



WELCOME to the Christmas edition of the Club newsletter.

Its been a busy but successful year with a lot to feel proud of as a Club.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish all the coaches, divers and their families a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous 2016

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Gala	1
New Pools	2
Awards Evening	2
Competition round-up	3
Gala Picture Gallery	8

Splashing Christmas Gala

Families and friends were once again amazed by the fantastic diving displays at the Club's annual Christmas Gala on Saturday 5th December.

The parents competition proved to be a real hit with the divers and spectators. Congratulations to everyone who entered, you were brilliant. The splash from Chris Cook's 5m winning belly flop saw the crowds on poolside ducking for cover. A special mention must be made to Anne Jessel, the Club President who won Silver with her dive from the 5m board. Justine Waight took the Bronze medal with a dive from the 3m board . Come on parents, dare you take the challenge next year?

The standard was high in the individual competitions and all the divers should be very proud of their performances. Congratulations to all the divers who won a trophy on the day.

The fancy dress synchronised competition was yet again a roaring success, - the costumes get better every year!

An enjoyable day was had by all the divers and their families. The Gala is the main fundraising event of the year for the Club and we thank you all for supporting this event.

Thank you as always to all the divers, our loyal volunteers, coaches and committee members for all their hard work in arranging a fantastic event. Photographs from the day can be found on pages 8 to 10.



Flight of the Albatross

Over the summer, the Club said a fond farewell to Amy, Leilani and Seb as they set off to University. We hope you have all settled in and enjoying student life!

In September, we also said our goodbyes to coach Andy Cook. Thank you Andy for your time, energy and commitment to teaching children to dive over the last 13 years . We are very grateful. In December, Amy Cook also decided it was time to hang up her coaching hat. Enjoy your travels and don't forget to send us a postcard!

The Club increased in size during the

autumn as divers from the Learn to Dive programme moved into the RightTrack and Skills squads. Congratulations and welcome to you all.

Congratulations also go to Tilly, Molly, Natalia, Amelia, Zac and Aiden on all passing Grade 7 and joining the Skills squad.



New Pools

Albatross are applauding the announcement that Reading is at last to have a headline leisure complex worthy of its size and prominence in the South of England. Largely in recognition of the national success of its aquatic clubs, this centre will host, among others, all those clubs currently being run from Central Pool.

The ASA have long supported the maintenance of diving in the area and are now committed to supporting this financially through grant provision for the centre including the facility to dive.

At this stage, a site has not yet been chosen and the timeframe is still 4-5 years from now. The Council have committed £350,000 to support essential maintenance at Central Pool to ensure that the facility can be available to us for as long as possible.

It is envisaged that Central Pool will remain in service for two years from now. There will be a period of time between Central Pool closing and

the new centre coming online. During this period the council have said that a temporary dismantable pool will be installed. Initial thoughts are that the water may not be sufficiently deep to support full depth 5m diving but following a meeting last night the Council agreed to look at the feasibility of offering depths to support 1m springboards and to increase their support of dry training.

As you know Albatross is a hard working, committed and well respected Club with close relationships with other clubs in the South of England, who will undoubtedly be supportive of our training needs in this interim period.

Over the coming weeks we will be attending more meetings with Council Representatives and the ASA who are welcoming our involvement in discussing how best to maintain diving provision in the area prior to the opening of the new facility.

As we gain further information you will be the first to hear. In the meantime, this is good news for the long term future of the sport our children so love being part of.

Aquatic Centre

Sunday 20th September saw Skills, Age Group and Elite divers along with the coaches enjoying a pool and dryland training session at the Aquatic Centre in London. Making sure that they made the most of this tremendous opportunity, the divers returned home exhausted. This wasn't helped by the coach driver decision to provide an impromptu tour around London's main tourist sights!

Thank you to Nicky and Emma for arranging this fantastic opportunity.



Award Nomination

We are delighted to inform you that the governing body of the Reading Sports Personality Awards have favourably received our nomination for our Age Group and Elite combined squad for the Youth Team of the Year. Congratulations to Hal, Charlie, Celie, Charlotte, Ethan, Finlay, Quinn, Ollie, James and coaches Malcolm and Nicki. James West is also nominated for Improver of the Year at the awards. They are all attending the presentation evening on Sunday 3rd January 2016 at the Hilton Hotel in Reading. Recognition at this level is phenomenal and we wish you all the best of luck.

Our congratulations go to James West for winning the under 14 junior boys award at the Wokingham sports awards in November.

Save the Date - Annual Awards

Join us on this important Club evening to recognise and celebrate the successes of 2015. Shared with a fun evening of bowling, Laserquest and food. Saturday 5th March 2016 from 6.30pm at Wokingham Superbowl. Look out for further details over the next few weeks.



