



(The new pool at Washington Leisure Centre)

ASA North East Region Annual Report 2014 – 2015



Contents

Foreword.....	3
1. Athlete Development	4
2. Volunteering	5
3. Governance, Structure and Partnerships	7
Governance.....	7
Clubs	8
Partnership Provider Programme (PPP)	9
Open Water	9
Swimming – Barry Saunders.....	10
Para-Swimming – Chris Armstrong.....	12
Masters – David Alexander.....	13
Swimming Officials – Sue Prasad.....	14
Diving – Gail Harrison.....	15
Water Polo – Pippa Jones	16
Synchronised Swimming – Sarah Speers.....	18
5. Work of the Aquatics Officers.....	22
6. Learn To Swim.....	22
Get Safe.....	22
Swim Safe	23
Learn to Swim Framework.....	23
School Swimming.....	23
7. Lifelong Participation	24
Swim Britain	25
8. Facilities	26
Contacting Us	27

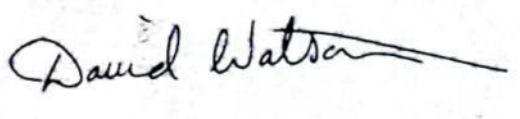
Foreword

The past 12 months has been a period of significant progress for the Region with the appointment of our two Development Officers, Sarah Small and David Parry, both of whom have been out and about across the Region meeting with clubs and individual members. The investment by the Region in this staffing resource is designed to support you as members to develop the Aquatic disciplines and to support our collective goal of getting more people involved in the sport.

During the same period the ASA itself has gone through changes with a new Chief Executive, Adam Paker, a new Director of Participation, Nick Caplin and the appointment of Lisa Wainwright on an interim basis as Chair of the group Board following the departure of Chairman Edward Lord.

Throughout this report you will be able to read about the achievements and progress of the participants, coaches, volunteers and paid staff who make up our Region and of whom we should rightly be proud.

The next 12 months will undoubtedly bring challenges for the sport, with uncertainty over funding, both at Local and national levels and ever increasing demands both on the time of individuals and on water space but I am sure that with our collective efforts we can continue to grow as a Region and make a positive contribution both to participation and the medal tables of major events.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Watson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

David Watson

North East Regional Chairman

1. Athlete Development

There are a number of established Beacon programmes within the North East region which address some of the key priorities (KPI's) identified within the North East Regional Business plan around athlete development and excellence (*KPI11 Increase number. of coaches engaged in coach development programs, nationally and regionally; KPI12 Increase the number and proportion of North East swimmers selected for podium potential and podium programmes; KPI13 Maintain or improve the North East's proportional representation on identified Talent and World Class programmes across all disciplines*). In addition to the Beacon programmes, over the last 12 months, Swimming Performance Hubs in Durham and Tees Valley have also been developed.

The table below shows a summary of the Beacon programmes.

Name of Beacon Programme	No. of athletes on programme in May 2015	No. of clubs engaged in programme	No. of athletes on England Talent Programme	No. of International athletes
Sunderland Swimming	70 (ASA 2017 target 70)	14	9 (ASA 2017 target 11)	6 (ASA 2017 target 8)
Leeds Swimming	15 (ASA 2017 target 24)	1 (2 don't access programme)	13 (ASA 2017 target unassigned)	4 (ASA 2017 target 2)
Sheffield Swimming	25 (ASA 2017 target 25)	3 (2 don't access programme)	5 (ASA 2017 target unassigned)	10 (ASA 2017 target unassigned)
Leeds Diving	20 (ASA 2017 target 24)	6	4 (ASA 2017 target 4)	8 (ASA 2017 target 5)
Sheffield Diving	23 (ASA 2017 target 26)	3	12 (ASA 2017 target 11)	5 (ASA 2017 target 5)
Leeds Synchro	15 (2017 Target 12)	7	3 (ASA 2017 target unassigned)	3 (ASA 2017 target 1)
Sheffield Water Polo	Regional beacon sessions are currently being clarified within this programme.			

The Sunderland Beacon Programme has gone from strength to strength over the past 12 months and has subsequently been identified as a model of best practice. It is currently being managed by Fred Kirby and has had 95% take up rate of select athletes. In April 2015 the programme ran a talent camp for Northumberland and Durham medallists aged 11 and 12. In total, 43 athletes attended this successful camp which combined both a pool and workshop sessions delivered by Fred Furniss, England Talent Development Officer, Performance Swimming.

Funding for the Leeds Beacon Programme is going towards support services (such as Strength and Conditioning and Nutrition) and this is showing improved results in age and youth swimmers nationally. The programme is a tiered system ensuring that the funding is spent appropriately and that all swimmers are being educated.

Sheffield Diving is a well performing Beacon, currently working well towards their 2017 targets along with a strong business case that they will be self-sustaining by March 2017. This is due to the imminent transfer of the Learn to Dive programme from the pool operator to Sheffield Diving club.

Regional Beacon Sessions are not yet up and running within the Sheffield Water Polo programme and their Swim21 accreditation has lapsed. Payment to this beacon has been withheld while they work to meet expected conditions of their Service Level Agreement. However in January 2015 the beacon organised a trip to Ireland for players born 2002.

The Durham Swimming Performance Hub Programme is a Leisureworks and Durham County Council Sport and Cultural services initiative that provides a joined up approach currently linking 6 swimming clubs within County Durham together while also adding value to the clubs existing programmes. Swimmers who are on the Durham hub are able to access support from the Durham Institute of Support including Strength and Conditioning programmes and workshops. The hub is currently looking at programming sessions and camps for September 2015 onwards.

The Tees Valley Performance hub is a similar programme to the Durham hub but is for clubs within Tees Valley. There are currently 6 clubs who regularly send coaches and swimmers to the sessions. The hub is also looking at programming regular sessions and camps from September 2015 onwards.

Clubs are looking to develop better working relationships with Learn to Swim providers to ensure that there is a clear progression of swimmers at stage 6 into a club environment, enabling progress along the swimming pathway in a competitive environment. This will help to address KPI14 of the Regional Business Plan which aims to maintain or increase the % of North East swimmers at stages 7,8 and 9 of the learn to swim pathway. This is a common theme in various locations where the Learn to Swim programme is part of the pool operators' programme rather than within a club setting.

2. Volunteering

Over the past 12 months the officers within the North East have looked to address the key priorities identified within the North East Regional Business Plan for workforce development (*KPI6 Increase proportion of teaching and coaching workforce; KPI7 Increase the number of active, trained and retained volunteers; KPI8 Increase the number of Young Volunteers; KPI9 Increase the number of qualified teachers and coaches to support the delivery; KPI10 Increase the qualified teachers and coaches to support the delivery of disability sport in the region*).

