ASA and British Swimming staff want to personally say a huge THANK YOU to each and every dedicated volunteer who helps to make our sport happen!
Welcome to the special edition of Volunteering News!

TAKING THE TIME TO SAY ‘THANK YOU’ - NOMINATE FOR THE 2013 AQUAFORCE AWARDS!

This edition aims to celebrate and recognise each and every volunteer that dedicates their time and energy to make the sport happen. Volunteers like you, from national technical officials and club committees, to poolside helpers and local coaches, are the people on the ground supporting athletes to make their splash in the water. Without your commitment the opportunities just wouldn’t be there for them to do so.

The ASA would like to use Volunteers’ Week to showcase its’ volunteer workforce and thank you for your dedication to making the sport happen, as well as encourage you to make the most of the support and training that is available to you. We hope you enjoy reading about what is happening up and down the country but more importantly feel inspired to join us and say ‘thank you’ to that special individual who makes an impact locally to you.

To keep up with what is happening during Volunteers’ Week, please visit www.swimming.org/asa/volunteering

On behalf of the Volunteer Engagement Team – Thank you!

This summer marks the first anniversary of London 2012 and as we continue to celebrate the Olympic and Paralympic legacy, take a moment to stop and think about the volunteers in your aquatic community.

It is no secret that volunteers are the lifeblood of our aquatic clubs, whether it is the volunteer who enthusiastically manages the front desk, the volunteer coach who tirelessly runs training sessions or the workforce co-ordinator who ensures club volunteers feel supported; no volunteer contribution should go unnoticed!

In 2013 take the time to stop and say ‘thank you’ to that special volunteer in your club or community. The Aquaforce Awards offer you the opportunity to recognise the unsung heroes who dedicate countless hours to make our sport happen.

Nominations will open on 1st June, marking the commencement of Volunteers’ Week. Everyone and anyone can nominate an ASA volunteer for an award. Nominations will close on 15th July.

The 2013 awards will be given in seven different categories:
1. Club Volunteer of the Year
2. Outstanding Contribution by a Young Volunteer
3. Outstanding Contribution to Swimming in the Community
4. Outstanding County/Regional Contribution
5. Services to Officials Development
6. Volunteer Teacher/Coach of the Year

Regional winners will be shortlisted for the National Aquaforce Awards. National winners will be announced at the ASA Council Dinner in October.

2013 will also see the introduction of a brand new club award:
7. Celebrating Excellence in Club Volunteering

A National winner only will be selected for the Club Award. Representatives from the winning club will be invited to attend the Council Dinner to receive this prestigious award. For the first time in 2013, ‘Celebrating Excellence in Club Volunteering’ will offer the opportunity for clubs to self nominate.

Click here to view the category selection criteria and to download the nomination forms. Each category will have a separate nomination form.

For all enquiries please contact aquaforceawards@swimming.org

Francesca Kelly – Head of Volunteer Engagement
Steph Elliott – Young Volunteer and Technical Officials Co-ordinator
Becky Milnes – Volunteer Development Co-ordinator
James Blackburn tells us about his experience volunteering with Swim Vietnam

As a kid swimming was a normal activity, I remember having a strop before lessons and being bribed with the chip shop on the way home. Despite my strops, mum encouraged me to stay with the sport and I accumulated many badges and learnt how to swim through a hoop with my pyjamas on. From here I never really considered learning to swim to be an unusual activity; in the UK it’s just part of growing up.

For some reason I googled which countries had the most drowning cases, I was shocked. In some areas of Asia up to 46 children drown per day (Source: Swim Safe/TASC 2012). Vietnam was second from the top with an estimated 32. This startling statistic has led to the drowning problem in Asia being named as a silent epidemic.

