

SUFFOLK COUNTY ASA

SECRETARIES REPORT AGM 2009

Over the past few years I have stopped giving a Secretaries Report to the AGM as I invariably stole the thunder of those who followed me, however this year I am going to make an exception as this is my last year as Secretary of the Suffolk ASA.

I have served in this post for twenty years and have enjoyed the job enormously and would like to thank all the people I have worked with over those twenty years as we have worked well as a team to bring the best of swimming to the County. When I joined the Executive in 1983 the bank balance stood at £485 now we have reserves in excess of £30,000 and this can be put down to the careful efforts of our Treasurer, David Whelan, and a succession of very successful Championship Secretaries and Development Championship Secretaries who have promoted hugely successful Championships that have not only made a surplus but have been very popular with the swimmers giving many of them the opportunity to gain Regional and even National Qualifying Times.

As a County we are among the best in the East Region and although much smaller than Hertfordshire we manage to beat them on a regular basis. Also in the early days of my tenure we were beaten on a regular basis by Norfolk and if you look at the Three Counties Trophy you will see a long list of Norfolk wins but we have now corrected that and win it on a regular basis. Also we have moved from the Second Division of the National Inter Counties to being in the top ten Counties in the Country. So I have a lot to be proud of in the County.

Now the sting in the tail, although we have been successful the support from the clubs in the County has been very poor, every Executive Meeting we worry that we will not have a quorum (which is only nine) and most of the people attending are there because they have a post on the Executive and not because they represent clubs. A few clubs are very good at supporting our meetings but some very rarely have a delegate at the Executive. It is your Championships, your money we are dealing with and it would be so much better if the Executive were better supported.

Finally David Robinson has been nominated to take over from me as Secretary and I know he will do a great job and after a few months you will be saying he should have taken over sooner so good luck to David and the County although you have not got rid of me completely as I shall stay on as a Past President.

