

SOVEREIGN SWIMMING Club for Disabled People

Registered Charity No. 263846

Secretary: Mr R. H. Gausden
6 The Crescent, Willingdon, Eastbourne, BN20 9RN
Tel: 01323 - 484165

Annual Report 2014/2015

The Club benefits the community by providing recreational swimming facilities for disabled people at Motcombe Pool, Eastbourne.

Club swimming sessions are held on Sunday afternoons from 2 to 4.15 pm and our pool hoist is available for public use throughout the week.

Chair's Review

This is the twentieth Chair's report I have given and as always it is a good opportunity to look at the highs and lows of the previous year and consider the future of the club.

The Sponsored Seafrost Stroll raised more money than we have ever taken in one event. This was due to various factors. We set up appeal pages through Total Giving and opened a PayPal account so we could receive online donations and this proved to be very successful. A number of our members and friends took part and enjoyed a meal at the Beach Deck Café after the walk.

The club membership has changed over the last few years. Many more of our members come with carers through Social Services or are from residential homes and although they are all important members of the club, they are rarely able to take part in club events. With fewer active members we have had to adapt to meet their changing needs. An example was when we started sorting out teams for the Fun Gala. We could have run the gala with two teams but with our local MP already booked to present the prizes and Eastbourne Lions geared up, we needed to find some more swimmers and eventually found a team from the Dolphins Club at Haywards Heath.

The Christmas party was another example of collaboration but this time we were invited to join the JPK Sussex Project at their party. This resolved a headache for us as too few of our members wanted a party to make it viable for us. The relationship with JPK has worked both ways as we have spent time helping them complete their Gift Aid return.

Our helper situation has improved dramatically this year. We needed a helper pool of at least four so that we would always have two helpers every week. At that time we only had three so I put a helper appeal on a new local online networking site called Streetlife. Within a day I had a reply from someone who is now a valued member of our helper team. Also two more have joined us through the Do It volunteer website. This means that our helpers are able to spend time with some of our other swimmers who don't need one to one care but still appreciate a little support.

Looking to the future, we are really lucky to have our lovely swimming club and we must keep it going to support local community needs. This means that the more able members must step forward and help with fundraising and social events.



Club members and friends take part in our fund raising "Stroll" along Eastbourne seafrost.



"Down the Line" relay, the "Ball Game" and the winning Dolphins team in the 2015 Fun Gala.



Our Christmas Draw is another major fund raiser that enables members to help their club's finances.

Rowena Gausden

June 2015
Mrs R P Gausden, Chair

Summary of Income and Expenditure for the year ended 31st March 2015

2014/15 INCOME (£)	
Fund Raising Activities	2,456.70
Members Subscriptions	1,045.00
Donations & Grants	1,249.91
Other Income	276.24
Total Income	5,027.85

Our own fundraising activities are again a major part of our income, which enables us to keep membership subscriptions at an affordable cost. New initiatives this year include an online Total Giving site, PayPal account and Facebook page.

Events such as the annual draw, sponsored seafront fun walk and "Win-a-Car" are opportunities for many of our members to participate in, enjoy and also help raise funds for our swimming activities.

The vast majority of our expenditure is the cost of hiring Motcombe Pool and maintaining the poolside hoist.

Over all, our income appears to have exceeded expenditure by £429.80 but delays in billing have resulted in 9 weeks of pool hire (£797.40) being excluded from this year's accounts.

The Nationwide savings account is used to keep the Lloyds current account in credit for paying general expenditure such as pool hire, while the CAF account has been designated as reserve funds for hoist replacement.

2014/15 EXPENDITURE (£)	
Motcombe Pool Hire	3,632.60
Hoist Maintenance	356.43
Affiliation/Insurance	333.00
Other Expenditure	276.02
Total Expenditure	4,598.05

BALANCE at 31.3.15 (£)	
Cash in Hand	112.57
Lloyds Bank Account	1,940.28
Nationwide B. Soc.	4,065.43
PayPal Account	0.00
CAF Gold Account	7,079.59
	13,197.87

Membership Numbers

Membership numbers stood at 59 at the end of 2014/15. The number of disabled members has increased by two but our associate membership has dropped by five in the year. We have also welcomed new volunteer helpers.

The club remains active with new members joining. An increasing number of members, however, bring family, carers or helpers with them for support. Although paid membership numbers have reduced, the total number attending remains high and our club sessions continue to be busy. Our pool hoist and shower chairs are available for public use throughout the week.



The Trustees are pictured at the 2015 AGM.
Back row - Shirley, Michael, Giles, Ruth and Sian
Front row - Chris, Rowena and Bob.

Of the eight Club Trustees, four are "Full" Members (ie disabled members) and four are "Associate" or Volunteer Members

Honorary Club Officials for 2014/15

Chair	Rowena Gausden
Secretary	Bob Gausden
Treasurer	Christine Merredew
Swimming Reps.	Shirley Barrow Melvyn Clarke (to May 15) Michael Reynolds (from June 15)
Full Members	Ruth Mowbray (from June 15)
Chief Instructor	Giles Smith
Deputy Chief Ins.	Michelle Gray (to May 15) Sian Morris (from June 15)

Independent Examiner Mike Cross ACIB

The Club is grateful for the support received during 2014/15 from Eastbourne Lions, 3VA, JPK Sussex Project, Santander Bank, Friends of Motcombe Gardens, Eastbourne Arndale Centre and LawlerDavis.

Sussex
Community
Foundation
INSPIRING LOCAL GIVING • MEETING LOCAL NEEDS



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