

REGIONAL DELEGATES REPORT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2009

The ASA East Region Annual Council Meeting took place on 12th September. As you know Suffolk has more representation than most counties on the board with myself as County Rep and Pat & Don Neate as Independent Members. Suffolk discipline managers include Chris Stephens – Water Polo, Liz Christian – Disability, Don Neate – Swimming with Pauline Larke heavily involved with Open Water. Unfortunately Bernie Buck has resigned as Masters Manager but I am pleased to say he has agreed to help organise the Regional competitions. Pat Neate is the new Regional Welfare Officer and Bobbie Wilson is taking on the role of Equity Officer. The new President is Sheila Mackenzie of Hertfordshire.

At this meeting Don Neate was elected as ASA East Regions nomination for ASA President Elect and this nomination was endorsed at the ASA Annual Council Meeting at Stratford-upon-Avon on 10th October so for 2010-2011 Don will be ASA President, an honour so well deserved.

During the year the Region awarded Silver Pins to five Suffolk volunteers for their outstanding contribution to swimming over many years. The recipients were: Jean Green and Brian Rivett – Lowestoft & Oulton Broad; Bobbie Wilson – Stowmarket; Wendy Read – Mildenhall and Dave Whelan – Ipswich.

As you will be aware, one of the major developments that have taken place during the year has been the loss of the two RDO's (Regional Development Officers) being replaced by a County Swimming Co-ordinator (CSC) for each of the six counties in the East Region. This was pushed through very quickly and without warning by the ASA. These posts have now been filled; the last one took up their post as the Norfolk CSC a few weeks ago. Phil Lown, one of the redundant RDO's was appointed Suffolk CSC. Not so lucky for us but lucky for Phil is that he has since been appointed Senior CSC which means he will oversee the other five CSC's in addition to his duties as Suffolk CSC. Although the ASA assured us that Swim21 remained a priority the worry was whether the CSC's would have the time to give the clubs the time and support they need and this support certainly dropped while the appointments were made and this will probably carry on until they are fully trained but their job descriptions, which have changed as the months go by, do now put more emphasis on Swim21 than it did in the beginning.

DAVE ROBINSON
ASA EAST REGION DELEGATE