The table below provides a breakdown on the courses that have been scheduled in the North East region by the Institute of Swimming (IoS) from 1st May 2014 to the start of June 2015 and the number of people that booked to attend the courses.

Course Name	Total learners booked to attend the courses (as of 05/05/2015)
Aquatics in the National Curriculum	29
ASA Adult and Child Aquatics leading to certification of ASA Level 2 Award in Coaching Aquatics	32
ASA Learn to Swim Framework: Mini Polo Seminar*	0 (*due to run end of May 2015)
ASA Level 1 Award in Coaching Diving	28
ASA Level 1 Award in Coaching Swimming (including blended learning)	83
ASA Level 1 Award in Coaching Synchronised Swimming	7
ASA Level 1 Award in Coaching Water Polo	15
ASA Level 1 Award in Teaching Aquatics	499
ASA Level 1 Award in the principles of Teaching/Coaching	5
ASA Level 2 Award Coaching Open Water Swimming	6
ASA Level 2 Certificate in Coaching Swimming (including blended learning)	36
ASA Level 2 Certificate in Teaching Aquatics	282
ASA/scUK Safeguarding and Protecting Children Seminar	45
British Gas ASA Learn to Swim Framework: Aquafun Seminar	12
British Gas ASA Learn to Swim Framework: Competitive Swimming Seminar	66
British Gas ASA Learn to Swim Framework: Flip n Fun Seminar	35
British Gas ASA Learn to Swim Framework: Fundamentals	12
Dryland Diving Assessment	14
Improving Breaststroke Seminar	25
Improving Butterfly Seminar	41
Integrating Autistic Children into Mainstream Swimming Lessons Seminar	17
Integrating Swimmers with a Physical and Sensory Impairment into Mainstream Swimming Lessons	18
Teaching Turns Seminar	14
Voice Protection and Projection Seminar	17
Total booked on courses from 01/05/2014 – 05/05/2015	1338

The NE region has also organised a number of courses as identified in the table below:

Course Name	Number of courses organised by the NE region June 2014 – May 2015
Team Manager 1	4
Team Manager 2	2
Time to Listen	5

A training needs analysis has been completed for a number of the club networks across all the disciplines which has identified the type and need of workforce development required within the region. Officers have been working with key partners to source funding for

workforce development as well as develop bespoke workforce training opportunities. In November 2014, the Club Development Officer ran a funding seminar for clubs at the John Charles Centre and plans to run an additional one in County Durham at the end of May 2015. Tyne and Wear sport are also running a funding workshop for clubs within Tyne and Wear in summer 2015.

On the 7th March, City of Sheffield Water polo club hosted a Coach Development Day at Pond's forge as part of their Beacon programme. Paul Metz the Dutch coach who has been working with the England Talent programmes, ran the day with water polo coaches and players attending from across the region. The day finished with the British Championships game, Sheffield v Cheltenham. As a result of this development day a Level 1 Water Polo Coaching course is going to be organised for the Autumn.

The 29th November saw the first of the regions Young Volunteer Development Days in Middlesbrough that was supported by funding from the ASA Leading the Lane programme. In total 28 young people applied to attend, with final places awarded to 26 applicants. It was a great day and subsequently a second successful Young Volunteer Development workshop was delivered in Barnsley College on the 21st March 2015. On this day, 22 young adults attended from 11 clubs across the south of the region.

Within Northumberland and Durham, the Regional Development Officer has been working with Chris Johnston, the Northumberland and Durham Officials' Manager on the co-ordination of officials training. It is hoped that over the next 12 months a standardised training programme for officials will be developed for the whole of the North East.

A constituted coaches' forum, chaired by Ian Oliver has been established within Northumberland and Durham. All coaches from within swimming clubs in the county are encouraged to attend the forum meetings which aim to share best coaching practice, plan workshops and plan Continued Professional Development (CPD) opportunities for the coaches. The group have met twice and plan to meet quarterly throughout the year. Ian will attend Northumberland and Durham board meetings as a representative for the coaches. The Coaches Forum in Yorkshire is currently being planned for the summer of 2015.

3. Governance, Structure and Partnerships

Since coming into post in July and August 2014, the two Regional Development Officers (RDO's) and the ASA Club Development Officer (CDO) have supported the North East (NE) and County Boards with the delivery of the ASA North East Regional Business Plan ambitions.

Governance

Two of the Working Groups identified within the business plan, have made progress. An initial meeting took place to discuss the North East Regional Participation working group plans. This was followed up with a meeting with the ASA Aquatics Officers which focused on linking effectively with ASA strategies. This group remains in the early stage of development.

In October 2014, the RDO's completed a marketing and communication survey with the NE ASA members which resulted in the development of a new regional logo and updating of the NER website and social media. The Marketing and Communications themed group has

made considerable progress. After consultation with the board, the region has agreed to develop its own communications strategy alongside working with the ASA Northern Division communication strategy, with a view to looking at how these two strategies may potentially overlap. The ASA NE Region has identified the groups it should prioritise its communication with; these being:

- internally with the NE ASA, the County Associations and the ASA
- with partners such as clubs and local authorities
- externally with the public and the media.

Over the next twelve months, the group proposes to progress with improving internal communications. Significant work has progressed with developing the regional website, which continues.

The @asanortheast twitter account is very active with regular tweets (2 – 3 times daily) and follower numbers have steadily increased over the year to just over 1650. The regional Facebook page is growing in 'likes' which currently stand at 220.

The officers have provided support to the discipline leads regarding their development plans and budgets for 2015/16. These have been received for Diving, Water Polo, Synchronised Swimming and Masters.

Clubs

Work has taken place to build a more effective and sustainable club structure in the North East Region. The work looks to address some of the key priorities identified within the North East Regional Business plan (*The successful interpretation and delivery of the new national Club Strategy in the North East region to meet the different support needs informed by the club review; KPI2 Increase the number of Swim21 accredited clubs; KPI3 improve the effectiveness of, and support to, Water Polo, Synchro and Diving clubs in the region in line with new discipline development plans; KP14 Greater number of clubs with effective provision for disables individuals; KPI5 Increase the total number of affiliated club members*).

A number of club networks are at various stages of their development across the region. These range from established constituted networks with development plans and clear objectives to informal arrangements where club have identified a specific purpose for working in partnership. A selection of the networks in place include the areas of Northumberland, Tees Valley, Tyne and Wear, County Durham, Doncaster Metropolitan ASA, Sheffield, Hull and District SA, City of Sheffield Water Polo, Leeds Swimming, Leeds Diving, Leeds Synchro and Kirklees. Areas which the networks are looking to address include workforce development, officials, the athlete pathway, competition, funding and facilities.

