

AGENDA ITEM 3: ANNUAL REPORT, 2003/4

PRESIDENT'S COMMENT

When Roger Penfold asked me if I would consider being County President for 2004, I was uncertain whether I would be up to the task, but, with Roger's assurances of help from himself and the Committee, I accepted. I have enjoyed my year as President and would like to thank the Association for giving me this honour.

Unfortunately, I missed some competitions at the start of the year, but I found the swimming galas exhilarating, fast and exciting. The enthusiasm and vocal support of the spectators was catching and the number of officials required was staggering. I would like to thank all the officials for their commitment to the sport, for achieving so many successful competitions and still finding time to welcome my husband and myself. I enjoyed seeing the same enthusiasm at the masters' competitions. It was refreshing to see competitive swimming still being enjoyed in all age groups. Probably the highlight of my year was the inter-county at Sheffield where B&SB were promoted to the first division. Two competitions for the price of one and nobody had prepared me for this experience! The points' system meant that every competitor's performance was crucial and the result uncertain until the end.

The synchro competitions went well this year, but are very different in atmosphere. The figure sessions are very quiet, contrasting with the music in the routine sessions. At the inter-county at Crawley, B&SB were very successful and achieved second place.

Our dinner dance at Windsor was well appreciated by all who attended - so much so that I have received many complimentary remarks about it. I would like to thank Barbara Coker for organising it so successfully and Roger Penfold for being our speaker and toastmaster.

Finally I come to the B&SB Committee. Thank you for being so supportive and tolerant of my efforts as your President. I would like to assure any future President that the position is not so daunting as you might at first assume because of all the help you will receive. I would like to mention some named individuals but I am aware that we all contribute to the running of our various disciplines. As I have observed, to run competitions efficiently requires many officials and so I would like to thank Susan Harrison for organising the many courses that has ensured the numbers are maintained. It is very much appreciated that the County now has a web site thanks to the efforts of Phil Tanner. Over the years I have seen the hard work and dedication of Ken and Eileen Adams and I would like to take this opportunity to ask for volunteers to help them. Thanks also to Jean Hulbert for preparing the B&SB synchro development plan and for the help she has given to me and synchronised swimming generally, over many years. It is because of her long-term dedication to the sport that I awarded her the President's Plate. Lastly, to our long suffering secretary, Roger Penfold - again thank you for your restraint, patience and humour and for making my year so enjoyable. When I have queried anything with Roger, his standard reply is "You are the President" (makes one feel very powerful), so, as your

retiring President, I hope I have carried out my duties to a satisfactory standard.

Pat Jack

CHAMPIONSHIPS' COMMITTEE

The 2004 County Championships and Age Group Competitions attracted an excellent number of competitors at each of the three triple sessions on alternate weekends and similarly at the long distance event evening. Sadly, the same enthusiasm for the relay event at High Wycombe was not apparent. In an endeavour to regenerate more participation in team events, the 2005 programme has hopefully addressed the problems. Age Group best times continue to be bettered, especially in the longer distance events.

As always I wish to give sincere thanks to all the poolside helpers who work behind the scenes at each session and to all the club members who organise the front of house duties.

Easter 2005 falls in March and, as a result, the County events will start on the last Saturday in February and finish on 21 March, in order to complete all the events before the schools break for the Easter holidays. All sessions will be at the Magnet Pool in Maidenhead.

As there was no Secretary of Swimming Training on the 2004 Executive Committee, the Championships' Committee addressed the logistics of the 2004 Inter-County competition in Sheffield in October. Paul Lloyd, chief coach of Slough & Eton Dolphins SC, was nominated as Team Manager working with Bob Pay of Wycombe District SC, as County coach. They picked a good team immediately following the SCASA Championships and National Championships and, with the exception of two clubs, the team included swimmers from all the County clubs. To everyone's delight the team swam brilliantly and now Berkshire & South Buckinghamshire are back in the first division again, a position they sadly lost in 2000. Well done to all those who competed and for the management team for their organisation and motivation!

