have been many more of our members coming along and participating in fundraising events during the past year so I thank you all for that and please keep it up. There are many people to thank for making all of the past year possible.

Graeme Tate and Old Mill Accountancy for another year of excellent free accounting service. We must never underestimate how lucky we are to be provided with this service.

Jackie Drake for another excellent year of galas and everything that she has done as our swimming coach.

Shelia Drake for acting as our Membership Secretary and increasing our membership numbers slightly again this year.

Sarah Hull for organising the table top sales and helping me with the Secretarial duties as well as every other thing that being the clubs Publicity Rep entails.

Jean Noake for acting as our Social Rep as she has for many years.

Gill Allen for all her cashiering and her valuable contributions at the Committee meetings.

Paul Wilson for all of the Thursday evening sailing and the trips to Poole last year.

Tracey Wilson for looking after all of our transport needs and taking our members to Woodlarks last year plus everything else that she has done for the club such as the trip to the Octagon to see the pantomime.

Clive Strickland for acting as our Vice Chairman.

The people that I've just mentioned have again this year proved to be an excellent Committee.

I would also like to thank all of our Lifeguards, our Lifeguard numbers at the moment are at an all time low and we are trying everything to find some more but it is a real concern.

Thanks to our Volunteer Drivers. Unfortunately, Tracey tells me that Tom Allaway has decided that he will not be driving for Apollo again. This is more to do with the driving license categories, that require special arrangements after a certain period of time, rather than anything else so I would like to thank Tom most sincerely for everything that he has done for the club over recent years and wish him all the best for the future. I know that he was very popular with all of our members that used the minibus.

I would like to thank everyone who are not on the Committee but help regularly. Edith Roberts, Iris Hoskins, Mary Barker, Daphne Wilson, Joan & Bev Owen, Lynda Sharp, Jane Burrell and many others.

As always, I would like to thank all of the other organisations that help us each year Goldenstones, Sherborne Boys School, Sutton Bingham Sailing Club and the Yeovil and Dorchester Volunteer Bureau's to mention just a few. Your efforts are really appreciated.

Also thanks to our Website Co-ordinator Mike Searl.

Finally, I would like to say thank you to you, all of our members, for supporting our club over the last year and wish you every enjoyment in the club year that is just commencing.

At our annual accounts meeting last Monday evening Graeme went through all of the clubs finances with us in detail and I'm please to say that the figures are quite healthy and there will need no need to increase membership subscriptions this year. However, the Committee have decided that to protect the future well being of the club it would be necessary to add a tiny amount of 20p on to a swim from the 1st April. This will make an adult swim £2:40 but junior swims will remain the same as they are at £1:50. This compares with a public swim in the Yeovil pool at £4:00 and a junior swim at £2:30 so I think that you can see that the Apollo rates are still very cheap. Sherborne draw takings were down about £80 last year and we think that this is due to people trying to compensate for the increase in pool charges imposed at the AGM by not having so many draw tickets. Please can I ask that you do not let this happen this year.

Thank you