The Board has agreed to provide a funding scheme to all the regional clubs and networks which has been promoted to all partners. The funding opportunity is a useful resource to engage with clubs and support their development within a club network. Applications are starting to be developed to address the issues listed above. These applications are being developed with the support and assistance of the appropriate RDO, supported by the CDO.

Officers have held swim21 workshops across the region in both Durham and Barnsley. A

total of eleven club representatives attended the sessions which introduced them to the online portal and re-engaged them with accreditation process. As of May 2015, 58 clubs have the Swim21 Essential accreditation and 38 clubs are working towards achieving it. The Tees Valley and County Durham club networks have their Swim21 Network accreditation and the Leeds Diving, Leeds Synchro and Kirklees club networks are working towards theirs. Leeds Synchro is also working towards their Swim21 Performance accreditation.

Officers have attended both the Regional and County Swimming Championships in December, January, February, March, May and June in Sheffield and Sunderland. Their drop in stalls provided a useful way to engage with club volunteers, providing them with good club guides and additional appropriate support.

The officers have looked to identify and establish a positive working relationship with key partners including the ASA, County Associations, County Sports Partnerships and facility operators. This includes attendance at network forums and meetings, conferences and local aquatic networks. These partnerships have provided worthwhile support with specific club issues such as independent mediation when dealing with disputes, marketing and promotion and grant assistance. The RDO's have access to both the ASA's Customer Relationship Manager (CRM) central database and the ASA's swim21 portal which are useful working tools.

Partnership Provider Programme (PPP)

Aquatic Officers continue to develop formal relationships with Operators through the signing of PPP (Partnership Provider Programme) agreements and development of subsequent Aquatic Improvement plans. The plans develop participation in the three key areas of Learn to Swim, Adult Participation and Club Development and the Aquatic Officers team are working with Club Development Officers and Regional Development Officers to ensure clubs benefit from these closer working relationships. To date the following North East Operators have signed PPP's:

- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| • Tees Active | • Gateshead MBC |
| • Durham County Council | • Active Northumberland |
| • Kirklees | • Hull |
| • Doncaster | • NE Lincs |
| • North Country Leisure | • South Tyneside Council |
| • Hartlepool | • Redcar and Cleveland |
| • Darlington | • Middlesbrough |
| • York | • Richmondshire |
| • Hambleton | • Tadcaster |
| • Leeds CC | • SIV (Sheffield International Venues) |
| • Barnsley Premier Leisure | • Deborah Yule Swim School |
| • Selby | • York Sport |
| • North Tyneside Council | • Leisureworks |

4. Aquatic Disciplines

Open Water

On the on 29th June 2014, another successful ASANER Open Water Championships was hosted by the Scarborough and District Swimming Association which attracted swimmers

from across the length and breadth of the North East highlighting the increased popularity in this discipline.

The championships highlighted the ongoing need for qualified Open Water Officials in the North East Region which may be a limiting factor for other events taking place. The region is aware of this and hopes to address the problem in the near future by running Open Water Officials training courses.

It has been agreed that a joint open water event between the North West Region and the North East region shall be held in conjunction with the open water festival at Salford Quays in June 2015.

Swimming – Barry Saunders

The Region delivered a number of successful events, including Youth and Senior Championships at Sunderland Aquatics Centre; BAGCAT Age Group Championships at Ponds Forge, Sheffield and a combined Senior, Junior and BAGCAT Short Course Championships at Sunderland Aquatics Centre with two 25metre pools in operation at the same time.

In the National County Teams Championships Yorkshire finished in third place. The lack of depth in swimming in Northumberland and Durham was reflected in their 10th place finish, an improvement on the previous year.

The region excelled with a number of swimmers selected for GB teams including:

- Commonwealth Games – Aimee Willmott (Middlesbrough), Eleanor Faulkner, Rebecca Turner, Gareth Mills, Lewis Coleman, Max Litchfield & Nicholas Grainger (City of Sheffield), Sophie Taylor (City of Leeds).
- European Junior Championships – Amelia Clynes, Georgia Coates and Magdalena Cygan (City of Leeds), Hannah Featherstone (Sedgefield), Isobel Grant (City of Sheffield).
- European Championships – Sophie Taylor, Rebecca Turner, Aimee Willmott, Max Litchfield .

Achievements

Georgia Coates	Silver 200m I.M. & Bronze 400m I.M., European Junior Championships
Amelia Clynes	Silver 100m Butterfly & Bronze 200m Butterfly, European Junior Championships
Aimee Willmott	Silver 400m I.M. & 200m Butterfly, Commonwealth Games; Silver 200m I.M. & Bronze 400m I.M. European Championships
Rebecca Turner	Silver 4x100m Freestyle Team, Bronze 4x200m Freestyle Team, Commonwealth Games
Eleanor Faulkner	Bronze 4x200m Freestyle Team, Commonwealth Games
Sophie Taylor	Gold 100m Breaststroke, Silver 4x100m Medley Team, Commonwealth Games; Bronze 4x100m Medley Team European Championships

At the British Gas Swimming Championships the following were multiple medallists:-

Amelia Clynes	Gold 100m & 200m Butterfly, Silver 50m Butterfly
Georgia Coates	Gold 400m & 800m Freestyle
Magdalena Cygan	Gold 50m & 100m Freestyle
Eleanor Faulkner	Silver 800m Freestyle, Bronze 200m & 400m Freestyle
Nicholas Grainger	Silver 400m Freestyle, Bronze 200m Freestyle
Isobel Grant	Silver 100m & 200m Butterfly
Adam Taylor	Gold 50m, 100m Butterfly & 200m Backstroke, Silver 50m Backstroke
Sophie Taylor	Gold 50m, 100m & 200m Breaststroke
Aimee Willmott	Gold 400m I.M. & 200m Butterfly, Silver 200m I.M. & 400m Freestyle

At the British Gas International Meet the following were multiple medallists:-

Darcy Deakin	Gold 100m & 200m Freestyle, Bronze 50m Freestyle
Joe Litchfield	Gold 200m & 400m I.M., Silver 200m Butterfly
Freya Rayner	Gold 50m & Silver 100m Backstroke & 50m Freestyle
Adam Taylor	Silver 100m Butterfly & 200m Backstroke, Bronze 100m Backstroke

At the ASA National Championships (Age) the following were multiple medallists:-

Layla Black	Gold 100m & 200m Breaststroke
Elliot Clogg	Gold 100m Backstroke, Silver 200m Backstroke, Bronze 100m Freestyle
Leah Crisp	Gold 800m Freestyle, Bronze 200m Butterfly & 400m Freestyle
Sophie Hobbah	Gold 200m, 400m I.M. & 200m Backstroke
Ciara Schlosshan	Silver 100m & 400m Freestyle, Bronze 100m Backstroke
City of Leeds	Bronze Girls 4x100m Medley Relay

