

## **AMATEUR SWIMMING ASSOCIATION ANNUAL COUNCIL**

14 delegates from the Region – we are the largest region in terms of number of members, and so have the largest delegation – attended the annual meeting of the Annual Swimming Association (ASA), the formal title of Swim England, at Coventry on 14 October.

The day opened with a welcome by Jane Nickerson, the ASA Chief Executive.

This was followed by addresses from Professor Ian Cummings, the Chairman of Swim England's Swimming & Health Commission, and Michael Finnegan, a motivationalist. Prof Cummings referred to 2 reports – Swim England's response to the Health & Wellbeing Benefits of Swimming report and "Are Adolescent Competitive Swimmers Cleverer?" The conclusion of the 2<sup>nd</sup> report, an academic treatise, is "yes"!

Delegates finished the morning attending 2 of 4 workshop sessions, which were run twice –

Annual Accounts (of the ASA)

Disputes and Discipline: how it affects your club

Collaborative Working: how club networks are developing our sport

Creating a Strong Brand

Please contact Bryony Gibbs, Regional Office Manager, if you would like to know more on these subjects: she will put you in contact with relevant delegates.

The formal Council meeting was in the afternoon. It opened with a "state of the nation" address by Jane Nickerson, who displayed her boundless enthusiasm for our sport. Many of the points she covered had been rehearsed earlier in the week, when she was a guest at the Regional Board's meeting.

The main business comprised the motions changing the rules of the Association so that it can incorporate, in other words, become a company. Once moved and seconded, there was no debate, and all of the motions were passed without dissent. The ASA will now be taking the necessary steps to become a company. The Region may well itself consider incorporation in due course.

Richard Whitehead, from London, was installed as President of the ASA for the coming year. Liz Sykes (West Midlands) will be Vice President.

The formal meeting ended after 1 hour 10 minutes, perhaps one of the shortest annual Council meetings ever!

It was followed by an open mic sessions, of which your delegates took full advantage.

We raised the issue, mentioned at our Annual Council, about listing in the ASA's Annual Report those from our sport honoured by Her Majesty the Queen. The Chief Executive and Chief Commercial & Marketing Officer have reassured us that all those so honoured, where the citation mentions "services to swimming", will be listed in future Reports.

Chris Lee mentioned the collection of full yearly membership fees by the ASA during the final months of the membership year – September to December. Emma Griffin, the Director of Operations, assured those present that the Sport Governing Body would review its decision on this in January or February next year, in the light of any views expressed by the sport. That sounds like a cue to let Loughborough know what you feel about the current arrangements!

May I thank my fellow delegates for giving up their weekend to represent (and support) our clubs and their members.

Roger Penfold  
Chairman  
Regional Management Board