Colne A.S.C. Est. 1912

www.colne-asc.co.uk

Swim England Affiliated Club

Shark Bytes

@SwimAtColneASC

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Issue 207 January 2026



Annual Presentation

On Saturday, 10th January we held our delayed 2025 Annual Presentation was held at the Colne Cricket Club on a cold winter's evening, which made a change from the usual wet and windy weather we get in December.

As every thing was setup in a timely fashion it was decided that the buffet would be opened before the presentation started, of which, was to our two nominated charities: Macmillan Cancer Support and Pendleside Hospice, who both received £1,000, as we had raised £3,138 from our sponsored swim event held in October.

Club Coach Andrew Croxall, our masters of ceremony, gave a brief summary of swimming over the past 12 months, which culminated in a presentation to Jayne Wilkinson who has stepped down from teaching duties. Jayne had taught 100s of children in her ten years of teaching at the Club.

The John Dobbin Memorial Trophy for courage was awarded to Jace Yeung, who had overcome confidence and a language barrier in learning to swim, and the Bramhill Memorial Trophy for achievement was awarded to Beatrice Greenwood, who had progressed from the small pool to the second lane in a short period of time. Unfortunately neither were in attendance to collect their trophies.

Next was the presentation of the Betty Style Trophies with girls winner being Scarlett Smith and the boys being Isaac Chew. This was then followed by the presentation of all the trophies and medal winners.

Continued on Page 2

Annual Subscriptions are Due

Despite rising costs, we can announce that the Annual Club Subscriptions for 2026 will remain the same as the previous year. In future, the prices will have to be increased as costs rise further.

The annual subscription was due on 31st December 2025, and renewing members have until Thursday, 29th January in which to pay. Payment terms can be negotiated upon arrangement.

The prices for 2026 are:

Full Swimming Member:	
Adult	**£80**
Students	**£70**
1st Child	**£70**
2nd Child	**£60**
Additional Child	**£45**
Associate Member	**£60**
Committee Member	**£10**

The membership application form for 2026 is now available to download from the Club website.

NOTE: Failure to pay by Friday, 30th January, will mean that you will not be allowed in the water, as you will no longer be insured.

February Age Group Gala

The **Cherry Wilkinson Memorial Age Group Gala for February** will take place on Thursday, 5th February.

The warm-up will be from 6:50pm with the gala starting about 7:10pm.

This gala is important as we need times from the swimmers to work out the teams for the Local Towns Galas when they resume.

The award for the Most Improved Swimmer will be based on your times from the June Age Group Gala last year, provided you did all four strokes.

If you do all four strokes this time you will qualify for the Most Improved Swimmer award at the June Age Group gala, but remember you will have to do all four strokes in June.

Helpers are required, see overleaf.

Birthdays

January 2026

6th Oscar Astin
7th Isla Donald-Lopez
12th George Marsden and Philip Croxall
17th Sofia Binyon
18th Ivo Mielczarek
25th Dougie Goulding and Bethany Ashton
27th Isabella Holt
29th Mia Snow,
30th Eva Gregg
31st Archie Goulding and Edward Green

February 2026

3rd Elliott Shilton
4th Ollie Farrow
7th Phoebe Foulkes
8th Scarlett Smith
11th Belle Tattersall
14th Luke Dawson
16th Thomas Marsden
21st Roux Glass and Jack Haydock
22nd Betsy Townsend
24th Orla Burnett
25th Emma Cox

Forthcoming Events:

20th January
Local Towns Meeting. Pendle Lesiure Centre. 7:30pm

29th January
Closing Date for Harrogate Spar Town Meet

4th February
Committee Meeting. 8pm

5th February
February Age Group Gala. Warm-up 6:50pm

12th February
Swimming Club Trials
Learners Class 6pm
Large Pool 7:30pm

4th March
Annual General Meeting

Contents:

We Need Teachers
Currently on minimum level

Annual Presentation
Report of the awards evening

Annual Subscriptions
Membership Fees are Due

Harrogate Spar Town
Enter by end of Month

February Age Group
Can you be most improved?

Biathlon Success
Emma and Isabella star!

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.

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**

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Presentation (continued)

The winners of the Christmas Sprint age groups were then announced, as the winners received they trophies which they can keep.

This was followed by the presentation of the Spot-On Winners with Ava Davies in 3rd with £5, who was 0.20 of a second from her time. In 2nd was Betsy Townsend with £10 and got within 0.08 of her time, and the winner with £20 was Zoe Blackadder, who almost got 'spot-on' as she was only 0.01 of her time.

The captains for 2026 were announced as Gents Captain Daniel Warner, Ladies Captain Matilda Critchley, Boys Junior Captain Maverick Robson and Girls Junior Captain Jessica Lloyd. They received their t-shirts from Club President Mark Turner.

The last award of the evening was the Two Alberts Trophy for Services to the Club. This year it went to the Croxall family, Joan (secretary), Philip (chairman) and Andrew (club coach), without whom, the Club would not function.

A group photo of the trophy winners took place, followed by some dancing and singing before the main event of the raffle took place.

The festivities continued into the night, as attendees slowly departed.

