

MIDEA DIVING WORLD SERIES 2013 - Edinburgh (GBR)



VOLUNTEERING NEWS

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

ISSUE 7 | APRIL 2013

WELCOME

This year will see the ASA Volunteering Team bringing you a range of programmes, resources and support across the sport to:

- Enhance the training available to support and develop you in your role
- Improve the development opportunities available for young volunteers
- Develop our methods of recognising and celebrating you for the commitment and passion you have for volunteering

The team will be working to increase the profile of volunteering and build on the training currently on offer, not only making volunteering more accessible but ensuring you are supported in your role and the transferable skills you develop are recognised.

We have dedicated funding to implement programmes to increase the transition of officials between Judge Level 1 and Judge Level 2, as well as supporting young coaches to gain experience and creating a mentoring resource to encourage volunteers to share their skills and experiences and enhance the development of others.

The creation of the Volunteer Forum will build on the success of the National Youth Forum and provide a platform for you to communicate with the ASA and be involved in the development of initiatives across the disciplines.

This year there is a big push on recognising you for the work you do, look out for the launch of the Aquaforce Awards and National Volunteers Week in the next edition to find out how you can become involved. And remember, if you want to share your stories and let us know what you are up to then get in touch at volunteering@swimming.org

The Volunteer Engagement Team would like to introduce Becky Milnes, the newly appointed Volunteer Development Co-ordinator.

Becky has been a competitive swimmer since the age of seven with Stocksbridge Pentaqua where she is also a qualified member of the coaching team. Becky completed a Sports Science degree at Loughborough University where she graduated in 2006, following which she went on to do 18 months as an unqualified PE teacher, before joining The King's Foundation as a Recruitment Officer in 2008.

Becky started work with the ASA in February as 'Volunteer Development Co-ordinator'

"Coming from a volunteering background myself it is a subject very close to my heart and something I am incredibly passionate about. I am really excited to be joining the Volunteer Engagement Team where I can hopefully help to ensure all of our aquatic volunteers are supported and their experience within the sport is positive and rewarding!"



**Francesca Kelly –
Head of Volunteer
Engagement**



**Steph Elliott –
Young Volunteer and
Technical Officials
Co-ordinator**



**Becky Milnes –
Volunteer Develop-
ment Co-ordinator**



DO YOU WANT TO RECOMMEND THE VOLUNTEERING NEWSLETTER TO YOUR CLUB MEMBERS?

Signing up to Volunteering News will ensure you receive the most up to date volunteering information straight to your inbox. Signing up can be done in one of two ways and will only take two minutes of your time. Volunteering News is distributed quarterly; ensure your club members are always in the know!

You can visit the [ASA website](http://asa.org.uk) and sign up using the online registration tool, alternatively email volunteering@swimming.org with 'Volunteering News' as the subject title. If you would like to register a number of email addresses, these can be sent through in one email, please ensure that you have permission of the address holder.

AQUAFACT

Originally known as 'water ballet', synchronised swimming began life at the start of the 20th century when an Australian swimmer, Annette Kellerman, toured the United States performing water acrobatics.

It became a fully-fledged Olympic sport at the Los Angeles Games in 1984 and with the removal of softball from the Olympic programme; synchronised swimming is now one of only two events - rhythmic gymnastics being the other - that is open to women only.



CLUB NEWS

CLUB LEADERS

Better business skills for sport

Would you like help with the running of your club? Would you like FREE ADVICE on business, administration and finance? Club Leaders can help!

Club Leaders is an innovative and exciting national programme delivered by Sport England in partnership with Price Waterhouse Coopers, designed to provide club volunteers with advice on administration, business and finance. The programme also provides support with organisation tasks, ensuring the ongoing sustainability of the club – and best of all – it's completely free!

There are a number of different learning opportunities available, including toolkits and templates that you can download, bite-sized e-learning modules, and seminars to attend, covering a number of different topics such as:

- Simpler Finance
- Organisation Structure
- Developing a Marketing Strategy
- Effective Facilities Management

There is also a one-on-one mentoring service, where clubs in need can register to receive a mentor who will spend time with them and their club offering advice, help and support with the running of the club.