I had to know what was being done to address this, and if as a qualified swim teacher there was anything I could do. After another quick search I found the charity Swim Vietnam, set up by Joanne Stewart and TriBob in 2008. The charity is based in Central Vietnam and provides free swimming and water safety lessons to children and trains local adults as swimming teachers. So far they have taught over 4,000 children to swim, trained over 90 teachers, built two above ground swimming pools, one in ground swimming pool, and will open another venue later this year. I went to visit them in April and was taken aback at the result of five years work.

The swimming teachers are brilliant; they are traditional in their teaching, yet innovative in their practices, the passion that they put into their teaching rivals the teachers I have seen in the UK. I think this comes from the reality that lots of young people drown in Vietnam.

I found that it was really important to remember that the children I was helping or observing in the pool had never swam before; they had never been taken swimming before because their parents couldn’t swim and so on. This did unusually mean that most had a great amount of water confidence, I think this is partly due to the fact they have never been told the stories of drowning in a pool. Their confidence made the atmosphere of the lessons brilliant; I don’t think I saw an unhappy child in the pool for the whole 12 days I was there. The parents are really proud of their children for taking part in the programme, education plays a massive part in Vietnamese culture; many kids go to school followed by extra tuition and then sports classes until dusk. You can already see that swimming lessons, now that they are here, will fit in well with parents’ aspirations.

Unfortunately the economic situation in Vietnam is not good, a government funded swimming programme is still years away, and parents in the non-tourist areas just simply do not have the money to spend. This is why free swimming lessons are really important. Swim Vietnam are working with the local government and the education department to ensure that parents are not charged for the lessons, as well as ensuring that schools do their best to get the kids into the pool. It is a big project for the Swim Vietnam team, but will result in lots more children taking part in the programme.

So what’s next for swimming in Vietnam and for Swim Vietnam as a charity? The consensus among teachers and the community is that Swim Vietnam needs to expand, but with the way in which they expand being key. Personally I think teaching swimming is not only giving children a life-saving skill, but inspiring them to participate in the sport for the rest of their lives, whether competitively or recreationally; which is where teacher and coach education is key. Apart from formal courses, there are limited ways in which these teachers and coaches can develop in Vietnam, which is why teaching with volunteers from all over the world can really benefit the skill set of both teachers and volunteers. I would encourage anyone to visit Vietnam and see the work that they are doing, but even more I would encourage you to donate money or equipment to this amazing cause; it really does go such a long way! For me the cost of having a meal out could put a child through the programme and save their life. I really hope that this swimming programme along with others, are around for years to come, and that swimming in Vietnam for these children becomes part of growing up.

If you have been inspired by James’s story and would like to find out more about the work that Swim Vietnam does, please visit their website www.swimvietnam.com
**THANK YOU CORNER!**

My daughter’s name is Alyssa; she is 10 years old and swims at Bingham Penguins. She has attended for over a year and in that time she has won an award and progressed in her swimming abilities. This is because her coach Lisa always believes in her and praises her. This may seem very simple to some people, but for Alyssa this means so much because she has spent her 10 years being told she doesn’t make the grade for many things and over the years this has knocked her confidence.

When she comes to Penguins she knows everyone is in the same position, therefore she can be herself and that’s invaluable. More importantly her coach tells her she is ‘great’ that she’s ‘done well’ she ‘concentrated’, these few words make Alyssa very happy and show that the coaches understand each child’s individuality.

Alyssa is rarely recognised or awarded for achievements and Lisa saw Alyssa’s efforts and presented her with an award for ‘most improved junior’ which was huge for Alyssa and told her she was good at something.

So I would like to say THANK YOU to Lisa, the little things people like you do are noticed and very much appreciated, you do a great job and these children will remember you forever.

Best wishes,

Alyssa’s Mum

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A big THANK YOU to all UEA City of Norwich SC Volunteers!!

Running a successful club means having a team of dedicated volunteers ready to go that extra mile.

At the UEA City of Norwich we have an army of people ready to do that.

And we would like to take this opportunity to say THANK YOU!

But special mention must go to Gary Smith, who is extraordinarily versatile, filling the Team Manager role both at meets and at the Easter swim camp, doing meet entries and promotion and is on both C&R and Management Committees.

