



Warley WASPS

Swimming Club Est. 1888



Gala report Saturday 4th December 2010

Where do we begin to describe Saturday's gala?

First and foremost, the swimmers who did attend Saturday's gala, swam to their best ability and improvements are now starting to show, so well done to those swimmers.

Unfortunately, yet again this year, we were left with only 5 girls to swim some 26 events. This is a trait which has severely held the club back this year. Throughout the season, we have barely been able to field teams, with a number of galas being cancelled this year.

Yesterday was no exception. Out of 26 races we had to forfeit 11 relay races and 3 individual races, with some swimmers swimming in 3 individuals each, which meant they were 'over swum' and couldn't compete to their best, but their efforts were very much appreciated by all from Warley, so again, well done to those swimmers.

This meant that we missed nearly 1/3 of all the races!!!

This **IS** a '**COMPETITIVE SWIMMING CLUB**', which means we race/compete against other teams around the area. This year has been very embarrassing for our club, as this reflects upon each and every one of us. It is also very soul destroying for the swimmers we do have on poolside and from a coaching point of view it is rather disgraceful, that a club with some 70+ juniors we are not able to scrape more than 5 girls (boys had their full quota and also swam very well)!

This did not happen at my previous club. Swimmers and parents were committed to training and competition. They helped each other, by lift-sharing to both training and galas.

They attended the correct number of sessions and managed to balance school work with swimming, dance, rugby, football, music, drama etc... This is the reason they are where they are, and we are, where we are! It is not difficult to see, it is also, on a more upward note, not impossible to achieve!

We have had a swimmer recently leave club, claiming there was no help from Warley at the time trials on 30th November, no feedback from coaches, and no reward for hard work.

My registers, which give me lots of information, tell the real story. Attendance is very poor! If swimmers don't attend sessions, how can feedback be given? Stroke development is done in '**every**' session, with one stroke per week targeted. If

swimmers don't attend, they won't improve! If they don't attend, how can they be judged to be working hard, if they are not attending (thus not working), how can they be considered for '**Swimmer of the Month**' (which is a reward for attendance and hard work)? Thus, how can they be considered for the '**Endeavour Award**' or '**Swimmer of the Year**' (both awards for hard work) at the Presentation Evening?
Answer: They can't!!!

For this club to progress, we have to 'get real' and consider what competitiveness is, what it means and do we as a club want this?

Sport is a very unforgiving and a very truthful activity at any given level! Sport also dictates that we only have one chance in this life of being successful; unfortunately, age is the reason for this! So why not take the opportunity while our children are young enough to do so and given them that opportunity to succeed?

Knowing the hard work which is undertaken every week by our teaching and coaching staff, this club has a lot of potential, we have a lot of up and coming young swimmers who want to compete and this stood out on Saturday. They still need the help from the older swimmers and a goal to aspire to our older swimmers!

I have held my tongue for nearly one year now, but after last night I felt that 21 swimmers must have felt like they were fighting a losing battle, but not one complained, they were a great credit to Warley WASPS, they are the kind of swimmers we as a club need more of!
It wasn't pleasant for them to be there, especially as it was our home pool! Again my thanks and praise to everyone who came to swim, support, help on poolside and officiate, it was you who made it worthwhile!

All the people who help run and work hard and plan for the club, do so for the club, and for each and every member of the club, so, ***please support the club!***

Final Results:

| | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----|
| 1 st | Perry Beeches | 206 |
| 2 nd | Oldbury | 167 |
| 3 rd | Bromsgrove | 157 |
| 4 th | Stourbridge 'B' | 150 |
| 5 th | Warley WASPS | 59 |

Marc

Head Coach