The 2004 Olympics were watched by millions but those with an interest in swimming felt justifiable proud to see Simon Burnett of Wycombe District lined up with the 'super three' of Phelps, Thorpe and van den Hoogenband in the men's 200m Freestyle final. Simon will remember the occasion for the rest of his life. Simon also set a new British record in the semi finals of the 200 free, as well as being a member of the GB team 4x 200m freestyle relay which just missed out on a medal. Another Olympic finalist was Rebecca Cooke, in both the 400m and 800m Freestyle. Rebecca is a life member of Reading SC, although more recently she has been swimming with Glasgow. Graham Edmunds of Reading SC (the Club's Masters' Secretary until earlier this month), although training in Swansea, was a gold medallist at the Paralympics, as a member of the 4 x 100m freestyle team (34 pts). We hope that their youth, skill and ability will allow us to see them again on our screens, with others, in Beijing in 2008. Victoria Robinson of Amersham was well pleased to be selected for the GB Junior Team and is no doubt setting her sights for the 2008 Olympics as well.

Well, what about the future of swimming organisation in the County? Where is our next generation of event organisers? The Berks & South Bucks 'No Frills' Open Meet has been very successful on each of the past 5 years since it started. As swimming commitments in May are at a peak, the event needed new ownership. In 2005, Paul Lloyd will be event manager and I wish him success in this new area of experience. Are there any others in the County who are not presently involved in meet co-ordination/management but who would be interested in being so? Enthusiasm, interest and a non-allergy to paperwork are the only pre-requisites. If you are keen to act as a 'shadow' for some sessions in 2005, Roger Penfold on 0118 947 3130 or myself on 01753 883757 would be delighted to hear from you.

Eileen Adams

Current holders of County trophies, and thus the winners of Championships, are listed at Appendix 1

DIVING COMMITTEE

Report not yet to hand

MASTERS' COMMITTEE

There was a small profit of £80.94 on the Masters' Open Meet, taking into account the number of medals actually given out, or, rather, kept by the swimmers. The new medals were admired by most of the winners.

The day of the Open Meet went well, except for the lack of AOE for the first session and the display board and data connection not working at all. I was short of entries, due, partly, I am sure, because I am new to this. I am not a masters' swimmer, and consequently there is a lack of contact and encouragement to the clubs. Sending emails, putting information on or in every web site and free magazine, is not enough. Perhaps now that we have a county web site it will be easier.

Eileen Adams was marvelous sorting out the programme, using software which does not work on my computer. I am unable use the XP version because of a lack of instructions.

We were able to send a team to the inter-counties event this year, with the help of Duncan McCreadie. I shall report how we fared, in due course.

We have a long course masters' event, also open to Oxford swimmers, on 22 January 2005 and, hopefully, the County's short course on 3 April at Eton, although that is not yet confirmed.

Jane Dawkins

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Officials' polo shirts were available for sale at the County Swimming Championship and Age Group Competitions. They are now available on request to any other discipline and to anyone at any time. Competitors' tee-shirts, hats and County pins were distributed throughout the year as required by each of the disciplines.

A proposal to initiate a County web site at a reasonable cost led to a better offer by Phil Tanner to provide a basic web site for minimal costs. The County Association is grateful to Phil for the site that is available as www.bsbasa.org. Anyone wishing to put information on the site may do so by sending a request, with a processable soft copy of the data they would like to display, to webmaster@bsbasa.org, who will then arrange for the display of approved information.

Certificates were provided for two presentations of Hon Life Membership for Tom Chambers and David Admans for services to the County. The award to Tom was made at an Executive Committee meeting and the award to David will be arranged for a private ceremony at his home.

Madge Lyne

SWIMMING OFFICIALS

After the very low turnout of technical officials in 2003, numbers improved significantly in 2004 and just over 100 officials worked at the various County Competitions. A significant challenge this year was using the new Ares electronic officiating equipment, which was installed at the Magnet in the week before our first Championship and Age Group Saturday. Well done to all who made that work. I am sure that we will also learn how to operate the new scoreboard installed since the main competitions.

As well as officiating, the senior officials conduct practical tests and run theory courses for potential new officials. These efforts have resulted in 30 new timekeepers and 3 new judges in 2004, plus 33 timekeeper, 25 judge and 5 starter candidates entered to take this year's theory exams. There were 2 extremely successful 'on demand' timekeeper courses during the year, both with a 100% pass rate. I am grateful to Dave Barnes for running the course at Wycombe.

