

## Newsletter – December 2011

As most of you know, at the recent AGM a new committee was elected. We've been busy these last few weeks sorting out jobs and putting together an action list, so I just thought I'd take this opportunity to update you. Here goes:

**Squad criteria:** We will be benchmarking our squad and academy criteria to check it is relevant and meeting our needs. Leading the team on this is Matt Hunt our Coach Liaison Officer.

**Squad moves:** main squad moves take place in September; with two further reviews in January and Easter; these are "catch-up" moves and will only be for a few children. Moves to coincide with the training cycle.

**Swimming training cycle:** an explanation of Leander's training cycle will follow soon, so parents and swimmers know what they're working on.

**Parent/Swimmer/Coach meetings:** Meetings will be targeted to catch swimmers moving squads and those that are "stuck". September squad meetings: squad coach to explain what's expected from swimmers (and parents), a chance for parents to meet, sort out lifts and swap details etc. Members of the committee will also be on hand to answer your questions.

**Squad leaders:** Coaches and committee will pick 2 children from each squad to be Squad Leaders. Duties will include welcoming new swimmers to the group, explaining what's going on and generally helping swimmers settle in. Squad Leaders will be easily recognisable by their Red Hats - this will take place by the end of January.

**Junior team captains:** Two swimmers at each gala will be asked to be Junior Team Captains for the duration of the gala.

**Clapham Manor pool:** The new pool will be up and running from January 2012. Expect a few jiggles to the timetable - leading the team on this will be Alex Davis our Swim21 co-ordinator.

**Parent and Swimmer Charters:** The committee is in the process of reviewing all the charters; so expect new guidelines in the New Year; co-ordinated by Anne-Marie Ormonde.

**Complaints:** All complaints about behaviour of the Committee, coaches, swimmers or parents are handled by the Welfare Officer; Anne-Marie Ormonde; you can contact her on [welfare@leander.co.uk](mailto:welfare@leander.co.uk) All complaints are completely confidential and only escalated to the Chair and general committee if necessary. Any complaints about the Welfare Officer should be reported directly to the Chair.

**Other complaints:** report to the Chair or any of the other committee members you can catch. For those of you out there that don't know us, we will soon be wearing identification tags (I'm reliably informed they are called lanyards), so if you see us with a big Leander ribbon around our neck, just come and say 'Hello'.

**Team galas:** I would like to announce that Caroline Findlay is now our Team Gala Co-ordinator. She will be sourcing, arranging and organising several Team galas. The first one is due in February, so watch the website and your emails for details.

**Volunteers:** Job descriptions will soon be posted on the web for all volunteer positions. (Alex Davis and Rose Martin Brown are co-ordinating this).

**Coming soon....**

**Academy gala:** We are hoping to run our first Academy gala shortly after Easter - details to follow.

**Officials training course:** admit it; you've always fancied yourself in white, avec clipboard. You will have an opportunity to come and train as one of our much needed and valued officials.



I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our current volunteers, without whom running the club would be impossible. So huge thanks go to: Tory Batten, Ali Roche and Anne-Marie Ormonde, our officials; to Tory Batten for running the club championships; to Ali Roche and Tony Lynch for running the shop; to Ali Roche and Anne-Marie Ormonde for organising the Trophies; to Tony Lynch for his boundless enthusiasm and encouragement of the children at the galas; to all our squad reps - Tony Lynch, Rachel Reynolds, Susan Forkin, Alex Davis, Janine Coultard, Liz Wakefield and Claudia Price; to Tom Ruppel and Dorota Procter for stepping forward to help on the Gala team with Hy-Tek; to Rachel Reynolds for taking over the upkeep of the website; to Vicki Holland and Lisa Rabanal, our Social Secretaries, and to all of you who have helped out at club champs, BBQs etc and offered your assistance, many, many thanks.

That's all for now, apart from wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas and to remind all Performance, Platinum, and Gold swimmers that training continues right through till Friday 23 December, and resumes again on 28 December. Roxana is the coach on Christmas duty and the Christmas timetable is on the website. All squads start back on Tuesday 3rd January 2012 in accordance with the timetable.

So for now, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

