



Swindon Dolphin ASC

Welfare Officer's / Disability Liaison Officer's Report to the AGM 2014

Since taking over the role of Welfare Officer in January 2014, I have dealt with a number of issues and complaints which have arisen from swimmers and/ or parents, all of which to date have been successfully resolved. I have also dealt with one serious incident which required support from the ASA and the advice of an ASA friend.

One of my responsibilities as Welfare Officer is to ensure that all the coaches, helpers, Team Managers and volunteers have a current DBS check. The new online system replaces the old CRB paper application form. Since January I have completed around 50 DBS applications which have been cleared by the ASA. At present I have eight applications open which I am in the process of completing. There are a small number of outstanding expired checks which I am currently chasing.

I have recently been involved with the writing of risk assessments for the UK training camp and acted as the home contact.

As well as being the Welfare Officer I am also the Club's Disability Liaison Officer. These two roles have proved to be very closely linked as knowledge of disabilities is essential in ensuring the welfare of swimmers with special needs and disabilities. The Club currently has a number of swimmers who have disabilities and we have one very successful swimmer who swims in the S14 category.

The Swim Links sessions which are held once a month at Dorcan pool continue to be popular and are attended by Dolphin and non-Dolphin swimmers. Thank you to Gemma Lucas and Tracy Farrington who are the coaches that lead these sessions.

I have recently applied for funding to cover the cost of the Swim Link sessions for the next year and am waiting to hear as to whether the application has been successful.

Dolphins currently receives funding from Aiming High, a government initiative that promotes the inclusion of children with disabilities and supports access to groups and clubs, for two Learn to swim swimmers. Swindon Dolphin continues to be the club that Aiming High refers parents of children with disabilities to when they are seeking swimming lessons for the children.

Next year I hope to see the popularity of the Swim Link programme, and opportunities and access for swimmers with disabilities increase as Dolphins continue to teach and help children and young people with a disability develop and reach their full potential.

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