

# **BREIFNE SWIM CLUB AGM (2015 – 30<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2016)**

## **CAVAN LEISURE CENTRE, 30/05/2016**

### **Chairperson's report**

Good evening, welcome to Breifne Swim Club AGM and thank you to all for attending. Reports for this AGM will cover 2015 and 2016 to date.

As of 30<sup>th</sup> May 2016 Breifne Swim Club has a membership of 122, comprising 106 swimmers, including one master swimmer and 2 disability swimmers and 16 officials. Swimmers continue to train in 4 squads – Novice, Development, Competition and Leisure and Fitness with a total of 7 hours coached training per week. Progression within the club takes swimmers from Novice through to Development and finally to either Competition or Leisure and Fitness squad. Progression is dependent on Standards achieved and existing squad numbers and criteria is set by coach, Ann Coyle.

Breifne Swim Club aims to be primarily a competitive swimming club and as such, swimmers are encouraged to participate in open galas. Participation in galas has very positive advantages for swimmer and club:

- It allows swimmers and coach to gauge where they are in comparison to swimmers from other clubs and also to monitor improvements in their performance
- It improves focus and concentration
- It promotes team spirit for swimmers when competing alongside other club members
- It raises the profile of the club

Winning a medal at a gala is always a plus but whereas only 3 swimmers can podium in any event every swimmer can win by achieving a personal best time. Good personal performance is the positive reinforcement all swimmers need to continue to push themselves to improve.

Gala participation begins with club Internal Galas. These are an integral part of the training program and are the starting blocks to launch swimmers into the competitive field. They offer swimmers the opportunity to experience the excitement and formality of galas in a familiar, non threatening environment and at the same time instigate some healthy, friendly rivalries with peers within the club. They also give parents the opportunity to support their child and see the results of their training.

Three Internal galas were held in the 2014/15 season and 3 to date in the present 2015/16 season. Participation continues to be high with positive feedback from swimmers and parents.

In the Aquasprint League Breifne's advance has continued. Following on from their 2014 win in "D" Division, the team emerged as undefeated champions of "C" Division at the end of the 2014/15 season and was promoted to "B" Division. The team has continued to improve this season with wins against Sliabh Beagh, Dungannon and Cookstown and as a result will be competing in the "A" Final of their league on June 3<sup>rd</sup>, swimming against Templemore and Limavady for the top honours and promotion to "A" Division. There has been great commitment to the team from swimmers, coaching staff, officials and parents and we are very proud of their achievements to date.

In regards to Open Gala attendance it had been noted that gala participation by Breifne swimmers had declined radically over the previous seasons. In order to increase swimmers and parents focus on galas, coach Ann Coyle, requested that a gala participation quota be introduced for junior swimmers in the Competition Group. This was set at a minimum of 6 galas per year. This has resulted in a major increase in Breifne attendance and the winners in this are our swimmers, having team mates with them means more fun, more interest and more encouragement, all leading to better performances. There has also been an increase in the numbers of Development Squad swimmers attending Open Galas especially the younger age groups which, as a competitive swim club is what should be aimed for. There are galas for every level of swimmer from Novice to Irish Age Group and it should be the aim of all competitive swimmers to move up the ranks to the best of their ability.

In the 2015 Irish Age Groups Breifne were represented by just one swimmer in Div. 2. To date this season 5 swimmers have qualified for Division 2 and 2 swimmers for Division 1.

One swimmer qualified for Ulster Age Group Championships 2016.

Breifne's paralympic swimmer has achieved great success winning 4 gold medals at the National I.W.A. Swimming Championships this year.

In the 2015 National Community Games Finals Breifne swimmers won 1 silver, 1 bronze and 1 4<sup>th</sup> place medal.

In the Ulster Schools gala one swimmer won gold medal and went on to represent his school in the National Minor Schools Gala, making the finals in 2 events.

In April 2015 Swim Ulster commenced their Talent ID Training programme for clubs in the South West. Held in Enniskillen and coached by Swim Ulster coach Mark Craig, this gave Breifne the opportunity to send a small number of swimmers to Junior and Intermediate Swim Skills sessions. These sessions have continued in the 2015/16 season and one Breifne swimmer has qualified from them, to take part in the Talent Development (Technical Endurance and Training) Long Course sessions held in Magherafelt every Sunday.

Breifne held Intensive Training weeks at Halloween and Easter. The Easter camp for Competition Group swimmers incorporated water and land training. This was a great success and very much enjoyed by all swimmers involved and it is hoped to repeat the camp next season.

In April 2016 a table quiz was held as a fundraising event for the club. 900 euro was raised. To date, a portion of the funds raised has been used to fully fund 2 diving sessions in Enniskillen. These focused on competitive swimmers and non competitive swimmers will be offered the same opportunity. A fun day is in the planning prior to the end of season with activities for all age groups and a presentation of certificates.

Breifne received a grant of 450 euro from Cavan Sports Partnership for Coach Education. Part of this has been used to fund a Part 1 Coaching Course which was recently completed by Debbie Stevenson. Debbie also completed a Part 1 Teacher's Course in 2015, which was partly funded by the club and we would like to thank her for her commitment, both poolside and as club treasurer.

In conclusion I would like to thank all those involved with the club who has voluntarily given of their time and expertise. To Breifne's excellent and dedicated coach, Ann Coyle, without whom there would be no club. Mary McKeever who continues to share her knowledge and enthusiasm in teaching, assessing and administration. The Leisure Centre staff for their poolside help and their assistance at home galas. Liz Darriba, gala secretary, who is stepping down this year after many years service to the club. The club committee members, parents who help out poolside, at training and galas and the three senior swimmers – Michaela McGill, Deborah Coyle and Kieran Grimes who have assisted with Novice Squad training sessions throughout the year. Your efforts are greatly appreciated.



Election of Committee Members. Thanks to all who have allowed their name to be put forward for election. I would point out to all nominees that every committee member will be expected to take on the responsibility for some aspect of the

committee's work and will be answerable to the committee in respect of this. If all places on the committee are not filled we reserve the right to co opt members on to the committee during the year.

Proposal and second.