At the ASA National Championships (Youth/Open) the following were multiple medallists:-

Kyle Chisholm	Gold 400m Freestyle, Silver 100m Butterfly & 200m Freestyle, Bronze 1500m Freestyle
Georgia Coates	Gold 200m Breaststroke, Silver 200m I.M., Bronze 400m I.M.
Amelia Clynes	Gold 100m & 200m Butterfly
Eleanor Faulkner	Gold 200m Freestyle, Silver 400m Freestyle
Nicholas Grainger	Bronze 100m & 200m Freestyle
Isobel Grant	Bronze 100m, 200m Butterfly & 400m Freestyle
Joe Litchfield	Gold 400m I.M., Silver 200m Butterfly & 200m I.M., Bronze 100m & 200m Backstroke
Max Litchfield	Gold 400m I.M., Bronze 400m Freestyle
Jarvis Parkinson	Gold 200m I.M., Silver 400m I.M.
Adam Taylor	Silver 100m & 200m Backstroke
Jessica Thielmann	Gold 400m, 800m Freestyle & 400m I.M., Silver 200m Freestyle
Rebecca Turner	Bronze 100m & 200m Freestyle
Jessie Westnidge	Silver 400m Freestyle, Bronze 800m Freestyle
Rachael Wilson	Gold 100m Breaststroke, Bronze 200m Breaststroke
City of Leeds	Silver 4x100m Medley, Bronze Girls 4x100m & 4x200m Freestyle Relay
City of Sheffield	Silver Girls 4x200m Freestyle Relay

Para-Swimming – Chris Armstrong

The ASA NER Disability Swimming Championships for 2014 was held on the 21st September at The Hydro in Harrogate meeting KPI15 of the NER regional business plan (*Organisation of a regional disability swimming competition*). In total, 65 swimmers entered the competition which was an increase of 27 from the 2013 entries. A British Swimming Classification session complemented the competition with an opportunity for 10 classification appointments. The ASA NER Para-Swimming Championships for 2015 will be held on the 26th September again at The Hydro in Harrogate.

There are currently 50 Category 2 members with British Swimming or International Paralympic Committee (IPC) Classifications S1-14 in the ASA North East Region. A further 12 swimmers hold a National S14 Classification which entitles swimmers to compete at the Para-swimming Regional and National Championships. Over the year, a total of 17 new swimmers gained a S1-14 Classification and another 4 have classification in progress meeting KPI16 of the NE regional business plan (*Growth and retention of the talent pool and increase the number of swimmers (all disciplines) with a disability in the talent pool*).

The Region has continued to produce a number of talented Para-Swimmers including those below who were selected for 2014/15 British Para-Swimming and 2015 England Talent Programmes.

British Para-Swimming World Class Podium Programme:

Josef Craig	City of Sunderland ASC
James Crisp	City of Sheffield Swim Squad
Harriet Lee	Team Northumbria
Nicole Lough	City of Sunderland ASC

British Para-Swimming World Class Podium Potential Programme

William Hardy	City of Newcastle ASC
Lyndon Longhorne	Durham City SWPC
Matthew Wylie	City of Sunderland ASC
Chloe Buck	Harrogate District SC
Lily Macleod	Richmond Dales ASC
Jay McCabe	Darlington ASC
Matthew Gibson	Derwentside ASC

ASA England Talent Development Programme

Jonathan Booth	Borough of Kirklees SC
Macauley Ainslie	Gateshead & Wickham SC

ASA England Talent Spotlight Programme

William Whitehead	Rotherham Metro SC
Maisie Burnand-Martin	Borough of Kirklees SC
Aliya Bacakoglu	Brighouse ASC

Achievements

European Junior Championships

Matthew Wylie	Gold MC 100m Freestyle
	Gold MC 50m Freestyle

IPC European Championships

Eleni Papadopoulos	Bronze SM10 200m Individual Medley
Josef Craig	Bronze S8 100m Freestyle
	Bronze S8 400m Freestyle
	Bronze 4x100m Freestyle
James Crisp	Gold S9 100m Backstroke
	Bronze SB8 100m Breaststroke
Jack Bridge	Silver 4x100m Individual Medley
Nicole Lough	Bronze SB14 100m Breaststroke

The North East region were also represented by City of Sunderland's Lead Performance Coach, Danny Thompson and S9 Swimmer Matthew Wylie who made two individual Finals, placing 4th in the 400m Freestyle in his first Senior European Championships

British Records

- Danielle Bailey, City of Bradford, 50m SC Butterfly British Record
- Matthew Wylie, City of Sunderland S9 50m and 100m Freestyle British Records
- Josef Craig, City of Sunderland S8 50m and 100m Freestyle British Records
- Lyndon Longhorne, Durham City/NPC, 50m Breaststroke and 150m Individual Medley British Records.

James Crisp, City of Sheffield SS, swam inside the S9 100m Backstroke, a consideration standard at the British Para-Swimming International meet and was selected for the British Para-Swimming Squad for the IPC World Championships 2015.

Masters – David Alexander

This is my first report as the North East Masters Manager and it is pleasing to say that the achievements of our Masters swimmers during the period of the report are outstanding. From the success of Yorkshire in winning the ASA Inter County Masters Competition to Sally Shields winning gold at the World Masters it is difficult to know where to start.

The major competition was the World Masters Championships that took place in Montreal, Canada, with Sally Shields (Borough of Kirklees) winning gold in the 50 Breaststroke in a British Record time. Sally also took silver in the 100 Breaststroke.

The British Masters was held in Swansea and saw a World Record for Kirsten Cameron (East Leeds) in the 1500 Freestyle with Kirsten also setting new European Records in the 200 and 400 Freestyle. Not too many of the regions swimmers travelled to this event.

The ASA Masters Championships was, as usual, held at Ponds Forge and included a World Record for the East Leeds mixed 4 x 200 Freestyle Team. It was an excellent meet for the emerging East Leeds club as their swimmers set a further 2 European and 6 British Records. Keith Godbehere (Rotherham Metro) requires a mention as he set 3 new British Records in his 80-84 year age group. Stephanie Blakeburn (Billingham) was the outstanding Northumberland and Durham with 5 wins in her 18-24 age group.

The Regional Championships were held at the Haven Point Leisure Centre, South Shields, and had a reasonable entry although the 200 Butterfly and the Team Relay events were not

well supported. The Northumberland and Durham Championships took place at the Freemans Quay Pool in Durham. The Yorkshire Championships were held at the Scarborough Pool and were attended by the ASA President Simon Rothwell who witnessed Sally Shields (Borough of Kirklees) set a new British Record for the 50 Breaststroke.