Competition Round-up - SE Regional Age Groups, Southampton



It was medals all-round for Reading's Albatross Divers at the SE Regional Age Group Diving Championships held in Southampton.

Jack Livingstone Smith (boys C) and James West (boys D) scooped Gold on all three boards, whilst Ethan Jones won a well-deserved Silver

medal in boy's C platform.

Finlay Cook won Silver (boys B) after a stand-out personal best performance on the 3m springboard. Charlotte West also shone on 3m where she won Silver (girls B). In the girls A events Celie Mullen won Silver on 3m and 1m while team mate Amy Watts took Silver on platform and Bronze on both springboards.

Team Albatross took twelve divers to these championships; a key qualification event ahead of the National Finals in Sheffield. Most divers achieved National qualification scores. Several divers successfully performed newly learnt dives which, alongside the overall impressive Regional results, mean Albatross were well placed for National success at the end of May (see page 4).



Regional Team – Amy Watts, Celie Mullen (A), Charlotte West, Billy Minns, Ollie Breach, Edward Beal, Finlay Cook (B), Jack Livingstone-Smith, Ethan Jones (C), Sophie Bailey, James West and Quinn Shaw (D).

London Regional Skills, Ruislip

On Sunday 24th May a team of 7 Albatross divers travelled to compete at the London Skills Level 2 Competition in Ruislip. The team consisted of divers Henry Middleton, Lottie Gosling, Jasmine McCallum, Freya Nelis, Milly Orgill, William Frewin, Isabel Holloway with coaches Matt Pipe, Bernie Bicknell and Chris Beal.

Competing on the first day of the event in Girls Group B against 37 other divers were Lottie, Jasmine, and Freya. Jasmine had a steady competition, finishing in 12th place with her best dive being a back dive tuck from the 3m board. Lottie had a competent event scoring well on her reverse dive tuck from the 3m board and finishing in 19th place. Freya also had a very good competition, her first at this level. Freya was close all the way through scoring well over 30 points each for her inward one and a half somersaults tuck and forward one and a half somersaults from the 1m board and eventually earning herself a Silver medal.

Henry was our only representative in Boys Age Group B. Henry had a very strong competition consistently scoring 6's and 7's for his dives off the 1m and 3m boards and finishing the contest with a very creditable Silver medal. Next to compete was Isabel in the Girls Group D. Diving steadily and doing well with her back straight line up from the 3m board, Isabel finished in 7th place.

In the Girls Group C, Millie was representing Albatross at this level for the first time. Giving a good account and scoring 8's from the judges for her back straight line up from the 3m board, Millie finished in 16th place. William in Boys Group C had a good competition doing well in all of his dives. His best dive being his inward dive tuck from the 1m board. In a close contest William finished in 7th place.



ASA National Age Group Championships, Sheffield

The Club celebrated a record success at the ASA National Age Group Diving Championship held at Ponds Forge, Sheffield. James West swept the board in the boys E2/D category taking the National title on 1m, 3m and platform. Jack Livingstone Smith took Bronze in the Boys C 1m event while Charlotte West won silver in the Girls B 3m.

Alongside this podium success, Albatross divers also placed in the top six in a further six events with many achieving personal best scores. Celie Mullen dived well to place 4th on 1m and 5th on 3m (Girls A). In boys C platform Ethan Jones was 4th, an

agonising 3.6 points off a bronze medal, with Jack Livingstone Smith in 5th. Jack repeated his success by placing 4th in the Boys C 3m event. Finlay Cook achieved a stand out personal best score on the 3m board to place sixth (Boys B). Quinn Shaw, Albatross's youngest age group diver, and Olly Breach also both achieved personal best scores; Olly on 1m and 3m (Boys B) and Quinn on all boards (Boys E2/D).

Lead Coach, Malcolm Green, said "These record results are an outstanding achievement for Albatross.

To take three National Titles and two further National medals at this level is something we are hugely proud of."



26th Albatross Interclub

The 26th Annual Interclub Competition was held on Sunday 13th June. This competition attracts many clubs from all over Southern England and Wales. Albatross had a team of 27 divers in the event, competing from the age of 6 up to 16. Several of these divers were competing in their first competition.

Competing in the Girls and Boys Group F was Lilia and Max from the Learn to Dive programme. Holding their nerve they both put in a consistent set of dives with Lilia winning the Gold medal and Max the Silver medal. Three divers competed in the Girls Group E, they all had a good competition with Amelia finishing in 4th place, Daisy Butler in 7th place and Daisy Cook in 8th place.