I am disappointed that no one came forward to try the Race Results or Referee exams in 2004. Please think about this for yourself, or encourage that excellent referee you have in your club.

Once again, my thanks go to all the active officials in the County. The competitions are important to our swimmers and we could not manage without you.

S M Harrison

SWIMMING TRAINING COMMITTEE

See report of Championships' Committee

SYNCHRONISED SWIMMING COMMITTEE

This year the ASA Synchro Technical Committee decided to send an age group squad to compete in the Comen Synchro Cup in Egypt, where the GB team were placed 8th. 5 swimmers from Reading Royals took part in this competition namely, Jazmine Stansbury (team captain), Helen Morris, Melanie DeVoy, Grainne Shaughnessy and Rebecca Davies.

The British Championships were held in Walsall and Reading Royals team achieved a creditable 4th place, with Katie Skelton the 4th placed junior. At the National Age Groups Reading Royals won three gold, one silver and one bronze medals. Congratulations to Melanie DeVoy for an outstanding performance and also to Tom Morris for being the first boy to compete at a national event in synchro and on winning a gold medal as part of the 12 and under team.

At the inter-county competition in June the B&SB squad did very well and achieved second place. We would like to thank their coach, Tracy Butler, and team manager, Jean Butler, for all their endeavours.

The Championship and Grade 4 B&SB competitions were held in early February and, although the event went smoothly, the competition made a loss and, as a result, the Committee has decided to combine all competitions in 2005. The Novice and Grade 3 competitions took place in mid-May and were relatively successful. Another first was achieved when Iain Godding won the Dudding Cup – the first boy to win a synchro trophy.

Jean Hulbert produced a development plan for 2004 and has organised level 1 & 2 Teachers' courses that were very successful. We are very grateful for all her hard work in achieving the development plan targets.

I would like to thank all coaches, swimmers and officials for all their efforts in making this year so successful.

Results are given in Appendix 2.

Pat Jack

WATER POLO

Report not yet to hand

SECRETARY'S REPORT

I have enjoyed having the last say in the Association's annual reports over many years, so I felt that it would be wrong to forgo the opportunity this year!

I am sure you will all join with me in paying tribute to our President, Pat Jack. Unlike most of your presidents of recent years, Pat had no time in which to get used to fact that she would be President this year. Most presidents have the luxury of an 8-month lead in. Not Pat. Because of the circumstances the Association found itself in, last November, Pat was pitched into the hot seat, almost at the drop of a hat. But, having seen her conduct herself, and the Association, you would never have thought it!

So, I wish personally to thank Pat, not only for agreeing to be President at somewhat short notice, but also for the marvellous way she had undertaken the many and various tasks associated with presidency over the past year. I was particularly pleased to receive a phone call from her, on a Sunday evening last month, when she told me that Berks & South Bucks had been promoted to the first division, following success at the national inter-county [speed] swimming competition. I notice also that, in the tradition of some of our past presidents, she is not averse to partying... - all in the cause of the County and the sport, of course! And she has told me that enjoys using the gavel no end!

What else has happened to the Association in the past year, which is not covered in other sections of this report? Thanks to Phil Tanner, we now have a website – www.bsbasea.org – where you can obtain increasingly wider information about the Association, and the sport in the County. This brings the Association into the electronic age, and we ought, over coming months, to explore how we might progress further down this particular route.

I have mentioned above my pleasure at the result of the 2004 inter-county competition. It was, I feel, a very wise decision of the Executive Committee to put arrangements for the inter-county team under the wing of the Championships' Committee. That committee, on which each of the County's competition clubs is represented, put in place arrangements, managed by Paul Lloyd, which lead to the early selection of a team, and even some team training sessions, something we have not achieved for a number of recent years.

Another particular issue, not necessarily related to the performance of the County, but important for the image of the Association, is an examination of the Association's regalia. The comment has been made that the President finds herself wearing something not unlike a horse collar, when adorned with her badge of office. The bars on the collar go back a good few years, but not quite to the date of formation of the Association, 93 years ago!