Also Vanessa Mann, who works tirelessly as a squad rep, team manages at all meets, and at two swim camps abroad, helped with a school initiative and still finds time to swim as a master!

Lastly a whole family of volunteers! Special thanks go to the Crooks family who volunteer regularly for both home and away meets despite not always having a swimmer participating.

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Hoylake ASC say a special THANK YOU to their ‘Making a Difference’ volunteer Caroline Ashcroft.

Caroline is a volunteer ASA level 2 coach, coaching three hours a week at Hoylake ASC and has been coaching now for over 20 years. But it is for her officiating skills that we would like to put her forward as a ‘Making a Difference’ volunteer.

Caroline has been officiating for the past 10 years and is now a qualified referee and certainly goes that extra mile, not only officiating at all Hoylake Club Galas but at Wirral Peninsula galas, Arena League, North West Region events and Masters Championships. To do this Caroline often has to give up whole weekends to the sport, which is a huge commitment with a full time job and family.

Recently Caroline has run a Judge Level 1 course in Wirral encouraging a whole generation of new volunteers to start on the officiating ladder. She has especially encouraged some of our older teenagers to get involved and become Level 1 Judges, and again give something back to the sport we all love. Caroline’s passion and commitment to coaching and officiating is very inspiring to other club members to also become volunteers.

On behalf of Hoylake ASC I would like to say a big THANK YOU to Caroline for all of her hard work and time that she freely gives to coaching and officiating.

Paula Corley
Hoylake ASC Secretary

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All of us at Keynsham Swimming Club (KASC) would like to say a huge THANK YOU to our Membership Secretary – Bet Parsons.

Bet joined KASC over 40 years ago when her children started to swim at a competitive level. Despite the fact that her children have grown up, left home and she is now a grandmother, she is still with us and is hugely committed and as loyal as ever.

30 years ago Bet took on the role of Membership Secretary serving on the KASC Management Committee for all of this time. This goes far beyond the keeping of our membership records. Three nights a week, 40+ weeks of the year, Bet is at the Swimming Club. She is the face of our club, signing in the swimmers, collecting fees and answering thousands of questions. Often this can be difficult, but Bet’s combination of empathy, experience and knowledge means that she is able to deal with any situation. Of course it goes far beyond that. Bet provides a very important pastoral role, not only to the swimmers, but also to their parents and often the club’s coaches. Her common sense approach, coupled with her insight into the life of a family with a sporting child, and her vast experience of the world of amateur sport means that she is the first port of call for most queries.

Bet and her late husband Mike have, to their delight, had care of their extremely talented sporting grand-daughter and they have been fully involved in her sporting journey at every level, travelling the country to support her as they did with their own now grown up children. Not only is she gran to her granddaughter, but to everyone involved at KASC – we rely on her.

We want to say a big THANK YOU to Bet as four weeks ago she had a fall and broke her femur. She has had to have an operation and will be in hospital for some weeks to come. We all miss her at the club and look forward to welcoming her back. Get well soon Bet!
The ASA East Regional Board would like to say THANK YOU to all of the East regional volunteers!

The East Regional management board as volunteers themselves would like to say a special thank you to ALL of the volunteers for the time and effort that they put into the sport. Within the clubs, counties and region, each and every one of you plays a very important part in making aquatics in the region a success.

Congratulations Andrew!

Hemel Hempstead SC says THANK YOU to Andrew Farrow

Andrew Farrow, the Administration and Membership Secretary was awarded the 2012 Dacorum Sports Award for Volunteer of the Year.

Andrew’s dedication and commitment has shown no bounds, but some of his achievements you will find listed below.

