



DASC UPDATES
January 2017
www.dare-asc.co.uk

SOME UPDATES FOR ALL DASC SWIMMERS, PARENTS, COACHES AND FRIENDS

Please read the following carefully.

It is also important to check your e-mails and www.dare-asc.co.uk regularly for further DASC information.

Swimming Successes

The New Year got off to a good start with 36 DASC swimmers attending the Rotherham Metro A&B Graded Gala held in the 50m pool at Ponds Forge, Sheffield on 21&22 January. Several swimmers had their first taste of swimming in a long course (50m) pool; many produced PB performances in their events, including quite a lot of swims which were faster than previous short course (25m) PBs. It was great to see Ellie Overton from A3 squad record her first N&D (Northumberland & Durham) qualifying time, given she only started competing in October. There were also new qualifying times achieved by Alex Boyer, Oliver Carr, Jack Hurworth and Harvey Matthias to add to those they had already done.

The N&D Championships will be held in Sunderland 50m pool on 4&5, 25&26 February. In total DASC have 25 swimmers from Top1, A1, A2 & A3 squads qualifying for a total of 140 events. We wish them well as they compete at county level.

Coaches, Squads and Training

Thank you to those who have been supporting our main squad coaches at training sessions in the last few weeks, especially Tony Day, Iain Hodgson, Mark Croft and Lorraine Riddle. As we are still short of coaches, our existing coaches will do their best to sustain the current training programme with help from cover coaches, but it may be necessary to cancel more sessions if we cannot cover them.

Would swimmers and parents in B2 squad be aware that attendance at the Thursday Hummersknot 6-7pm session has been very low. If numbers remain low, then the session may be lost to another squad.

Galas

An updated gala calendar will be published shortly including the first club gala of the year to be held on Tuesday 14 March. It requires a lot of planning, communication and research by our Competition Secretary, Carol Bottomley, the Head Coach, Glen Fenby, and the coaching team to produce the calendar.

All DASC entries for the Scarborough gala in June have been accepted – see list of acceptances at <http://www.dare-asc.co.uk/21.html>. We have not yet received any information about which pool the gala will be held in.

Gala Officials

Recently we have had several parents become involved in training to qualify as gala officials – Den and Lesley Butler, Lloyd and Vickie Dewdney, Allison Matthias, Chris Springfield and Kirsty Sweeney. We are fortunate that the Dolphin Centre is currently being used as a venue for monthly training sessions for volunteers. If you would be interested in this, please contact Jane Teague or Carol Bottomley. See <http://www.dare-asc.co.uk/39.html> for more information.

At some galas eg Diddy League galas, N&D Championships and our own Dander Meet, clubs are expected to provide some gala officials, so it is important that we have some willing trained volunteer officials.

Diddy League

Diddy League training has resumed on Saturdays and the first Diddy League gala will take place on 12 March at Billingham. If your swimmer is of Diddy League age, you should have received information about the Diddy League by e-mail or see <http://www.dare-asc.co.uk/18.html>. Please reply to Jane Teague about your swimmer's availability by 7 February.

The coaches may want to carry out some time trials to help them finalise team selection. If this is the case, swimmers and parents will be notified in advance about when and where they will happen.

Photography

DASC, supported by 'Wavepower 2016-19' the ASA Child Safeguarding Policy and Procedures, has a very straight forward stance on the use of photographic devices: if mobile phones (or other devices) are taken into a changing room they **must not** be used to take any still photographs or video images. If any swimmer is found to be taking photos or video images, the usual sanction from DASC will be immediate suspension from training sessions pending an investigation.

Please would parents emphasise this to their swimmer, and let the coach or a committee member know if they are aware of it happening.

DASC Committee and AGM

The DASC Committee has overall responsibility for the running of the club. All committee members are volunteers working on behalf of the members of the club. They do not necessarily have previous experience or expertise of swimming or swimming clubs, but are willing to serve the club as best they can. The committee meets about once a month. See <http://www.dare-asc.co.uk/6.html> for more information. If you would be interested in attending a committee meeting as an observer to find out what is involved in the running of the club and becoming a committee member, please contact Laurence Murray, Club Chair, or Jane Teague, Club Secretary.

The club will hold its AGM in April (date tbc), when a new committee will need to be elected. Please consider if becoming a committee member is a way that you could help DASC.

DASC Squad Reps

The committee would like to reintroduce DASC squad reps. These are people who would be willing and available to help with admin and communication with squad members. You would be a communication link between the squad swimmers and their parents/guardians and the committee, coaches and others in administrative roles, be involved in marshalling squad members at club galas, and generally be helpful as required. You would need to be regularly available at the start and/or end of some of the squad's training sessions, and would need to be able to use e-mail. If you would be interested in volunteering, please contact Jane Teague.

DASC Club Desk

The Club Desk is currently open on poolside at the Dolphin Centre on Tuesdays 6.00-7.30pm. It may also be open on some Sundays 5.00-6.00pm. Thank you to Billie Bache and Den Butler for volunteering to help out with gala entries.

DASC Swim Shop

The DASC Swim Shop will be open on Tuesdays 14 & 28 February 5.30-7.00pm on the poolside at the Dolphin Centre. Thank you to Sue Healey and Christine van Mourik for running the shop for us.

DASC Membership for 2017

The new DASC Membership year started in January 2017. All existing members who want to continue to be part of DASC in 2017 should complete a new membership form, and pay annual membership and registration fees by the end of January. If you are not going to renew your DASC membership, please let Jane Teague know.

Monthly squad fees for most squads rose slightly in January, so if necessary please adjust your standing order payments and pay any arrears outstanding as soon as possible.

Payment of Fees to DASC

If you need to pay DASC any sort of fees – for gala entries, membership fees, ASA registration upgrade fees, arrears of monthly squad payments etc - you can do so by:

- cheque payable to DASC
- cash – exact amount please
- BACS payment to the club account (Darlington Amateur Swimming Club, Sort Code 09-01-27, Account Number 98784079). If paying by this method please indicate with your payment what it is for and e-mail jane.teague@ntlworld.com to let her know when you have paid.

Swim 21

DASC has recently been awarded swim21 club Essential by the ASA. This is a 'quality mark' awarded by the governing body for aquatic disciplines. Thank you to Dave Stewart, DASC swim21 Co-ordinator, and Laurence Murray, DASC Club Chair, for their work in submitting for reaccreditation.

Easyfundraising and Proswimwear

Please remember that you can raise money for DASC with online shopping via easyfundraising. You can also fundraise for the club by buying swimwear and equipment from ProSwimwear. Use the links on the club website at <http://www.dare-asc.co.uk/index.html>.

In total since we started with easyfundraising the online purchases of our supporters have raised £515, thanks largely to the efforts of two DASC families. We have also recently received £246 in commission from Proswimwear covering your purchases from them since March 2016. Could you make a contribution to this fundraising with little effort and no additional expense on your part?

Dates for your Diary

Sunday 12 March	Diddy League	Billingham Forum
Tuesday 14 March	Club Gala 1	Dolphin Centre
Sunday 2 April	Diddy League	Louisa Centre, Stanley,
April (TBC)	DASC AGM	Dolphin Centre
Sunday 7 May	Diddy League	Dunston Leisure Centre, Gateshead
Sunday 11 June	Diddy League Final	Tynemouth
Sunday 8 October	Darlington Dander Meet	Dolphin Centre

Contact details:

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