

SUFFOLK COUNTY ASA

Team Managers Report 2008

When I sat down to write last years report I didn't think Suffolk could do any better than we already had, how wrong could I be. As I said last year the County is very lucky to have such a depth of talent and growing number of quality young swimmers. The future looks very hopeful.

As in previous years the swimming calendar began in December with the Three Counties Gala. Once again the swimmers rose to the challenge winning and making it 5 years on the trot. Although this is a very hectic gala for my helpers and myself it is also very rewarding one watching the newly selected swimmers all very excited and proud to be representing Suffolk for the first time.

It was the turn of Hertfordshire to host the East Region Inter County Gala in July. Having won the trophy last year Suffolk was determined to retain it again. Not only did we win but beat our closest rivals Hertfordshire by a bigger point's margin than the previous year. This is the only meet in the year that includes an Open age group so it is good to be able to include some of our senior swimmers in the team. Well done to everyone who took part in the event.

As usual the highlight of the year is the National Team Championships which were held at Ponds Forge, Sheffield in October of this year. Having achieved a fantastic 8th place last year the pressure was on to maintain our position, the swimmers did not disappoint. Despite two of our top swimmers dropping out at the last minute due to injury and illness the team swam fantastically to keep the 8th place we achieved in 2007. Quite a number of the team were at the younger end of the age group and still managed to come in the top ten and I think nearly everyone swam a personal best time which is brilliant. I would like to thank Charlie Smith and Emily Hawes who turned out to swim for the County literally at the last minute and the team as a whole for their fantastic behaviour both at the hotel and on poolside.

Once again I should like to thank all the officials, poolside helpers for their help during the year and in particular all the Club Coaches for being supportive and helping me with the selection process; I couldn't do the job without them.

Alison Vinter