Elieen Adams has referred in her section of the report to the successes of the Olympians and Para-Olympians from Berks & South Bucks' clubs in Athens – Simon Burnett, Graham Edmunds and Jeannette Chippington, and those swimmers from Athens were learnt their craft in the County – Rebecca Cooke and Ian Edmond. That

seems to me to be a pretty good roll call for one of the smaller county associations in swimming – according to the ASA headquarters, our clubs have a total of just over 1,800 category 2 members, across all disciplines.

I am in the throes of compiling the customary list of successes, as published in “Swimming”, of speed swimmers from County clubs aged under 25, and hope to have it ready for the meeting. It will form Appendix 3 to this report.

Our sport, and the work of the Association, is not confined to the elite athletes who appear on the national or international stages, however. Frankly, the sport will not survive if we do not nurture its grass roots, and encourage more and more people to participate, at the level best suited to them. To that end, the success of the 2 Active Sports’ partnerships, with which the Association is working, is vital. Both partnerships have suffered set backs in the year, in that they have both lost their partnership swimming officers. Both have, however, promoted successful events during the year, and continue to arrange training events which will help to build the resilience, skill and knowledge bases of the clubs. We may, nevertheless, be entering a new phase with the partnerships.

2005 will, in any event, be a milestone year in our sport. Following the decisions taken by the plenary sessions of the national governing body, the present 5 districts will be swept away at the end of September, to be replaced on 1 October by 8 new regions. The regions will have a wider remit than the existing districts, and will be expected to deliver much more than just competition. The establishment of the regions will be coupled with a general modernisation, and partial decentralisation, of the sport, too.

The Shadow Management Board of the new ASA South East Region was elected in April last year. Berks & South Bucks is well represented: Roger Prior is Chair, and Eddie Lyne and I are members. The Board is already working hard to ensure that there is a smooth transition from district to region in less than eleven months’ time. It has recently published a newsletter about its progress to date – copies were circulated with the agenda for this meeting. In addition, its recommendations to date can be viewed at www.southernswimming/seregion.

This re-organisation will have an impact on the County Association. Our neighbours to the north, Oxon & North Bucks, will be joining us, from the Midlands District, in the South East Region. The Shadow Management Board wants to strengthen the role of county associations, to help deliver the extensive programme expected of the new Region. It has, therefore, consulted our clubs, and those in Oxon & North Bucks, about the future arrangements for sub-regional structures – county associations, probably – in this, the north of the region. I have given myself notice that I wish to initiate a discussion about this under item 9 on the agenda.

This seems a pertinent point at which to thank “our” Regional Development Officer, Helen Mack, who took over from Jon Glenn earlier this year. Jon was not an easy act to follow, but Helen made an impact immediately, and has sustained that throughout the year. She is very supportive of our active sports partnerships, and has provided invaluable support to the Regional Shadow Management Board.

Before I close, I would like to comment briefly on 2 issues:

- 1 our county development plan still only makes reference to synchro: this is a tribute to that discipline, and, possibly, an indictment against the others; and
- 2 the Association imposed the sanction approved at last year's meeting, on swimmers who failed to return Championships' trophies by the due date.

In conclusion, I should like to thank all contributors to this report, Rosemary Large, Eileen Adams and my wife, Sandra. Rosemary provides me with excellent support as Assistant Secretary.

Eileen looks after the production of the County Handbook, a job which I am so glad she undertakes, because it requires the patience of a saint, and a thick skin when people have a pop at the compiler. May I also take this opportunity to wish Eileen a full and speedy recovery, following surgery.

Finally, without Sandra's help and support, I could do none of all this. You could, of course, get rid of me if you persuaded her to withdraw her support ...

Roger Penfold

CURRENT HOLDER OF TROPHIES FOR 2004

WOMEN

50 Metres	Freestyle	The Reading S.C. Sprint Cup	S al!er	Chal"#nt
100 Metres	Freestyle	The \$a%!s#n Sil&er '#(l) R##ins#n	+ , ersha ,
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-00 Metres	Freestyle	The Speer Sil&er Cup	. T#(ers	+ , ersha ,
800 Metres	Freestyle	The Spindler Sil&er Cup	. T#(ers	+ , ersha ,
1500 Metres	Freestyle	<i>No Trophy Currently</i>		
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100 Metres	'reaststr#!e	The y%# , *e Cup	0 'allingall	Chesha ,
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100 Metres	'a%!str#!e	The 2d , ins#n Tr#phy	. T#(ers	+ , ersha ,
200 Metres	'a%!str#!e	The 3as!et Tr#phy	. T#(ers	+ , ersha ,
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200 Metres	7nd. Medley	The 6a , *ert Sil&er Cup	. T#(ers	+ , ersha ,
-00 Metres	7nd. Medley	The Sl#ugh S.C. Tr#phy	. T#(ers	+ , ersha ,