- Spends more than 15 hours per week managing all aspects of admin and membership (despite having a full time job in London)
- Manages all of the swimmers data
- Created a superb new joiner’s pack
- Meets every new starter and their parents for a one-to-one consultation, making sure they have everything they need to know
- Creating and uploading competition events schedule to the club website
- Single-handedly manages email communication to over 300 members
- Responsible for the electronic timing equipment (AOE)
- Fully qualified timekeeper – often found officiating at events
- Oversees other club volunteers who manage out ASA membership and fees
- Linked meet manager to app to allow parents to see real-time results on their iPad or iPhone
- Works closely with the treasurer

- Attends monthly committee meetings, always well informed, helpful but fully grounded in the member’s needs.
- Two children who swim at the club and his wife, Louise who is also the events co-ordinator.

Congratulations Andrew!

The West Midlands Team would like to say THANK YOU to Alan Bartlett!

Alan works tirelessly for ‘swimming’ in a county capacity as well as within the region. He looks after club affiliation and club constitutions and as we are currently asking all regional clubs to revisit their constitution, this is no mean feat! Alan is our regional governance guru attending national meetings to discuss the new ASA Board structure and advising the Regional Board on progress. He is also an ASA Friend which can take up a large part of his week. Alan was the Regional President in 2008/9. Thank you Alan for everything that you do!

Broadstairs Lifeguard and Swimming Club, like most other clubs is run totally by volunteers; they would like to say THANK YOU to all of the volunteers who have put themselves forward to help on 8th June. The galas wouldn’t be able to take place without you!

- Sue Smith
- Tony Taylor
- Tracey Gullick
- Kelly Jones
- Jo Barker
- AnnMarie Whelan
- Chris Humphries
- Steve Rayleigh-Strutt
- Fiona Calis
- Jo White
- Darren Sayer
- Lisa and Grace Andrews
- Alan Tilbury
- Lawrence Whelan
- Charlotte Tilley
- Tina Burbridge
- Emma Kemp
- Simone Witham
- Annabelle Keyworth
- Bronwyn Tuddenham
- Molley Dawson
- Emma Warren

Philip Collins, Out to Swim

Having been a committee member for 16 years, and having served as the club’s treasurer for over 10 years, Philip has been a constant backbone of Out to Swim (OTS). One of the first members of the club, he has served as Club Chair and Chair of the Middlesex ASA Masters committee, Chair of the International Gay and Lesbian Aquatics (IGLA). He is also a qualified ASA Starter and Judge and has officiated at county events as well as refereeing at OTS’s own GLLAM competitions. He has been a key team member in OTS’s representations at local, national and overseas master’s tournaments in breaststroke and individual medley events.

Since joining the club in 1992 after seeing an advert in a gay newspaper, Philip has played a fundamental role in developing OTS into the largest masters swimming club in the UK. During his tenure as treasurer Philip has not only been the “steady hand on the tiller” and ensured the financial stability of the club, but has been a key figure in making the club what it is today. His enthusiasm for swimming and LGBT sport and his meticulous effectiveness in managing the club’s finances has ensured that new projects, from an OTS stall at Pride to substantial increases in coaching and pool time, have been successful. The expansion of the club to include diving, water polo, synchronised and open water swimming is a credit to the astuteness and strategic thinking that Philip brings to the committee and OTS more generally. He advocates the club as a fantastic resource for LGBT people, providing health and fitness and a sense of community.

THANK YOU Philip for everything that you do!
Stockbridge Pentaquaw would like to say a big THANK YOU to David Kershaw for all of his help and continued support over the years. David is a lifeguard and coach at Stockbridge and dedicates his free time whilst studying for a degree at Sheffield Hallam University.

THANK YOU to all of the Volunteers who helped at Harrogate District Diving Club’s novice diving event.

Keeping it in the family
For Erika Gittins, the Dane Valley Amateur Swimming Club is a lifelong passion. Erika, who heads up the teaching programme, started swimming for the club at the age of 10 and has been coaching since the age of 14. Introduced to the club by her mum, Ruth Fitzgerald, who herself coached at the club in the 1970’s, 80’s and early 90’s, Erika has been volunteering at Dane Valley for over 22 years, only taking time away to bring up her family. Erika volunteers for around nine hours a week and during that time covers a number of key activities in support of the teaching staff.

