

**Macclesfield Masters Swim Club**  
**Secretary / Membership Secretary Report**  
**AGM**

**2019.**

**Membership**

We had 29 members as of the end of 2018 of which six were ASA cat 2 – the serious competition swimmers, one, Sue Seaborn cat 3 non swimmer and 22 Cat 1 swimmers. The 2019 member renewal period is under way at the time of writing.

**State of Club**

There is a considerable amount of work involved in the running of Swim England affiliated clubs such as ours. On a purely internal level we have to maintain quality standards at a level required by the Swim Mark quality kitemark and submit our evidence annually. We must run our finances responsibly and transparently. We should make policy decisions democratically through an elected committee. We must pay our affiliation fees to Swim England (SE), NW Region and Cheshire County Association, and every four years we must update our constitution in line with Swim England requirements – this is the year.

All of that is just to keep our club in the swim family. However as a member of the swim family we should also be aware of and contribute to the needs of that family – county and regional admin, provision of qualified gala officials, judges, referees, timekeepers etc.

When Masters began, in the 1980s, the idea was that we should be a major competitor in ASA Masters galas, nearly all swimmers attending our sessions were competing members all lead by an active committee and chairman who not only kept the swimming side going but also organised galas in Macclesfield, and social activities.

Things have changed and swimmers now attend our sessions not just to train for ASA Masters galas but also outdoor swims, triathlons or just to keep fit. All of that is positive. People turn up for training in order to have a swim for all these reasons without necessarily feeling the need to go into the admin of a club whose original aims were to enter swimmers into SE Masters galas. However we have reached a point at which 3 or 4 people spend considerable time and effort to keep the club going within SE rules.

There are urgent issues to discuss. Should we take greater steps to increase the number of members entering SE Galas? Should we take a greater interest in Open Water swimming? Should we be more active in encouraging ex age group swimmers from Satellites etc to stay in the sport? How do we respond to suggestions that Macclesfield Masters would benefit from merging in some way with the Satellite club. Who should be responsible for club publicity and the now out of date banner hanging on the wall of the Macclesfield pool hall?

All these issues require a motivated group of people to take them on, decide policy and then ensure that decisions are implemented. AGM 2019 seems to me to be a crunch time. Do we

find volunteers for key committee roles, prepared to put in some time and effort to take the club forward or do we just give up and muddle along as before? Please take this AGM seriously and use it as an opportunity to help take the club forward.

Alan Hallmark

Secretary

31/01/2019