Other notable successes were in the ASA T-30 Competition where East Leeds swimmers set new record distances in 5 of the age groups. There were medal winners at the ASA Open Water held at Rother Valley. Keith Godbehere (Rotherham Metro) Gold, and Kyran Parker (East Leeds), Michael Pepper (Rotherham Metro) and Pauline Foot (York Triathlon) who all won a bronze.

My apologies to those that I have missed especially all those other swimmers who were on top form in breaking many records. We know the above achievements have already been surpassed as the results from the British Masters at Manchester have shown a big increase on records and medal winners.

In closing I would like to take this opportunity to thanks my predecessor, David Dickenson, for his work during the time he ran the Regional Masters Championships.

Swimming Officials – Sue Prasad

Once again, we held the annual Officials Seminar at the Bridge Hotel, Wetherby on Sunday 28th September 2014. This was attended by 74 officials from around the region, year on year this event brings together a greater number of officials to network and share information with the opportunity to gain the Continuing Professional Development (CPD's) required to be a Licensed Official. Those who attended gave some very good feedback, and suggested some interesting ideas for topics for future seminars.

The region is committed to providing CPD events, such as the Officials Seminar so all officials have the opportunity to gain the points necessary to renew their license. We have a significant number of qualified officials in the region, but we have a lower proportion of our officials who are 'Licensed' compared to other regions, this is a target for us to improve on during 2015. If you are a qualified official and don't know how to or you wish to become Licensed, please contact myself or Fred Murray to find out more information.

This yearing work has continued to fulfil the workforce development needs of the region, by encouraging new officials to undertake examinations, and mentoring, guiding, and development of all officials.

We aim to ensure that our swimmers have the best standard of officiating possible within North East Region. We are fortunate that we host several National events within the district, and this enables Officials to gain valuable experience at this level. With open recruitment of official's at all major events, it is good to see so many NER officials taking these opportunities to gain valuable experience.

The NER is generally well placed within British Swimming having:-

Officiating Role	Total Qualified
Timekeepers	594
Judge 1	337
Judge 2	218
Judge 2S	101
Referee	53

NER Officials have attended the following CPD's

Topic Covered	Total Undertaken
Contemporary Issues	124
FINA Rules Update	143
Mentoring	66
Disability Awareness	83
Licensed Officials	204
Licensed of those eligible (J1 +)	66%

We congratulate all those who passed examinations this year, thanking them for their hard work and commitment, and especially thank those who tutored them. The tutors give their time and expertise voluntarily, and they play a vital role in the development of new officials.

The Region is well catered for at senior level, with Robin Butterfield as a Starter on the FINA list, Sue Prasad an IPC Level 2 Referee/Judge of Stroke and Christine Golightly an IPC Level 1 Referee/Judge of Stroke.

My thanks go to the members of the Officials project groups who have worked hard this period. Their support, expertise, commitment and enthusiasm contribute greatly to ensuring that we are able to support and develop our Officials within North East Region.

Diving – Gail Harrison

Diving in the North East Region as in many years past continues to go from strength to strength, the difference this year is the success the years of hard work has reaped benefits at senior level.

Our senior divers and coaches have been an integral part of the National Teams taking part in International Competitions, with International medals going to Alicia Blagg, Rebecca Galantree, Jack Laughner and Chris Mears.

The North East Region hosted the National Skills Finals and for the first time introduced a mentoring programme for up and coming judges this was a great success and will be adopted by other regions in the years to come.

Our regional competitions were held in January, February and March in Leeds and Sheffield with more divers than ever qualified for the National Events in Plymouth and Sheffield, where again the regions divers reached the podium in many events.

The core members of the National Events team are based in the region and they have been present at all of the National Competitions and the FINA Diving World Series, a credit to the region and a great team of volunteers.

Water Polo – Pippa Jones

At the end of a year that has seen British Water Polo face considerable challenges, it is reassuring to see the sport continuing to flourish within the NE region. In spite of funding withdrawal, a national review and a restructure of the ASA water polo management group, players and clubs still go about the day to business of training, competing and developing more and more junior players.

British Water Polo League

In the British Water Polo League (BWPL), City of Sheffield men finished in sixth place in division one whilst Northumbria won division two. This saw both teams meet head to head in Championship One, with Northumbria winning the encounter 12-11. Northumbria went on to win the Championship with Sheffield one point behind in second place. Both teams will play in division one next season. York won division four and progressed to Championship three which they also won, earning them promotion to the third division for next season. Castleford won division five and progressed to Championship four which they also won, earning them a place in division four next season. Also playing in division five were the City of Sheffield Dolphins, a junior feeder team for the senior division one team. The Dolphins came sixth out of 8, and claimed the title of 'youngest team in the league' once again.

In the women's league, City of Sheffield women finished 5th and won a place in the Super Fives competition where they faced very tough opposition. Although they finished 5th, they won a memorable victory over last season's champions Otter. Leeds finished 8th in division one, but regained a division one slot by finishing runners up in Championship two. Their second team, the Hammerheads played in division three with Sunderland and the English Roses Masters. Leeds Hammerheads finished 4th and Sunderland finished 5th and both will play in division three next season, but the English Roses won promotion to division two by finishing runners up in Championship two.

Congratulations to all players and team staff who have been involved throughout the premier British Water Polo competition.

British Water Polo Championships

City of Sheffield men participated in the inaugural 'Home and Away' British Water Polo championships. The competition was being piloted to test the potential of 'home and away' water polo to promote the game in the local area and draw in spectators and local support. From a starting point that looked as though it would be impossible for the club to participate,

a huge amount of effort and local support eventually saw three excellent home matches played in front of a big home crowd at Ponds Forge during February and March of this year. On two occasions, the matches were built into additional North East water polo events, thus ensuring young regional players had the opportunity to watch top class British water polo.

Inter Regionals

The North East has been represented in all Inter Regional Competitions but this year, there were no medal placings in spite of three hard fought bronze medal matches. Performances were strong throughout and the boys 98 team retained its place in the top divisions of the boys competition. Many thanks to team staff and in particular, the Sedgefield coaches and managers who stepped in at the 11th hour to take 98 boys squad.

George Carpenter, Dave Elliott, Richard Cousins, John Stevenson, Adam Woods, Ian Richards, Heather Hall, Sarah Sanderson, and Doug Carr for refereeing the events. Apologies to anyone who has been missed out, you have all been fantastic and worked so hard to prepare and support our squads.