A highlight for Erika is seeing members that she mentors and teaches become volunteers themselves to train the next generation of swimmers. An example of whom are Erika’s two sons, James (14) and Matthew (12) who are the third generation of her family to become active volunteers for Dane Valley Swimming Club.

A swimmer for the club, James wants to follow in his Mum’s footsteps to coach and is already looking to attain his teaching qualifications. Volunteering at least two hours a week, James is gaining good practical experience in team management and supports in the lane ends at galas and mentors the younger members of the club. Most importantly, he enjoys the time he spends at the club.

Erika’s youngest son Matthew, who also swims for Dane Valley, has already indicated his aspirations to join his older brother in the coaching and management of the club and is already building up his volunteering experience. On a Monday night, Matthew and his dad head up the club desk, and Matthew can be relied on to support Dave in getting the desk ready for enquiries and payments.

Yes, there is another volunteer in the Gittins family. Dad, Dave Gittins, also plays an active role in the club. Dave has been Treasurer for over three years’ and volunteers 5-6 hours a week. Dave is responsible for the day-to-day finances of the club, including the preparation of its’ annual accounts and forecasts. Dave is also the club’s HY-TEK software specialist and works with the Head Coach to ensure teams are correctly entered for galas and also sets up galas that are run at Dane Valley. You will also see Dave doing the announcing at home galas – utilising his skills as a former DJ.

Overall from speaking to the Gittins you get a real sense of legacy and love for Dane Valley ASC and this is what motivates their volunteering. The family is very proud of their involvement with the club and its’ achievements and their wish is for the club to continue to be successful and support the future talent line of both swimmers and volunteers.

Wellington SC – Why we volunteer
I began volunteering on poolside when my children joined the club, and I am still here 18 years later. I enjoy seeing the swimmers progress through the club and get a lot of satisfaction seeing the improvement of the swimmers in teaching groups. – A. Staples

As an ex-wellington swimmer I had lovely memories of my time, and now my son swims I wanted to put the time in to help him and the other swimmers. – Karen Dickinson

I love teaching the beginners, seeing their confidence and techniques develop and then their progression through the club. As an ex-swimmer it is satisfying to put something back into the club. – Carol Whitehead

Over 30 years ago my eldest daughter joined WSC and my other four children followed. I soon got involved on poolside and by default became chief coach for approximately 25 years. I now take a back seat but still enjoy teaching two nights per week. Even after all these years I still get a thrill seeing so many healthy and enthusiastic swimmers doing their stuff! – Keith Gibson

My daughter joined Wellington club just over 12 months ago, I became involved to give my time to help a really good club. Even when I’ve had a bad day at work, the lovely greeting I get from the members makes my day.

– Michaela McLeod

Partnership.
by Herts ASA and the local County Sports Swimming Club is proud to support the
of Broxbourne and the ASA and Hoddesdon Special Olympics East Herts squad.

The Club works in partnership with the Borough of Broxbourne and the ASA and Hoddesdon Swimming Club is proud to support the Disability Development Day which is organised by Herts ASA and the local County Sports Partnership.

Sheffield hallam University.

volunteering. The family is very proud of their involvement with the club and its’ achievements and their wish is for the club to continue to be successful and support the future talent line of both swimmers and volunteers.
The British Swimming/ASA Events Team would like to say a huge THANK YOU to the dedicated volunteers who commit time on a regular basis to support the delivery of Aquatic Events across Swimming, Open Water, Water Polo, Diving and Synchronised Swimming.