One of the many benefits of Club Leaders is that they are prepared to tailor resources to the needs of individual clubs. Ian Mackenzie, Hertfordshire ASA, requested Club Leaders to deliver seminars on topics that he knew would be relevant to his clubs, and so they received talks on 'Understanding your club's finances' 'Budgeting and cash flow' and 'Organisation structure'. Ian said "The pre-course dialogue and organisation was excellent...the concept is really great!"

To find out how [Club Leaders](#) can help your club, click here to visit the website, or drop them an email on club.leaders@uk.pwc.com

JENNY CHAPMAN SCOOPS AWARD AT THE EPILEPSY CHAMPION AWARDS HOSTED BY NATIONAL CHARITY, YOUNG EPILEPSY



16 year old Jenny was nominated for the Inspirational Champion Award recognising her dedication as a swimming coach despite suffering from epilepsy since the age of seven. Jenny has faced many challenges and at age 14 found herself unable to walk with various memory losses including all her memories of swimming. Jenny worked tirelessly with the support of the coaches at Leamington Spa Amateur Swimming Club to rebuild her confidence and knowledge enabling her to take on a coaching role. Jenny is one of the 20 young coaches selected by the ASA to be a part of the Youth Sport Trust's National Young Coaches Academy, a 12 month development programme for young aspiring coaches.

The 'Orange Aero Inspirational Champion Award' recognises individuals that have shown epilepsy does not have to be a barrier to success. Jenny received the award from Peter Andre and Peter Quantick at City Hall in London for "her determination to encourage other young people with epilepsy to follow their dreams." Congratulations Jenny!

BEHIND THE SCENES: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE SPORT AWARDS 2012



The ASA would like to offer congratulations to Alex Cross and Wendy Coles who were recognised at this year's Nottinghamshire Sport Awards delivered by Nottinghamshire County Council.

Alex Cross, who received the 'Young Volunteer of the Year' award, was recognised with the following dedication at the award presentation evening:

"2012 was a challenging year for the Sherwood Seals Swimming Club, following a significant restructure of the committee 19 year old Alex stepped up from her regular role as swimming assistant to the position of club secretary. Alex has worked hard to secure funding for training and equipment as well as raising awareness

and increasing memberships, not to mention the club's position at their training venue. In addition to all of this Alex also secured a slot for the club on Channel 4's Paralympic Breakfast."

Sport in Nottinghamshire could not continue without the support of dedicated individuals. Each year as part of the Nottinghamshire Sport Awards, a select few are nominated in recognition of their outstanding contribution for entry into the prestigious 'Role of Honour.' The Role of Honour acknowledges dedicated residents who have devoted their life to Nottinghamshire Sport.

The ASA would like to offer sincerest congratulations to Wendy Coles, who in 2012 was inducted onto the Role of Honour alongside Olympic athlete Rebecca Adlington.

For more information on the awards please visit www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/enjoying/sport/sportawards

BE A PART OF THE ASA'S VOLUNTEER CELEBRATION!



Volunteers Week is an annual campaign that runs from 1st-7th June, led by Volunteering England, which celebrates the fantastic contribution that volunteers make across the country. This year the theme for the week is 'Time to say Thank You.'

The ASA would like to use this week and the time around it to formally and publically thank our aquatic volunteer workforce, and so have a campaign running over the summer to recognise your dedication and contribution to the sport.

As part of our campaign, we are looking to create a video which will feature athletes and ASA staff saying thank you, and will showcase some of our volunteers in action. We are also going to feature case studies, photos and letters about our volunteers and the fantastic work you do in our special edition of the Volunteering E-Newsletter – Making a Difference.

We would like to invite you to be a part of these celebrations by sending in photos, videos, or stories about volunteers in your clubs, at events or within your region. This could be as simple as sending in a photo of your club committee, writing a letter about a volunteer who has gone the extra mile, or filming an interview with a coach on why they spend hours on a hot poolside watching people swim up and down! Whatever you want to do we would love to be able to include this in our celebrations – so get creative and send us the results!

You can get in touch one of two ways. By emailing volunteering@swimming.org or post to ASA Volunteering, SportPark, 3 Oakwood Drive, Loughborough, LE11 3QF. Everyone who sends in a story, picture or video will win one of our Special Edition Pin Badges, and the first 10 entries we receive will also win free membership to British Swimming's [Go GBR Supporters Club](#), which will provide you with priority tickets for events, exclusive club offers and 10% discount on Go GBR merchandise! Please send your videos, photos or letters to us before the 7th May.

