

## **Apollo Swimming Club Chairman's Report 2019 (Colin Vickery)**

Well, I'm very pleased to announce that this is the Apollo Clubs 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary year. Since 1969 this club of ours has helped hundreds if not thousands of disabled people to attain a better condition of life and later on in the year we will be holding a party to mark this incredible milestone in the clubs history. Today we again have a membership of just over 100 and I can honestly say that at the moment I feel that the club is genuinely flourishing. During 2018 the Committee approved the membership of 15 new members which is an average of more than one per month and there presently seems to be more interest and buzz around everything we do and all of the events that we put on which I think is largely due to all of the hard work that you have put in over the past couple of years and also the publicity associated with the new minibus.

We did lose a swimming session due to snow last year on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> March when we were visited by The Beast from the East.

To highlight some of the events that we have held or attended in the past year. There was the annual Woodlarks Camp that Sheila and Jackie took a party of our members to again in May. We held Coffee mornings at the Foresters Arms and another at Monks Yard at Horton Cross (for which we have been invited back to again this year), we hosted a comedy production at the Swan theatre, held our usual Table Top sale, Christmas party, Ottery trip and Skittles evenings which have now all become a popular regular events and we also competed in the usual galas.

During the past year we have experienced some significant changes. Brian Higgins The Deputy Manager of the Sherborne School Leisure Centre who we all knew and loved left the School and one of our Lifeguards Rosie Palmer has left us to go travelling across the world. However, to compensate for this we have had the kind help of Ali Parnell and her Lifeguards from the Leweston school. At one time last year when Andrew Marsh was unable to Lifeguard due to medical reasons we were down to just one qualified Lifeguard but then Phoebe Redman who had been helping us for a while took her exam and qualified and also introduced us to another young lady that she had trained with and who now Lifeguards for us called Olivia Godfrey and I'm pleased to say that Andrew has returned and Ali has gone on our rota as a regular as well so we have gone from just 1 Lifeguard about 9 months ago to 5 now.

Jonathan Dixon has become our new Transport Manager and what a good job he is making of it. I've never seen such colourful quarterly drivers lists as

Jonathan produces and he has taken over at a difficult time when all of the insurances and the like needed transfer to our new vehicle. Jonathan is unfortunately unable to attend this evening but has even written a short transport report for you all which I'm going to ask somebody to read for you in a minute. Mark Ham has started driving for us regularly (bringing our total number of regular drivers up to 7) and of course we finally took delivery of our brand new top of the range minibus in November.

Last year we competed in just the interclub galas at Street and our own at Sherborne and we came 3<sup>rd</sup> in both of them but this year we are hoping that there will be four as the Wimborne Wagtails are holding one and we are hoping that there will also be a gala at Plymouth again this year. We again spent Thursday evenings in the summer sailing on Sutton Bingham reservoir. What an exciting year 2018 has been and what an exciting year lies ahead of us this year!

Unfortunately and very sadly in the past year Les Derrick has passed away within a very short time of his wife Maureen. For anybody that doesn't know Les was a member of the Apollo band. Many years ago there were some Apollo members who had been musicians in their younger days and decided to form a band to play at our Christmas parties and they called themselves the Apollo Band. They were very good but unfortunately never got on Top of the Pops! and more recently we have lost Doreen Cousins. Doreen had moved away from the area some time ago but even though she was living many miles away kept up her membership and came back to see us on a couple of occasions. All three were great friends of club and the world is a poorer place without them.

I would like start my thankyou's this year by mentioning some of the organisations that helped us in purchasing the new minibus. Our friends from the Yeovil Roundtable & the Lions Club were some of our biggest donators along with the Co-op scheme and of course we had a great deal of help from the Blackmore Vale Magazine who covered our story from the very beginning of the campaign to the very end without charge and SMV commercials along with Cotrim provided us with the best minibus to suit our needs at the best price and of course hosted the handover event on the Saturday morning in November at their premises off of Lysander Road. There were also many other individuals (many who are friends of our President Sue Bullivant) and organisations who helped us reach our very ambitious target. Jon Jackson deserves a special mention for kicking off our campaign he is connected to Old Mill Accounts but personally donated a large amount to get things up and running. There are far too many to mention here and now but everybody who

has donated any amount no matter how large or small are recorded in the clubs yearly accounts and I sincerely thank you all.

I would like to thank all of the Committee: That's Sue Bullivant our President. I don't need to tell you how much Sue did regards raising money for our new minibus she really has the gift of the gab and we are all really grateful to her. I am convinced that we would not have our new bus now if Sue had not become our President because whilst we were doing quite well saving a lot of money per year we were not making fast enough progress. A new bus was so expensive that it needed somebody special to really speed the process up a bit which she achieved in spectacular fashion. Sheila Drake as well as being the Vice Chair attends just about every session and event we hold to help out along with Jackie. Graeme Tate has been the Clubs Treasurer for 13 years now and it's a testimony to him that I can't ever recall ever having any real query with any of the clubs finances during the whole of that time. Eive Warr is our Secretary and not only types all of the meeting minutes but also ensures that they are distributed very quickly and efficiently. I put a very high value on accurate minutes and it makes all of our lives so much easier when there's a clear record of everything that we are doing that we can refer to. She also helps with her daughter with the food whenever we hold an event. Jackie Drake our Swimming Rep well I don't know what more I can say other than she's the longest serving Gala Coach that the club has ever had and every gala that she has ever organised has gone without a hitch she also helps along with Sheila with the food at all of our events. Sheila and Jackie are both brilliant. Jonathan Dixon Transport I talked about earlier and we will read you his report in a minute. Jackie Masterson Membership Well the current membership figures do the talking for me here and Jackie has also thrown herself into sorting out the General Data Protection Forms that we have had to deal with from last year which involved a lot of printing and computer work so a very big thankyou to her for that. Sarah Hull Publicity. Sarah is just about the most helpful person I've ever known . She arranged the extra Leweston Lifeguard cover for us in the beginning and her Christmas table tops generate more and more interest every year, Sarah always responds immediately to any call for help. As an example, our Secretary was unfortunately unable to make our annual accounts meeting on Friday evening so Sarah and I said that we would write the minutes between us but, knowing that I had a busy weekend on the cards, Sarah had typed them all up all on her own over the weekend and when I got to work at 8 o'clock this morning there they were there waiting for me. Thank you Sarah. Jean Noake Social, Jean has been a Committee member for a very long time, longer than me, and as well as organising our social events she is always first to volunteer to help at our fund raising events such as any Fetes that we attend or coffee mornings. Paul Wilson Sailing is brilliant and takes full responsibility for taking our members

out on the water sailing and people like Gill Allen I believe our really the lifeblood of any club. she looks after our Cashiers and she is just so nice, efficient and reliable, never misses a meeting without good reason, has covered Saturday mornings at Yeovil for as long as I can remember so an absolutely perfect Committee member.

I will finish by saying a big thank you to all the rest of you who are not Committee members but help run the club. That's all of the Lifeguards, minibus drivers, anyone who helps at our sessions, galas and parties Joan and Bev Owen, Mary Barker, Sonia Hannam and her Family, Etive's daughters to mention just a few and the others will know who you are. Mike Searl the Website Co-ordinator, Sherborne School & Goldenstones Leisure Centres. Leweston School and Sutton Bingham Sailing Club.

Thank you