Andrew Marvin
Ian Macleod
Chris Bostock
Annie Marwood
Amanda Harrison
Nigel Mills
Ray and Linda Gordon
Beth Smith
Ian Proud
Marianne Mullen
Kath Smith
Jane Ogden
Simon Sinclair
Hugo Ordonez
Lesley Prentice
Tom Owens
Liz Sykes
Roger Page
Lisa Forest
Chris Sage
David Rush
Chris Snod
Elise Rush
Adam Sotheran
Kath Holbourne
Hayley Sotheran
Ryan Manchester
Lottie Thompson
Chris Winstone
Charlotte Tomkys
Andy Morris
Rosie Whiting
Rhys Jones
Mary Sless
Tori Jeynes
Alan Alderman
Jack Ferriday
Andrew Williams
Claire Black
Ian Watson
Ian Whitehead
Katherine Barclay
Roger Parrell
Jan Clayton
Frances D-Smith
Marina Davies
Ruth Christian
Marcia Randle
Sarah Hill
Bev Whiting
Les Debenham
Jennifer Dean
Niki Smith
Jasper Hooper
Andy Strudwick
Phil Crewson
Andrew Sylvester
Michael Guy
Maria White
John Bailey
Malcolm Taylor
Jan Gittings
Eddie Wilmott
Mari Jary
Gemma Wright
Bill Murdoch
Sarah Clarke
David Metcalfe
Dennis Yeoman
Simon Middleton
Amanda Lower
Louise Mackie
Steve Fuller
Sue Lambert
Alex Smith
Zoe Holmes
Richard Crisp
Barry Saunders
Ian Atkins
Kim Winder
Alistair Rainsbury
Bob Outram
Katie Austin
Susan Harrison
Mandy Fuller
Neil Booth
Nicky Williams
Sheil Aldred
Andy Bell
Len Badcock
Daniel McDermot
Alistair Baker
Dave Williams
Ann Barker
Howard Cartwright
Jill Boothroyd
Dorothy Smith
David Broomhall
Jane Davies
Collette Calvert
Elizabeth Christian
Anne Clark
John Green
Pat O’Callaghan
Philip Hebblethwaite
Alan Capstick
Sharon Crawford
Betty Allen
Sally Hooper
Alex Bagiu
Tania Hockin
Susan Bambr
Harriet Roberts
Andy Banks
Christine Bates
Derek Beaumont
Rodney Powers
Melanie Beck
Dave Randall
Julian Bellan
Linda Sylvester
Sam Buck
Lauren Smith
Bill Clark
Ian Stuart
Carlos Ferra
Aimee Spencer
Lindsey Fraser
Victoria Tomney
Sally Freeman
Daisy Gunn
Tandi Gerrard
Jake Williams
Dorothy Gibson
Francyne Hardy
Steve Gladding
Zoe Morgan
Chris Gravestock
David Hunt
Malcolm Green
Carole Henson
Fito Gutierrez
Pat Holmyard
Adrian Hinchliffe
Phyllis Mclean
Marc Holdsworth
Helen Seamer
Steve Jackson
Shoena Jones
Edwin Jongejans
Katie Hooper
Stacia Long
Hannah Bickerdike
Frank Clewlow
Anne and Tim Bradock
Annie Clewlow
David Dickenson
Jean Cook
Mandy Hall
Francisco Diaz
Charmeine Hooper
Rhian Medway
Kevin Huntsman
Carolyn Glover
Sue Milnes
Jayne Glynn
Gina Nanavaty
Lesley Grist
Val Simmonds
Kathy Hancock
Carla Rispin
Gail Harrison
Gillian Hindle
Zoe Holmes
Alan Hindle
David Johnstone
Anni Martin
Grace Knight-Wisdom
Chesney Hall
Jackie Laugher
Nikita Hall
Helen Lee
Jess Randall
Nina Mewse
Charlotte Berzins
Dawn Milton
Kate Whitmill
Peter Moran
Sarah Porter
Fred Murray
Tony Ward
Yvonne Newton
Helen Ward
Miles Osborne
Chris Wilson
Roger Prior
Natalie Cunningham
Jill Robinson
Carolyn Dawe
Simon Rothwell
Becky Ashworth
Richard Sheath