Helpers Required For Gala

We would like volunteers to offer their services to the desk before the start of the Age Group Gala on Thursday, 5th February. You may not be required but your offer will be appreciated.

We require the following:

6 Time Keepers
At least 2 team organisers/chaperones
At least 1 marshal
At least 2 turn judges

No experience is necessary, but must be patient with the kids all wanting to know if they are swimming.

Clipboards, pens, stopwatches and drinks will be provided.

NOTE: If we don't have enough people helping, then we will have to cancel this gala.

Advanced AGM Notice

The Club's Annual General Meeting will take place on Wednesday, 4th March at 7:30pm. This meeting will be held on-line using Zoom. More details to follow.

Sssssshhh!!

It is important for everybody in the pool environment to be quiet before the start of a race.

This makes it easier for the swimmers to hear the starters instructions.

Once the race has started then you can shout as loud as you want.

Thank you.

Competition Rules

Now that we are in a new year, it is good to remind everyone of a few rules that all swimmers have to adhere to whilst competing.

1. Do not move when under starters orders. You only get one chance at the start.
2. Backstroke always starts in the water.
3. Use two hands on the wall when performing breaststroke and butterfly turns.
4. You must always be on your back when swimming backstroke, except at turns.
5. Tumble turns only permitted when swimming backstroke or freestyle events.
6. Do not stand-up during a race. Unless you are swimming a freestyle event.
7. Treat individual medley as four separate races, as you must complete one stroke before going onto the next.
8. Individual medley order is butterfly, backstroke, breaststroke and freestyle.
9. Medley relays are swum as backstroke, breaststroke, butterfly and freestyle.

Harrogate Spar Town Meet

The Harrogate Spar Town Meet will take place on Sunday, 29th March at the Harrogate Leisure and Wellness Centre in Harrogate.

We are only doing sessions two and three.

Please complete the online form by Thursday, 29th January.

easyfundraising

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 **36** people sign up, and between them, they have raised **£2,000.88**, with **£131.07** in the last 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.

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Teachers Required

We are currently running on minimum staffing levels on the poolside, as a result we would like people to volunteer and help with the teaching of the children.

Anyone who is interested, then please contact a member of the Committee on a Club night.

If anyone knows someone who has teaching qualifications, who you think could help, then please ask them to contact the Club's Secretary for more details.

We actually require level 1 and level 2 teachers in order to teach the children properly, using helpers does kind of work, but bad habits can result from these situations. A fully qualified teacher would be able to spot poor technique and correct it accordingly.

The Club will pay for any courses that are required, either paying direct or reimbursing the individual after they have paid for a course. Any teaching courses paid for by the Club does require a 12 month commitment to teach.

The Club Needs Help

Colne Amateur Swimming Club is in a healthy position financially, it complies with all the Swim England safeguarding and diversity policies, but the volunteers running the Club are the same.

We need some parents to be more active in running the Club and bring more ideas.

The Teaching staffing levels are running at minimum, and a few members of the committee are not getting any younger. The secretary is in her 80s and would like to retire.

We need help and without it, the Club will eventually cease to exist.

Poolside Tidy Up

It would be appreciated that equipment is returned to the baskets once their lesson has completed.

If fins/flippers have been used, then they need to be rinsed under the showers and returned to the large basket.

Floats and pull-buoys need to be stacked neatly in the smaller blue basket, do not throw them into the basket. The floats should be stacked neatly at the side of the basket if a lot of floats have been used.

Teachers need to remind the children to return any equipment used to the baskets.

Water Bottles

Swimmers are encouraged to bring water bottles with them onto the poolside.

During exercise you will lose body fluids through sweating, so it is important that you replace these fluids and remain properly hydrated.

Water is one of the best fluids that you can use for training, and it can be flavoured with cordial. Do not use fizzy drinks as this will make you feel bloated.

Once your lesson has finished please remember to collect your water bottle and not leave it on the poolside.

Membership Secretary

Some of you will already know, that Amanda Holt has agreed to become the Club's new Membership Secretary. She has already started her duties in handling the renewal process of existing members.

Website Sponsorship

If anyone would like to sponsor the Club's website to help offset the hosting fees, then it would be gratefully appreciated.

We are only asking for £20 and that would mean a link adding to the Club website and your company logo.

Please email: press@colne-asc.co.uk

Yorkshire Championship Qualifiers

Well done to Matilda Critchley for qualifying for her first Yorkshire Championships. She achieved this in the 50m Butterfly.

Tilly will be joined by Betsy Rider who qualified in 50m, 100m and 200m Breaststroke, 50m, 100m, 200m Backstroke and 50m and 100m Freestyle.

Both girls were swimming for Skipton.



GB Schools Biathlon Qualifiers

Isabella Holt and Emma Mitchell travelled over to Lancaster on a cold and frosty day between Christmas and New Year! They took part in the GB Schools Biathlon Qualifiers where they ran 400m (on a frosty outdoor track) and later on swam 25m. They both gained PBs in their swims, with Isabella swimming in 21s and Emma in 20.84s. After both events, Emma was awarded with a silver medal in the year 4 girls and Isabella a bronze in the year 3 girls.



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