

Chairmans Report 2010

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As expected, the past 12 months have been very busy indeed and unfortunately we did lose 3 swimming sessions due to ice and snow during January. As well as the 40th anniversary year and everything that that entailed, we have had two motor insurance claims to deal with neither of which were straightforward. Overall, I think that the 40th anniversary year was a huge success. I think, I can say that the 100 or more who attended our party on the 3rd October enjoyed it immensely and of course it was an opportunity to meet up with people who were involved with the club, in some cases from the outset, and although we don't see some of them as regularly as we used to they will always be very much a part of the Apollo family. I believe that the extra publicity generated by the 40th anniversary year will benefit the club in the future.

I am very much aware of the extra effort that was put into organising the party and would like to thank everybody involved. I arrived at the hall at about 4 o'clock on the afternoon of 3rd October and there were several people there, who had been putting things in place for a couple of hours, already and then of course by the time we had packed everything away in the evening it was just a couple of minutes to midnight so a very big thank you to not only everybody who helped on the day but also to Graeme Tate and Sue Bullivant whose efforts in writing letters to and badgering local people resulted in 21 local businesses donating draw prizes. For those of you who don't know her, Sue Bullivant was the wife of our former Treasurer Geoff and a long serving Committee member until about 5 years ago but even though we no longer see her as often as we would like she has many contacts in local circles and is always there silently working away for us in the background.

We have sent out letters to everyone but if there is anyone here this evening connected to any of the local organisations who donated draw prizes for our 40th anniversary party or who were involved with providing the food or the hall on the day then I formally thank you all on behalf of the club.

As for the rest of the year, your Committee have also found time to carry on with the more routine business including that of raising funds and trying to increase membership. In order to raise a little money in the current climate or attract a few more members is extremely hard work. We are making slight headway but I can't over emphasise the enormous amount of effort that has to be put in these areas for a very small gain. However, our Treasurer is very active in applying for grants and donations and most of the success, in this area, over the last couple of years has been as a direct result of his efforts. Most months, at the Committee meetings we approve up to 5 or

new 6 new members but then of course we when it comes around to subscription time we tend to lose a few as well but I think overall that we are slowly winning. If we are serious about winning new members then we really need to 'chase them out' not only through the publicity that attracts a new member in the first place but by getting application forms to them promptly and keeping in touch with them until they are properly settled in to the club. As Committee meetings are only held once a month it can mean that if somebody contacts us over the phone, who doesn't use a computer, it can take us a month to get their application form to them and then another month before it's approved and of course if we do not speed the process up and keep in close contact with them it can look as though we are not that bothered about them and they could just lose interest and drift away. Publicity and Membership go very much 'hand in hand' when it comes to recruiting new members.

I am very disappointed that it is now considered unlikely that we will continue to operate a spotter rota on Tuesday evenings at Sherborne. Ever since I have been involved with the club there has been a spotter's rota and it has always been thought that the value in giving some of our more disabled people the responsibility of carrying out some form of supervision is very worthwhile as well as being an extra pair of eyes in addition to those of the Lifeguards. I have talked to Sherborne School about this a few times in the past and again in the last couple of weeks and they are very keen that we continue to provide spotters but if people will not put their names forward what can we do? I would urge everyone to reconsider whether they could afford to do a spotter duty just for ½ hr once every couple of weeks and if you can help then please let us know before we make a final decision to axe it.

During the last year, the Committee has decided to try to do something about the dwindling volunteer driver and lifeguard numbers. I am very pleased to say that John Corner has decided to rejoin us as a lifeguard and Zoe Gullis has started training as a lifeguard for the first time so they will be added to the rota soon. Also, although Mike Jepp decided to retire recently, we have managed to recruit 3 new drivers with the help of the Yeovil Volunteer bureau. Martin Hender was due to start driving for us a couple of Saturdays ago and Adrian Harding and also Owen are starting soon (if they haven't already done so). I would like to thank Mike Jepp for his years of loyal service to the club and also welcome Martin, Adrian and Owen onboard and hope that you will make them very welcome. These new recruits have been keeping our Club Protection Officer Lynda Sharp very busy recently with processing CRB applications for which I am very grateful as I never underestimate the amount of work that she has to do every time a new volunteer joins us.

I would like to thank Gill Allen along with all the cashiers for all the work that they quietly, reliably carry out week in week out on the desks at the pools throughout the year. Jean and Vic Noake for a particularly busy year of trips / car boot sales / parties etc. Tracey Gullis for keeping us all constantly mobile again throughout the whole

year (even when our minibus was in the garage, for several weeks of repairs, during the year). She also went to the Woodlarks camp with our members again last year and has agreed to cover that again for us this year in May. This year will be the third year running that she has done so. Thank you to Jackie Drake for processing new members. Graeme and Old Mill Accountants for looking after our finances and of course Jean Crowdy for the very efficient service that she has provided as the clubs Secretary, I will let you all into a secret, I am very fussy about the minutes every month and am always asking her to change them in order to clarify odd sentences when they were probably perfect all along but she has never complained. Also thanks to our President John Maunder for his support throughout the year.

I would also like to thank Paul Wilson for looking after the sailing over at Sutton Bingham between April and September again last year. Sailing adds further options and opportunities to what is otherwise a swimming club which is very welcome. Last year's sailing season was a great success but the only thing that I would ask is that in future we respect Sutton Bingham Sailing Clubs request to be given at least 1 week's notice of when we would like to hold something over and above the ordinary in their club house on a Thursday evening. Please could someone just have a word with me or Nigel the Commodore over there the week before when we have something organised. I'm talking about if we bring food for some form of celebration or the like. Sutton Bingham Sailing Club always make us very welcome and I would like us to respect this simple wish of theirs.

The efforts of all non Committee members, who put in so much effort in the name of the club, throughout the year are also well recognised and very much appreciated. There are too many to mention but Joan and Bev Owen, Iris Hoskins , Daphne Wilson and Sarah Hull with the newsletter are just a few fine examples. Thank you very much indeed it is appreciated by the clubs members and Committee alike.

Unfortunately, Jackie Rowbottom has decided to stand down as gala coach but has made a point of telling me that it is only due to increased work commitments with her day jobs that she has been forced to do so and that she will continue to help us whenever her time off coincides with Apollo club activities. She's made a fantastic job of managing the gala's so professionally over the past couple of years for which we are all very grateful. I'm afraid that we have not seen much of Di O'Malley again in the last year, due to ill health, and regrettably she has also decided to resign from the position of publicity rep. She wishes the club all the best, has promised to keep in touch with the Club and to come and see us, perhaps with a view to helping in some way again in the future, as soon as her health improves.

We will come to the election of Committee members in a little while but I can tell you that we have very worthy candidates who have put themselves forward to cover all positions. One thing that I find very pleasing is that those on the Committee seem to

enjoy the meetings and what they do and also that there always seem to be people wanting and waiting to join us which can only be good for the future of the club.

Just a few more figures, The Apollo website has been very busy over the last year with an average of 15 people a day looking at it (up from 12 a day since April last year when we changed our 'provider'). The success of the website this year is again down to Mike Searl from Bristol who constantly updates it for us.

Finally, I would like to just remind you that we are primarily a swimming club so please make the most of it to improve your health and fitness over the next year. I for one am very guilty of chatting too much and not doing enough swimming, when I turn up on a Tuesday evening. The opportunity is there for us all to get some real exercise and I would urge you to try to benefit from it.

Please let the Committee know of any views you may have on how the club could be improved or anything else that you would like the club to get involved in (within the bounds of a physically disabled swimming club, of course) as we are always open to new ideas and suggestions. Thankyou.