One of the largest competitions of the day was Girls Group D with 21 entries. Albatross had 4 divers competing. Isabel had an excellent competition scoring high marks on all of her dives to win the bronze medal. The rest of the girls all dived well with

Molly finishing in 7th place, Natalia in 9th place and Olivia in 13th place.

In Boys Group D, Albatross had 8 divers competing. They all dived very well, James finishing in 6th place, Zac 7th place, Frankie 8th place, Freddie 11th place, Hernan 15th place, Zac 19th place, Harry 20th place and Aiden 23rd place.

Milly, Tilly and Lucy competed in the Girls Group C. All dived consistently, scoring well with all of their dives. Milly scored well on her back dive, finishing in 5th place. Tilly doing well with her newly learnt reverse dive took 6th place and Lucy in her first ever diving competition ended in 9th place.

Boys Group C saw Alfie and William diving for Albatross. William had a great competition averaging 30 points for each of his four dives to take the Silver medal. Alfie ended his competition in 7th place after a consistent programme of dives.

Three divers were competing in the

Girls Group B. Freya had an extremely good competition scoring almost 40 points with her forward double somersault from the 1m board to take the Gold medal. Jasmine having had a good competition took the Bronze medal and team mate Lottie scored well on her inward somersault off 1m to finish in 6th place.

The penultimate event was the Boys Group B which saw Henry having a great competition. Scoring high marks and averaging over 30 points for each of his dives to take the Gold medal. Girls Group A was the final event of the day, Katie had a good competition taking Bronze medal, just one point short of the silver.

Albatross finished second in the team event, with Southampton winning the trophy. Albatross would like to thank Spire Dunedin Hospital and First South Western Trains for their kind support on the event.

National Skills, Manchester

On the weekend of 18-19 July a team of 8 Albatross divers travelled to compete at The National Skills Level 2 Finals at the Manchester Aquatics Centre. The National event attracted a record number of with over 250 divers competing.

For a number of Albatross divers this was their first national event. Competing for the club were Billy Minns, Henry Middleton, William Frewin, Freya Nelis, Lottie Gosling, Jasmine McCallum, Milly Orgill and Isabel Holloway along with coaches Bernie Bicknell, Matt Pipe and Chris Beal.

On day one Milly competed in the girls age group C1. She gave a good performance in her first national competition, scoring well on her line ups from the 3 metre board and finishing in 18th place.

In the boys C2, William - also a newcomer to national finals - had a good event, scoring well on his inward tuck dive off the 1 metre board. William finished the competition in 7th place.

The final event of day one was the girls B+ and Albatross had three divers in this group. Jasmine gave her usual steady performance finishing in 26th place. Lottie had a good competition scoring well off her back tuck dive from the 3 metre board to finish

in 19th place. Freya, competing in her first national event continued to dive although she was feeling unwell. After a strong start illness took its toll and she finished in 27th place.

On day two first to compete for Albatross was Isabel also in her first major diving competition in the girls D2 group. Isabel dived steadily, overcoming nerves to do well with her back straight line up from the 3 metre board. Isabel finished in 21st place.

The final event of the weekend was the Boys B+, with Billy and Henry competing for Albatross. Billy gave a good account, scoring consistently and finishing in 8th place. Henry scored well on all his dives especially his reverse dive off 3 metre and finished the contest in 6th place.



White Rose, Leeds

On the weekend of 16-18 October a team of Albatross divers travelled to Leeds to compete in the White Rose competition. The team consisted of Tilly Waight, Milly Orgill, William Frewin, Freya Nelis and coach Bernie Bicknell.

The first divers representing Albatross were Milly and Tilly in the girls C1 age group. Both divers had a good competition with Milly scoring high marks for her poolside dives and line ups from the three metre board. Tilly was diving for the first time in a competition of this standard at an away pool and had a steady competition. In what was a very tight event Milly finished in 11th place and Tilly finished the event in 18th.

William dived in the boys C2 age group and put in a very good set, scoring well on all of his dives to finish the preliminary round in 6th place and qualifying for the final. In the final William finished in 6th place.

Freya was our final competitor in the girls age group B+ event. Freya had an excellent competition, scoring almost 45 points on her inward one and half somersaults tuck from the 1 metre board. Scoring well on the rest of her dives meant she finished the preliminary round in 3rd place. The final was an extremely close run event with just 5 points separating 2nd to 5th place with Freya eventually finishing in 5th place.



Southampton Invitational

Albatross Diving Club had a record start to the diving year following the Southampton Invitational Diving Competition held at The Quays, Southampton.

Albatross swept the board in the youngest and oldest boys' events. Charlie took three Golds in boys A+ 1m, 3m and platform while James repeated the hat trick in the boys E/D events.