Girls Born 98 and younger Walsall

8th place

Top NE Goal Scorer and MVP Emily Pilkington

Boys born 98 and younger Watford

Division One 4th place

Top NE Goal Scorer John Pratt

MVP Isaac Wass

Girls born 2001 and younger November 2014 Liverpool

4th place

Top NE Goal Scorer

P. Stephenson

MVP Laura Crossley

Boys born 2001 and younger December 2014 Walsall

4th place

Top NE Goal Scorer M. Hampshire

MVP Ben Stephenson

ASA National Age Groups

The NE was represented in the boys under-17 competition by Sedgefield who won the ASA Championship in a thrilling final, beating City of Manchester 8-7. Sedgefield's John Pratt won MVP.

In the boys under-19 event, several NE players won bronze medals playing for Lancaster in an emotional match following the death of much loved head coach Ronn Winn two days previously.

In the girls' under-17 competition, City of Leeds won the plate for the second year running, whilst their under-19 boys team made it to the finals of the under-19 plate competition. Their girls under-19 were not so lucky and were knocked out in the initial stages.

Northern Water Polo League 2014

2000 and Younger

1st place Sheffield
2nd place Rotherham

1998 and Younger Boys

1st Sheffield
2nd Bridgefield

1996 and Younger Boys

1st Sedgefield
2nd Sheffield

1996 and Younger Girls

1st Bridgefield
2nd Sedgefield

England Talent/International Representation

Many NE players are members of the England Talent programme which is based in Cardiff. It is a huge commitment for players from our region to make the monthly trip down but the numbers demonstrate the level of talent within the region.

Sophie Jackson (Halifax and Leeds) deserves a special mention as she has been selected for the GB Born 1998 team playing in the European Games Baku. Sophie is only a 2000 born player and this selection is a recognition of her outstanding potential. Emily Pilkington was also a member of the squad from which the team was selected.

Kate Parkin has been selected for the Great Britain team playing in the u19 World Championships in Mexico. This is a 100% self-funded team and Kate has been working hard to raise enough money to participate.

English Schools

Several NE players played in the Duke of Cambridge cup and from this, Joel Leighton has been selected to represent English School in Malta later in the year. Alex Miller is a named reserve.

Coach Education

Several new level one coaches have been trained during the year both at Millfield and at a level one course hosted by Huddersfield Water Polo club. At the Millfield Academy, Peter Deutsch and Sarah Poyntz both achieved level two accreditation.

Thanks to everyone who has continued to work so hard to enable water polo to flourish in the North East. We have every confidence in the newly appointed ASA Water Polo management group to continue to develop the sport at a national and international level and will support them in every way.

Synchronised Swimming – Sarah Speers

Progress in the Region within the last year includes:

- Sarah Speers is currently on the Tutor Training programme and hopes to be qualified during 2015.
- There has been a significant increase in the number of athletes qualifying for National Age Groups figures, team, duet and solo events.
- Increase in number of volunteers Basic Judge trained and Basic assessors/ assessors following courses held at Beacon venue.
- Two athletes actively in the AASE programme (Abigail Devanny and Rachel Lee)

- York is setting up a new synchronised swimming club. The Beacon Network are supporting the set up of the club which will be modelled around the Leeds Synchro programme. There is York Council based training and York club organising competitions. Ian Watson is assisting with the development of the club and coaches.
- Regional Coaches forum took place on the final Beacon Regional development session on 14th September 2014 and was attended by coaches from City of Salford, Pudsey Pearls, Leeds Mermaids, Trafford SSC, City of Preston SSC, Halifax Synchro and Leeds Kingfishers SSC.
- Level 1 UKCC Coaching Synchronised Swimming course went ahead July 2014 and two coaches directly involved with the Beacon programme have successfully completed the course and their Level 1 Coaching Synchronised Swimming Certificate. The programme supported the volunteers by helping to fund the qualification.
- Sarah Speers delivered over 20 days coaching England Talent Age Group Squad and attended the Comen Cup in Greece. Competing at the Comen Cup was an athlete from Leeds, Rebecca Richardson competing in the figures, team and solo event.
- Schools- The Head coach has linked with the Diving Talent ID to test over 2000 School children across Leeds in strength, co-ordination, flexibility to then select a new Talent ID squad of athletes for synchronised swimming.
- North East Novice competition ran again with over 130 swimmers competing at the event held at Knottingly Sports Centre which ran at a profit.
- North East development camps ran throughout the year for athletes at various levels of development in the North East. These camps have had additional specialist support such as Nutritionists and S&C coaches, and have proven successful and popular.
- City of Leeds SSC took a squad of 7 athletes to Sweden for International competition experience and training.

Regional Beacon Squad

12 new athletes have been selected to attend the 2015 Regional Beacon sessions based on the 12&U National Age Groups results. The standard and number of athletes competing has significantly increased since 2013, and the average increase in figure score is 4.935 with one athlete making a 9 mark improvement, and the average improvement in ranking 21 places, with one athlete moving up 48 places.

From the 12 selected athletes 4 are from Leeds (Pudsey, BOK, Gateshead and Leeds Mermaids feeder clubs).



The North East Development Squad 2014

Employment

The Synchronised Swimming Development Coach role based in Leeds is now an employee of Leeds City Council on aligned terms and conditions (Contract signed 22/10/14) The Full time role will manage the part time role. A part time assistant coach role is now being advertised (August-September 2015).

Results

British Championships 2014

There were couple of 4th Place finishes by NE athletes at the British Championships, but unfortunately no medals were taken away. The drop directly correlates to the retirement of many senior athletes in the Region. 4th place finishes: City of Leeds Tech Team, Melissa Knapton Tech solo.

Croatia Cup June 2014

Alice Dewhirst & Rachel Lee competed with the England Talent Junior Squad in June 2014. Both were reserve swimmers in the team, but ranked well in figures achieving scores of 63.9777 and 63.7768, which is just shy of the 2017 target for international junior figures of an average score of 64.0.

Rebecca Richardson competed in the solo event in 13/14/15 age groups having being selected to represented England. Rebecca also competed in the Age Group Team, which achieved a score of 129.2645 (64.6 average with figures).

Medals: Alice Dewhirst & Rachel Lee- Junior Team (1st), Rebecca Richardson solo (3rd), 13-15 team Rebecca Richardson (2nd)

Mediterranean Cup August 2014

Rebecca Richardson represented England Talent with the 13-15 squad in solo, figures and team. The Team made the finals at the competition and scored a 70.