GIRLS

50 Metres	Freestyle	The 'er!shire Tr#phy Centre Cup) R##ins#n	+ , ersha ,
100 Metres	Freestyle	The 'iggs Sil&er Cup) R##ins#n	+ , ersha ,
200 Metres	Freestyle	The Chiltern Cup) R##ins#n	+ , ersha ,
-00 Metres	Freestyle	The S.S. 8 S. R#se '#(l	. T#(ers	+ , ersha ,
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AGGREGATE TROPHIES

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AGE GROUP

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200 Metres	7nd. Medley	The Reading Mer%ury Cup	+) ine	y%# , *e
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BOYS

50 Metres	Freestyle	The /a , ilt#n S , ith Cup	6 a!e"ield	0e (*ury
100 Metres	Freestyle	The R# (land . ent Sil&er Cup	6 a!e"ield	0e (*ury
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800 Metres	Freestyle	<i>No Trophy Currently</i>		
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TEAMS

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Men's Medley Tea ,	The Tayl#r Sil&er Cup	y%# , *e
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AGGREGATE TROPHIES

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AGE GROUP

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APPENDIX 2

SYNCHRONISED SWIMMING RESULTS 2004

British Columbia Women's

Swimming

Tea, ; -th place

Notes: A+ (Gr, #s & Win %)

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B&SB Championships, Grade 4, Grade 3 and Novice Competitions

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APPENDIX 3

SWIMMING ACHIEVEMENTS – 2003/2004

EUROPEAN SHORT COURSE CHAMPIONSHIPS, Dublin, 11 - 14 December 2003

Simon Burnett (Wycombe) 6th, 200m freestyle, 1:45.24

Simon also swam in 100m freestyle

BRITISH SWIMMING OLYMPIC TRIALS, Sheffield, 7-11 April 2004

Simon Burnett (Wycombe)	2 nd , 100m freestyle, 49.95
	1 st , 200m freestyle, 1:48.50
Alex Vine (Wycombe)	7 th , 200m IM, 2:07.67
Jeanette Chippington [S6] (Slough)	5 th , 50m freestyle, 39.14 (-1.7) 6 th , 100m freestyle, 1:25.71 (-3.48)
Graham Edmunds [S10] (Reading)	3 rd , 50m freestyle, 26.91 (-.32) 7 th , 100m freestyle, 59.29 (-.96)

ASA CHAMPIONSHIPS, Manchester, 16 – 18 July 2004

Simon Burnett (Wycombe)	6 th , 50m freestyle, 23.76
Graham Edmunds (S10) (Reading)	1 st , 50m freestyle, 26.87 2 nd , 100m freestyle, 59.17
Wycombe District SC	6 th , 4 x 100m freestyle team, 3:44.06 4 th , 4 x 200m freestyle team, 7:47.14 6 th , 4 x 100m medley team, 3:59.48

ASA AGE GROUP CHAMPIONSHIPS, Sheffield, 29 July – 1 August 2004

Andy Carpenter (Wycombe)	6 th , boys 14 years 100m breaststroke, 1:11.40 9 th , boys 14 years 200m breaststroke, 2:38.25
Geoffrey Cheah (Bracknell)	1 st , boys 13 years 100m backstroke, 1:03.13 2 nd , boys 13 years 200m IM, 2:19.82
Gary Dixon (Reading)	5 th , boys 14 years 1500m freestyle, 16:55.75
Dominic Kwok (Bracknell)	3 rd , boys 13 years 100m breaststroke, 1:12.18 4 th , boys 13 years 200m breaststroke, 2:38.14
Ashleigh Lloyd (Slough)	7 th , girls 12 years 400m freestyle, 4:45.56 7 th , girls 12 years 800m freestyle, 9:43.57
Thomas Norgate (Windsor)	8 th , boys 13 years 400m freestyle, 4:25.99 1 st , boys 13 years 1500m freestyle, 17:11.90
James Shields (Bracknell)	5 th , boys 12 years 100m backstroke, 1:18.81 3 rd , boys 12 years 200m backstroke, 2:49.54
Fabian Whitbread (Windsor)	9 th , boys 11 years 200m IM, 2:43.25 8 th , boys 11 years 400m IM, 5:49.01

