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## John Higginbottom 1940 - 2024

Club President John Higginbottom passed away after a battle with cancer on Tuesday, 13th February. He had held various positions within the Club, initially he was a teacher before becoming the Club's Chief Coach in the 90's, until he left for Pioneer '79. When he returned, he took up teaching again. He was then the Club's Treasurer until just over 2 years ago, when Oz took over. Since then he was made the Club's President, of which, he found to be a great honour.

Sadly ill health prevented him from coming down to the Club, but he was almost an ever presence at the Committee Meetings, even if he struggled with the technology for the on-line meetings.

The Club sends condolences to his wife Pat and son Andrew, who teaches at the Club, and daughter Claire, plus his grandchildren Jamie, Declan, Alicia and Jasmin.

John will be missed by all who knew him.

## Friendly League

The North East Lancashire Friendly League returns on Friday, 26th April when we have an away fixture against Burnley Bobcats at the Padiham Leisure Centre. The warm-up will be at 6:40pm.

The first home fixture of the season will be at the Pendle Leisure Centre on Monday, 10th June also against the Burnley Bobcats. The warmup will be at 7pm, and there will be no lessons on that night.

The format for 2024 will remain unchanged with the age groups being the same. The age groups are 9-11 years, 14 years and under, 16 years and under, and open.

There will be mixed medley relays for each of the four age groups, comprising of two boys and two girls in any order.

The final canon relay will remain as 8 x 25m with one male and female swimmer from each of the four age groups.

The Open Mixed Medley Relay will still start the contest with the open individual medley races remaining in the middle of the programme.

If you are selected for the Team, please let the Team Manager Kevin Critchley and Club Coach Andrew Croxall know whether you will be available to swim or not. Please **do not** leave it until the evening of the fixture to say that you cannot swim.

## Annual General Meeting

The Club's Annual General Meeting will take place on Wednesday, 13th March. It will be held on-line using Zoom from 7:30pm.

Any matters for the meeting must be submitted in writing to the Secretary no later than Monday, 6th March.

We **need** more parents to actively be involved in the running of the Club. The current Committee are all volunteers.

Would parents please note that once your child's swimming lesson has finished and they are off the pool side. Colne Swimming Club is no longer responsible for their welfare.

Would all Members please note that Colne Swimming Club will not be held responsible for any injury caused to a swimmer failing to turn up on time for their lesson, and thus missing the vital warm-up part of the session.



Anyone wishing to pay their respects, John's funeral is on Thursday, 29th February. 1pm Christ Church, Colne. 2:30pm Burnley Crematorium 4pm Colne Cricket Club

## Age Group Gala

Due to adverse weather conditions on Thursday, 8th February, we had to postpone the gala until after half-term.

The date for the gala is now Thursday, 22nd February. The warm-up will be 6:50pm.

The Most Improved swimmer award will be presented the following week. To qualify you **must** do all four strokes.

## Helpers for Schools Galas

On Tuesday, 12th and 19th March the primary school galas will be taking place at the Pendle Leisure Centre. These galas will be starting at 7pm and last about 90 minutes.

The Club has been asked to provide helpers to run the gala. We will be providing timekeepers and officials. We have clipboards and stopwatches, **we just need volunteers.**

If anyone can help out, then please contact Club Chairman Philip Croxall on a Club night.

## New Club Secretary Required

Our current Club Secretary Joan Croxall had stated her intention to step down from her role at a the AGM in October 2022.

Joan has been Club Secretary for over 40 years and has overseen the biggest admin change for Clubs, with the introduction of Swim Mark (nee Swim 21).

The position is quite involved and will require the new incumbent to devote several hours a week to the job.

Anyone who thinks they are up to the task, then please contact either Joan or a committee member.

The Club cannot function without a Secretary.

## Birthdays

### February 2024

3rd Elliott Shilton  
8th Mollie Wright  
14th Luke Dawson and Martha Green  
21st Roux Glass  
22nd Betsy Townsend  
24th Orla Burnett  
25th Emma Cox

### March 2024

1st Alfie Weston  
3rd Andrew Croxall  
6th Isaac Critchley  
7th Phillippa Kenyon  
10th Eleanor Holgae  
11th Chloe Hawthornthwaite  
14th Betsy Rider  
25th Inaya Hussain  
27th Edward Scanlan  
31st Isaac Chew

## Forthcoming Events:

### 22nd February

February Age Group Gala.  
Warm-up 6:50pm

### 7th March

Swimming Club Trials

### 12th March

Primary Schools Gala. 7pm

### 13th Month

Annual General Meeting  
Online at 7:30pm

### 19th March

Primary Schools Gala. 7pm

### 29th March

Good Friday

### 31st March

Easter Sunday

### 1st April

Easter Monday.  
No Swimming Club

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Need more parents!