Scottish Nationals October 2014

The North East did well at the competition with a number of medals:

Figures: Rebecca Richardson Junior (1st)
Solo: Rebecca Richardson Junior (3rd)
Duet: Rebecca Richardson & Rachel Lee (1st)
Junior Team: (Leeds) (2nd)
Combination: (Recreational- Leeds) (2nd)
Combination: (Recreational- Halifax) (2nd)

British Masters Championships November 2014

Entries from Halifax Synchro and City of Leeds Synchro. Jeanne Ansley won Gold in solo 70yrs + category and Halifax won Silver in team event 35-49yrs.

Swedish Open Age Groups 2014

Nine countries and eighteen clubs took part in this competition.

Junior solo	Rebecca Richardson 2 nd Place (<i>out of 15 athletes</i>)
Junior duet	Abigail Devanny & Rachel Lee 4 th Place
Junior team	Chloe McLelland, Rachel Lee, Rebecca Richardson, Abigail Devanny 2 nd Place
13/14 solo	Greta Hampson 3 rd Place (<i>out of 11 athletes</i>)
13/14 solo	Hope Lee-Fowkes 6 th Place (<i>out of 11 athletes</i>)
13/14 duet	Hope Lee-Fowkes & Georgia Fielding 6 th Place (<i>out of 13 duets</i>)

Junior Figures (*out of 50 athletes*)

- **Rebecca Richardson** 3rd
- **Rachel Lee** 4th
- **Abigail Devanny** 11th
- **Chloe McLelland** 16th

13/14 Figures (*out of 53 athletes*)

- **Greta Hampson** 3rd
- **Hope Lee-Fowkes** 26th
- **Georgia Fielding** 27th

National Age Groups December 2014 Medallists

- 18/19 solo and figures GOLD (Rosie Barrington)
- 18/19 figures SILVER (Alice Dewhirst)
- 18/19 duet GOLD (Rosie Barrington & Alice Dewhirst)
- Junior solo SILVER (Abigail Devanny)

Recreational entries

12&U combination:	Leeds Mermaids (13 th)
13/14yrs combination:	Halifax Synchro (9 th)
15/16/17yrs:	Halifax Synchro (2 nd)

Istanbul Baku Qualifiers February 2015

Rebecca Richardson- Combination Team, Team (3rd) and Qualified for Baku Games

England Talent Squads for 2014/2015 selected from the NE Region

Junior England Talent Squad: Rebecca Richardson & Greta Hampson

13-15 England Talent Squad: Greta Hampson

England Talent Development Squad: Tilly Budd & Millicent Costello

England Talent Coach Development Programme: Rosie Barrington (Halifax & City of Leeds).

5. Work of the Aquatics Officers

The ASA North Division continues to work across all strands of the ASA Whole Sport Plan, in particular working on Adult Participation, School Swimming, Adult and Child Learn to Swim, developing relationships with operators and other key stakeholders, working with operators on Facility and Operational Strategies as well as working with National with regional colleagues to develop Clubs and Membership.

North Division areas covered by Aquatic Officers are detailed in the following table including status of our formal relationship with each:

KAREN DRIVER	CAROLYN DAWE	LORNA POSTLETHWAITE	EMMA EVANS	PAUL DOWNES	GAVIN ROBERTS	KATE NICHOLSON
Blackpool	Rochdale	Cheshire West	Shropshire	Middlesbro	Doncaster	N'umberld
Fylde	Bolton	Sefton	Bury IWIUW	Hartlepool	Rotherham	Durham
Wyre	Salford	Warrington	Serco Lead	Darlington	Leeds	N Tyneside
Preston	Tameside	Cheshire East		York	Barnsley	S Tyneside
Chorley		L'pool U		NE Lincs	Sheffield	Sunderland
Blackburn	Trafford	Wirral		Stockton	Kirklees	Gateshead
Burnley	Manchester	Halton		Recar	D Yule	Copeland
Pendle	Wigan	St Helens		Hambleton	Bradford	Carlisle
Ribble Valley	Bury	Knowsley		Richmond	Wakefield	Eden
Hyndburn	Oldham	Liverpool		Ryedale	Calderdale	S Lakeland
South Ribble	Stockport			Selby		Allerdale
West Lincs				Hull		Newcastle
Rossendale		Key		North Lincs		
Craven		No PPP		Scarboro		
Lancaster		In PPP		Harrogate		
Barrow				East Riding		

6. Learn To Swim

Swimming's vision includes the clear statement 'to ensure that everyone has an opportunity to learn to swim, regardless of age, ethnicity and ability'. The responsibility for leading on the teaching of swimming rests with the ASA, and hence the regions. In 2014-2015 the Region made much progress:

Get Safe

A number of operators supported the ASA 'Get Safe' campaign in the weeks running up to the summer holidays by delivering water safety messages through school swimming and learn to swim sessions. Sites could apply for a free resource pack to support them and Aquatic Officers provided support and guidance to develop programmes and events.

Swim Safe

The ASA expanded Swimsafe to include Sandhaven Beach, South Shields in 2014, more than 750 children took part in the free programme, gain valuable open water safety advice and experience.

The sessions were run by experienced ASA teachers and RNLI Lifeguards. Debra Willison, an ASA Swim Safe teacher in Sandhaven, South Shields, said: *“Swim Safe really does work. I met a couple whose son had taken part in a Swim Safe session last year. They told me that shortly afterwards they went on holiday abroad and the boy found himself out of his depth and got into difficulty. Although shaken, he remembered what he was taught by the Swim Safe teachers and managed to stay safe and call for help. This is absolutely what these sessions are all about and I’m incredibly proud to be part of such an important, life-saving initiative”.*

The free 40-minute sessions managed locally by Kate Nicholson and Vicky Norman took place during the school summer holidays at Boscombe in Bournemouth, Brockhole in the Lake District, Bude Sea Pool in Cornwall, and Sandhaven in South Shields, nationally more than 6,000 children took part.

This event will again come back to South Shields and Brockholes for 2015.

Learn to Swim Framework

The ASA Learn to Swim Framework continues to be rolled-out across Northern Operators, with the recent announcement that Barnsley Leisure will be moving their own brand lesson’s across to the programme, we now have 30 of the 33 North East and Yorkshire Local Authorities following the ASA Learn to Swim Framework.

With the loss of Kellogg’s as key sponsor the Awards have been rebranded, yet they prove as popular as ever, with more than 250,000 Awards given to children across the North East in the past 12 months, a 4% rise year on year.

In addition across the Region we trained an additional 566 Level one Teachers and Coaches and an additional 290 Level two’s.

School Swimming

In November the ASA launched our new School Swimming Charter, the Charter is aimed at getting more schools to take their obligations towards pupil swimming attainment more seriously. Currently 51% of pupils age 7-11 years cannot achieve the minimum swimming standard of 25m. The aim was to get 2% of schools signed to the charter in next 12 months, currently over 800 schools are signed-up for the Charter. The Charter provides resources and rewards to help providers get the best out of their pool sessions and ensure attainment levels are monitored and recorded to allow for communication with parents and for OFSTED inspectors. Aquatic Officers are working with schools and local authorities across the Region to embed the Charter into their school swimming programmes.