ASA NATIONAL YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS, Sheffield, 2 – 5 August 2004

Katie Ambridge (Wycombe)	9 th , girls 14/15 years 100m butterfly, 1:06.91 3 rd , girls 14/15 years 200m butterfly, 2:25.84 5 th , girls 14/15 years 200m IM, 2:25.64
Amersham SC Nicola Ballingall (Chesham)	8 th , girls 14/17 years, 4 x 200m freestyle team 8:46.08 9 th , girls 14/15 years 100m breaststroke, 1:16.67
Pam Clement (Windsor)	5 th , girls 16/17 years 100m freestyle, 58.51 6 th , girls 16/17 years 200m freestyle, 2:10.33
James Crawford (Wycombe)	9 th , boys 15/16 years 100m freestyle, 55.31 9 th , boys 15/16 years 200m freestyle, 1:59.44 10 th , boys 15/16 years 100m backstroke, 1:02.69 9 th , boys 15/16 years 200m IM, 2:15.96
Jennifer Howard (Wycombe)	10 th , girls 14/15 years 200m IM, 2:30.03
Anna Jemielity (Wycombe)	7 th , girls 14/15 years 100m backstroke, 1:07.47 9 th , girls 14/15 years 200m backstroke, 2:26.50
Victoria Robinson (Amersham)	2 nd , girls 14/15 years 50m freestyle, 27.03 2 nd , girls 14/15 years 100m freestyle, 58.05
Robert Stroud (Wycombe)	2 nd , boys 15/16 years 50m freestyle, 24.77
Katie Towers (Amersham)	3 rd , girls 14/15 years 400m IM, 5:02.50
Stephanie Wilson (Wycombe)	7 th , girls 16/17 years 100m butterfly, 1:05.43
Wycombe District SC	6 th , boys 15/16 4 x 100m freestyle team, 3:39.40 9 th , girls 14/17 years 400m freestyle team, 4:04.85 6 th , girls 14/17 years 400m medley team, 4:32.85

Wycombe were 9th in the top 10 female clubs, and Amersham 10th

OLYMPIC GAMES, Athens, 14 –28 August 2004

Simon Burnett	7 th , 200m freestyle, 1:48.02 (new GB record – 1:47.72, in semi-final)
(as team member)	4 th , 4 x 200m freestyle team, 7:12.60 (new GB record)

BRITISH CHAMPIONSHIPS, Manchester, 26 –29 August 2004

Simon Burnett (Wycombe)	2 nd , 50m backstroke, 24.88
Alex Vine (Wycombe)	7 th , 100m IM, 58.69
Jeanette Chippington (Slough)	5 th , women's multi-disciplinary 50m freestyle, 38.57 6 th , women's multi-disciplinary 100m freestyle, 1:24.13
Graham Edmunds (Reading)	2 nd , men's multi-disciplinary 100m freestyle, 57.18 6 th , men's multi-disciplinary 100m butterfly, 1:06.68

PARALYMPICS, Athens, 19 – 27 September 2004

Jeanette Chippington (Slough)	6 th , women's S6 50m freestyle, 39.63
As team member	7 th , women's S6 100m freestyle, 1:27.09
	2 nd , women's 20pts 4 x 50m freestyle team, 3:12.75
	6 th , women's 34 pts 4 x 100m freestyle team, 4:53.38
Graham Edmunds Reading) as team member	1 st , men's 34 pts 4 x 100m freestyle team,

COUNTY RECORDS

The following swimmers set new County Records:

Girls	Nicola Ballingall (Chesham)	4
	Katie Towers (Amersham)	3
	Amersham	1
Women	Nicola Ballingall (Chesham)	3
Boys	James Crawford (Wycombe)	1
	Chris Robinson (Windsor)	2
	Wycombe District	1