Podium success was enjoyed by Celie who took Bronze in girls A+ platform and Silver medals in the 1m and 3m events. Quinn also stepped up to take a Bronze medal after a standout personal best performance in boys E/D 3m.

Albatross team mates reached the final in a further five events

In boys B 1m Finlay dived superbly to finish the preliminary round as a clear front runner but placed 5th in the final. In Boys B 3m final Oliver took 5th with Finlay in 6th whilst on platform Oliver was 4th and Fin 5th.

There was much to celebrate elsewhere. Ethan placed an agonising 7th in boy's C 3m and platform whilst Charlotte and Sophie both secured personal best scores. Matt, Billy and Henry also returned PBs whilst performing several newly learnt dives. Henry's debut platform work was particularly strong and he will be looking to build his experience in future Level 3 events.

This was a great start to the competition season for Team Albatross with Celie, Charlie, James and Quinn proving that Albatross can deliver podium success on the National Grand Prix Circuit.



Winter Masters, Corby

Congratulations to Matt Pipe, one of our senior divers and an Albatross coach on winning the individual Men's age 16-29 Winter Masters Championships in Corby and coming 4th in the synchronised diving with partner Kojo Terrile.



Peter Waterfield, Southampton

A team of novice divers from Albatross Diving Club travelled to Southampton to compete in The Peter Waterfield Diving Competition. The team consisted of Tilly, Milly, William, Freya, Molly, Jasmine, Lottie and Isabel.

First to dive was Isabel and Molly in the girls 10-11 age group, Molly put in a consistent set of dives doing well on her back dive tuck from the 1m board. Molly finished in 12th place. Isabel had a very good competition scoring well on her inward dive tuck from the 1m board to take the Silver medal.

Next up was Milly and Tilly in the girls 12-13 age group, both girls dived consistently with Milly scoring high marks for her back dive tuck from 1m. Tilly scored well with her forward one and a half somersaults from 1m. In a

very tight competition the girls finished 11th and 15th respectively.

In the boys 14-16 age group William, was diving up an age group. Putting in a very good set of dives and scoring well on his inward dive tuck from 1m. William finished in 4th place which is a fantastic achievement for his first event at this level.

Diving in the girls 14-16 age group were Freya, Jasmine and Lottie, Freya had a strong contest scoring well on all of her dives with an average of 29.08 points per dive. Freya earned a Bronze medal just 2 points off of the Silver medal. Jasmine had a steady contest scoring highly from her forward one and a half somersaults from 1m. Lottie was consistent with her best dive being her inward one and a half somersaults from 3m. Lottie just edged Jasmine out to finish 12th and 13th respectively.

Luton Challenge

The end of November saw a nine strong Age Group and Elite team compete in the Luton Challenge. The team consisted of Charlie, Hal, Charlotte, Celie, Finlay, Ollie, Ethan, James and Quinn.

This 3 day event is unique in that all the divers compete up a year allowing them the first glimpse of their competition for the following year.

The event is often gruelling with long days, but the team rose to the challenge and were rewarded with significant success stories for both individuals and the Club.

James competing in his first event as a Group C diver was hoping to reach a final but surpassed this by gaining not only a 5th place on the 3m, but a Bronze medal on 1m and a Silver on platform. Ethan joined James on the rostrum; winning Bronze and a new 3 dive PB in the platform event.

Hal was on form throughout the 3 days reaching finals on all three boards. Taking 4th place on 3m and platform.

Charlie competing in just the platform event

joined Ethan and James in showing that focused training on 7.5m and 10m when travelling to other clubs pays off by winning the Silver medal and beating divers with regular access to 10m facilities.

Charlotte competing for the first time in Age Group A had a good competition throughout but it was on the last day that she showed her staying power and determination when she made her first top 6 placing in the preliminary. In the final Charlotte finished in 5th place.

Finlay, just competing on the springboards, made both finals reaching 4th place in both. Ollie joined him in the final on 3m taking 5th and rose a place on platform to take 4th.



English School Swimming Association, London

Six Albatross divers qualified to represent their schools as part of the Southeast Region team at the English Schools finals on 13th December at the London Aquatic Centre. The Southeast Region squad included the following Albatross divers: Charlie, Celie, Hal, Charlotte, Ethan and James.

All competed well and thoroughly enjoyed the experience of competing at the Olympic pool. Medals were secured in both the senior and junior synchro events with Celie partnering Hal and James partnering Evie Johnson from Southampton. Strong consistent performances across the whole Southeast team secured 2nd place in the team trophy, only being beaten by London.



Christmas Gala Gallery



Christmas Gala Gallery



Christmas Gala Gallery