### February Age Gala

Is it happening?

### Schools Galas

We want some helpers.

### Friendly League Fixtures

Add the dates to your diary.

### Personalised Swim Hats

Get your name on a hat!

### Swim England Courses

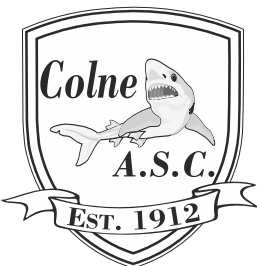
Become an swim official.

### North Lincs L3 Meet

Want to swim competitively?

Could anybody changing their address or telephone number please inform the Secretary.

If anybody has any stories, items of interest, or anything they think will be suitable for the newsletter, then you can email me at the following address: [press@colne-asc.co.uk](mailto:press@colne-asc.co.uk)



www.colne-asc.co.uk



Shark Bytes

@SwimAtColneASC

Colne Amateur Swimming Club

## Mobile Phones

During Club sessions we would like to remind everyone that the use of mobile phones and other devices capable of recording photos and video is restricted.

Anyone wishing to record their child during Club galas **must** register their interest with Club officials and sign the register.

Photographic use at any other time is restricted to Club Officials only.

At no time must images be recorded in the changing and shower areas.

## Want To be More Involved

Parents, if you want to be more involved in the sport, but don't want to swim, then you could become an official, like timekeepers and judges.

Interested? Then Swim England have courses that you can do, and they are even on-line, so that you do not need to travel.

A list of courses can be found on the Club Noticeboard.

## North Lancs Development Meet

It has been several years since the Club has sent swimmers to external age group competitions.

The North Lancs Development Meeting on weekend of 6th/7th July at the Palatine Leisure Centre in Blackpool.

This is a Level 3 meet which is suitable for first time competitions, and is for swimmers 9 years and older.

If interested, then see Club Coach Andrew Croxall.

## Friendly League Fixtures 2024

	HOME	AWAY
ACCRINGTON	Monday, 23rd September Warm-up 7:00pm	Hyndburn Sports Centre Wednesday, 10th July Warm-up 7:00pm
BURNLEY BOBCATS	Monday, 10th June Warm-up 7:00pm	Padiham Sports Centre Friday, 26th April Warm-up 6:40pm
GREAT HARWOOD	Thursday, 17th October Warm-up 7:00pm	Accrington Academy Tuesday, 21st May Warm-up 7:30pm



Did you know that whenever you buy anything online – from your weekly shop to your annual holiday – you could be raising a free donation for **Colne ASC**? There are nearly 3,000 retailers including Amazon, John Lewis, Aviva, thetrainline and Sainsbury's, who will donate a percentage of the amount you spend to **Colne ASC** to say thank you for shopping with them.

It's really simple, and doesn't cost you anything.

All you have to do is:

1. Go to <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/casc/>
2. Sign up for free
3. Get shopping – your donations will be collected by easyfundraising and automatically sent to Colne ASC. It couldn't be easier!

There are no catches or hidden charges and the Club will be really grateful for your donations.

Over the years we have managed to have **29** people sign up, and between them, they have raised **£1,753.30**, with **£83.45** over the past 12 months. We would like to increase this, so if more of you join up and support the Club it would be hugely appreciated.

Thank you to all those who have supported the Club using Easy Fundraising.

## Team Ethics

If you have been selected to represent Colne ASC in competition, then certain standards are expected.

If you are unable to attend any of the fixtures, then please let the Team Manager Kevin Critchley or Club Coach Andrew Croxall know as soon as possible. Do not leave it until the day or the day before to notify us. It is not fair on the other swimmers.

If you are ill or injured, then inform us straight away rather than not turning up.

Whilst the gala is in progress all swimmers must remain on the poolside cheering on the swimmers in the water. If you wish to leave the poolside, then inform the Team Manager.

All swimmers should remain until the competition has finished, rather than disappearing once all yours swims have finished. If you need to leave early, then please ask the Team Manager on poolside. This goes for any parent who wishes to remove their child early. There is nothing worse, than looking for swimmers who have disappeared.

During the competition, respect the opposition. Once your race has finished, then shake hands with the opposition swimmer.

## Remember there is no 'I' in teamwork.

Colne ASC has a competition policy on the website, please read.

<http://colne-asc.co.uk/forms/CompetitionPolicy.pdf>

Thank you.

## Personalised Swim Hats

If you are interested in having a personalised swim hat, then add your name to the yellow list on the Noticeboard. The hats will be charged at £7.50 once we have received the order.

## URGENT CLUB NOTICE

Can all swimming club members be aware that the Wave Power changing room policy now **prohibits all use of a mobile phone or device in a changing area during all Colne A.S.C. regulated activities**. This includes, but is not limited to taking photos, texting, making phone calls and browsing the internet.