There will be lots more going on in the build up to and during Volunteers Week, so keep your eyes on our website for more things to get involved in!

CLAIRE ROBERTS BECOMES THE YOUNGEST OFFICIAL ON THE FINA OPEN WATER OFFICIALS LIST

23 year old Claire from Calverton and Bingham Swimming Club (CABSC) in Nottinghamshire is the youngest official to make it onto the FINA International Open Water Officials list. Claire has been involved in aquatics since a very young age; she is the third generation to volunteer for Nottingham Swimming Club with both her dad and granddad being former presidents.

We caught up with Claire to find out more about her experiences as an official in open water and why she feels more volunteers should give open water a try!

How long have you been officiating?

I was 16 when I was first introduced to open water officiating, I was asked to help out on a safety boat because of the lifeguarding qualification that I hold. I passed my Level 1 Open Water practical and theory when I turned 17.

What first made you want to become an open water official?

My coach Peter Birchmore was heavily involved in organising the Nationals at Holme Pierre Pont, and had asked me to help out on the safety boat. During the competition I became fascinated with what was involved, particularly in reference to officiating. I was amazed by the capability of the athletes. Open water swimming was also an enjoyable alternative to my previous experience as a competitive swimmer in the pool. The community within Open Water officiating are a fun, relaxed group who have really encouraged me in my personal life as well as in my life as an official.

Once you had gained your Level 1, what made you want to continue to referee status?

I wanted to further my understanding of the sport. I owe a lot of my achievements to Peter Birchmore, my mentor who saw me through my Level 1 and the beginning of my Level 2, along with Wendy Coles who recognised my potential and encouraged me to continue on to be a referee. It was through her support and encouragement that I became the youngest official in Britain to achieve my referee status. Through her continued support, along with the rest of the open water community, I have been appointed to the FINA List for 2013-2016.

It has been amazing to have been accepted by FINA as an international official, I believe I will represent everyone in the open water community, as well as British Swimming. If it was not for their support I could not be where I am today.

Why would you recommend becoming an Open Water Official?

Becoming an open water official or an official in any area of swimming is something that I would recommend to any young person who has a genuine interest in the sport. It has given me a far greater understanding of my sport and appreciation for the time and effort that is put in by the swimmers as well as the officials. The sport could not continue to achieve what it does if not for the many people who give up their time for it, something which I am very proud to do.

TURN UP, TAKE PART, JOIN IN!



Last summer, the UK's first Join In campaign was hailed as the country's biggest celebration of local sport. In the time between the Olympics and Paralympics, Join In asked people across the UK to come together and celebrate where it began for all of our Olympians – their local sports clubs.

Between the first anniversary of the London 2012 Olympic Opening Ceremony and the close of the Paralympics, get

ready for the Join In summer – even bigger and better than before!

From the 27th July to 9th September 2013, Join In will be helping UK sports clubs to make the most of this special opportunity. It's free and simple, and Join In will promote your club's event via a national and local media campaign. You could even receive a surprise visit from an Olympian.

Whether clubs are looking to sign up more members, supporters or volunteers, Join In events are the perfect opportunity to attract local people who may have never been involved with their club before. You could turn a regular club session into a Join In event, or host a special activity day for the community; the choice is yours.

Don't miss this amazing opportunity for your club to capture the nation's enthusiasm for local sport, and attract new members and volunteers! If you are a club who would like to register an event, or a volunteer who would like to browse the list of events taking place, visit www.joininuk.org for more information.

THE ASA LAUNCHES THE NEW WORKFORCE CO-ORDINATOR ONLINE SUPPORT GUIDE!

If you have recently been appointed as a club workforce or volunteer co-ordinator, or if you would like to take on this role in the near future, the ASA's Workforce Co-ordinator guide aims to provide you with support, advice and guidance to help you in your role.

The online guide will take approximately 45 minutes to complete, with additional time to develop your own Workforce Development Plan.

This guide will:

1. Allow you to review the role and priorities of a Workforce Co-ordinator at your club.
2. Assist you to assess and evaluate your club's workforce.
3. Provide you with templates and resources to assist you and save you time.
4. Identify methods for recruiting, managing and valuing the volunteers at your club.
5. Support you to design a Workforce Development Plan for your club.