Sainsbury's School Games took place across the region, successful swimming events were held at the Northumberland School Summer Games took place at the Concordia Leisure Centre on 23rd June 2014 and Durham School Games Disability and Primary level 3 final was held at Freemans Quay 3rd July 2015.

Schools Swimathon 2014/15 was launched in December, with 58 of the 200 places nationally taken by schools across the Region, some of those schools taking part included:

Whingate Primary School, Howden Le Wear Primary School, Horsforth School, Quadring Cowley and Brown's Primary School, Witham Hall, Burnsall V.A. Primary School, Cracoe and Rylstone Vc C Of E Primary School, Ampleforth College, Kettlewell Primary School, Colston Bassett Preparatory School, Phillimore Primary School, Beck Primary, Dore Primary School, Mallard Primary School, Mosborough Primary School, Norton Free C Of E Primary, Pye Bank C.E. Primary School, Southey Green Primary School, St Ann's Catholic Primary School, A Voluntary Academy.

A new school swimming dedicated website was set up and has been circulated to all schools so they can access information related to school swimming and the school swimming charter: www.swimming.org/asa/schoolswimming/.

7. Lifelong Participation

The Legacy Action Plan or the 2012 Olympic Games promised to increase the nation's participation in physical activity. As the country's major participation sport, swimming has a clear and significant role to play. National statistics show lane swimming numbers fell in 2014-2015 from 2.89 million to 2.69 million – a fall of 5%.

In 2014-2015 the Region saw a significant fall across both Yorkshire and the North East, with the North East particularly affected by a 30% fall in lane swimming numbers; this was despite an overall 5% increase in the number of general swimming admission numbers. Centrally the ASA Insight team are working on better understanding swimmers motivations, and looking at behaviour change research to better understand what changes we need to make to turn around the current falling trend in lane swimming. This research will be part of the 2015 participation strategy due to be launched in October 2015.

Swimfit

Aquatic Officers continue to promote the Swimfit across the Region with 65 sites now boasting the Swimfit programme. Taking industry best practice from Kirklees the ASA launched a Swimfit Gym version, which allows swimmers to combine lane swimming with pool based gym activities, and this programme is now in half of the Swimfit sites.

Due to the successful uptake of Swimfit, four Celebrate Swimfit / Gymfit workshops were set up across the division to aid the activators in sharing good practice and retain Swimfit participants in their sessions. Several of the Aquatic Officers team including Paul Downes have been trained as Swimfit Tutors giving the Division more capacity to train instructors across the Region.

Batley Baths BME Project

Aquatic Officers supported a pilot project alongside Kirklees Active Leisure around BME (Black and Minority Ethnic Communities) swimming at Batley Baths and Recreation Centre. The Project in Kirklees was one of the projects nominated for the Sport England Community Sports Project award. Aimed at encouraging more women from the Asian community to take part in swimming, the project has been growing since it began a year ago

Leeds Get Healthy

The ASA continues to offer support to Leeds through their Get Healthy, Get into Sport pilot which included Free Swimming across the city at specified times aiming to target areas of health inequalities.

Dementia Friendly Pools

The ASA has been awarded £1.4m to develop a 3-year Dementia Project, and is working in partnership with local authorities and a range of public health professionals, carers and community groups to create a network of dementia friendly swimming pools across England.

Durham County Council and Manchester City Council are the first local authorities to work with the ASA to develop knowledge and understanding around the swimming needs of those living with dementia.

This will include developing guidance and training for facility operators and their staff to ensure the needs of those living with dementia and their carers are fully understood, and creating the right environment in which to deliver a range of low intensity exercise and swimming sessions.

Councillor Simon Henig, Leader of Durham County Council, said *'We are delighted to be supporting the ASA's Dementia Friendly Swimming Project. It's wonderful that one of County Durham's pools has been chosen as a flagship for the National Launch'*.

Disability Insight Pilot

The ASA and EFDS have launched a pilot project with Kirklees to better understand the swimming needs and motivations of people with disabilities. The yearlong project will aim to explore what makes swimming attractive to disability users and how the environment and programmes can be made more disability friendly.

Swim Britain

Swim Britain 2014 was delivered throughout the month of September 2014, with Ponds Forge Sheffield the chosen venue in the North East Region. In excess of 400 swimmers completed the event which was supported by Olympians Steve Parry and Kerry Anne Payne.

Swimtag

The ASA is trialing the new SWIMTAG technology at two leading leisure centres; Darlington (Dolphin Centre) and Wigan Leisure Trust. SWIMTAG, created by 222 Sports Limited, is a training aid that records the number of lengths completed, split times, stroke rate and stroke type allowing users to set personal goals and follow exclusive training plans. They can also engage with other swimmers through challenges, competitions and via social networking. In addition, the technology will provide centre managers with an interesting insight into pool usage. The leisure centre operator will be able to monitor who is swimming, when, and how often.

Back to the Pool Funding

The Division funded 26 projects aimed at encouraging lapsed swimmers to re-engage with the sport (14 in the NE). Monitoring and evaluation reports expected over the next three months, but early indications show many of the projects have achieved encouraging numbers.

Sponsorship

British Gas and Kellogg's sponsorship agreements ended on 31st January and LTS Awards have been redesigned to reflect these changes. New Sponsors being sort, no update at present. All ASA Awards have now been de-branded.

8. Facilities

The provision of suitable, accessible and appropriate facilities is fundamental for all participants; the regional team has continued to work with partners to ensure, where possible, that the needs of all swimmers are met.

In 2014-15 Washington Leisure Centre (main photo) opened in May 2015 after an £11 million investment. The Centre features two water flumes together with a six-lane 25-metre swimming pool and learner pool with interactive water features. It also boasts a multi-purpose sports hall that can accommodate trampoline training to an international standard, a soft play area across two levels and a gym. In addition, it has a four-court sports hall, two glass backed squash courts, and a health suite containing a sauna and steam rooms. The centre also offers group exercise classes and kids parties too.

Everyone Active manages this facility on behalf of Sunderland City Council. This partnership provides access to a wide range of activities, sports and high quality leisure facilities for the people of Sunderland.

Contacting Us

If you have any enquires regarding the work of the ASA North East Region, please contact:

ASA North East Region

13 Horsemarket

Darlington

DL1 5PW

Tel : 01325 481260

Email : swimnortheast@swimming.org

Website : www.swimnortheast.org

Twitter : @asanortheast

Facebook : www.facebook.com/asanortheast