How do I access this resource?

The Workforce Co-ordinator online guide is free of charge and available for all volunteers to access via the IOS online. You simply need to have an IOS online account.

Visit the IOS online for more information; select All Training, Club Volunteers and Online learning.

VOLUNTEER FORUM – LAST CHANCE TO APPLY!

Help us shape the future of volunteering!

The ASA Volunteer Engagement Team is creating a National Volunteer Forum – a group of motivated and dynamic individuals aged 25 and over who will act as a consultation service to the ASA regarding all things volunteering. And we are recruiting now!

The Volunteer Forum will be a group of pro-active volunteers from across the country who come together to feed into the ASA Volunteer Engagement Team. The forum will allow more relevant and rewarding programmes, resources and opportunities for volunteers, creating a greater feeling of ownership and helping retain our volunteers in the sport.

The Volunteer Forum will be supported at every step by the Volunteer Engagement Team, and all travel costs will be covered by the ASA.

The ASA are looking to recruit 12 members to create the forum – Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and nine Members – role descriptions for each of these can also be found online. If you're confident, passionate and have a desire to make a difference to the aquatic volunteering world, then this could be the ideal opportunity for you!

If you have any questions or would like to find out more information contact volunteering@swimming.org. Closing date for applications is 5pm on Tuesday 30th April. [Click here](#) to apply.

HAVE YOUR SAY!

YOUNG LEADERS TAKE ON THE ASA'S YALC WITH GREAT SUCCESS!



The Young Aquatic Leader Certificate (YALC) is a dynamic, skill building, sport specific leadership course to develop young aquatic leaders and provide them with the knowledge to actively volunteer in an aquatic environment.

The training is aimed at 14 – 19 year olds and will support

the development of the young leader's knowledge across the aquatic disciplines. The YALC is even suitable for young leaders with no prior knowledge of aquatics and can be delivered in house. Presenters wishing to deliver the course can access the online presenter guide free of charge. Contact volunteering@swimming.org for more information.

Cerys King from Aylesbury High School told us how much she enjoyed completing the workshop.

"Taking part in the ASA's Young Aquatic Leaders Certificate

has enabled me to develop my leadership skills and has encouraged me to appreciate the roles of officials, judges and timekeepers. As well as this, it has helped me to realise how challenging, yet rewarding planning and leading an aquatic session can be. The Young Aquatic Leaders course has expanded my knowledge of aquatic events and has encouraged me to continue my participation in aquatics after my competitive swimming career.

By taking part in the Award we were able to plan and start an aquatics club for 11 to 12 year olds at our school. The course gave us the knowledge and skills to enable us to plan and lead sessions each week varying from synchronised swimming to personal survival. As a group we prepared presentations, talks and letters to gain participants and received so much interest that we had to start a waiting list for the first term of the club.

As a contingent we developed activities for the participants enabling them to develop stroke and teamwork skills and also have fun. We hope that by showcasing the fun side of aquatic events we promote an enduring involvement in aquatic sports."

For more information on the Young Aquatic Leader Certificate, please [click here](#).

ARE YOU PART OF THE AQUATIC COMMUNITY AND WANT TO GET YOUR HANDS ON TWO TICKETS TO THE 2013 BRITISH GAS SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS?



Here at the ASA we want to learn more about why volunteers choose to become Technical Officials in the swimming discipline. We also want to know more about those all important barriers that may prevent rather than encourage you to become involved. We want to understand the motivations of our volunteers, to help us provide you with a better service in the future!

Whether you currently hold any British Swimming Officiating qualifications, or if you simply volunteer within aquatics, we want to know what you think about the Technical Officials Pathway. (For more information on the Officiating Pathway please [click here](#)).

With two tickets to the British Gas Swimming Championships up for grabs, the survey will take you 10 minutes to complete. We are giving you the vital opportunity to tell us what you think and how the pathway can be improved.

[Click here](#) to start the survey which will close on the 7th May 2013. By providing us with your email address you will be automatically entered into the prize draw. The winner will be selected on the 8th May and will be notified by email.

Should you have any questions regarding the survey, please contact volunteering@swimming.org. The results will be published in the summer edition of Volunteering News.

We look forward to hearing from you!