

COACH'S REPORT – JUNE-JULY 2018

As another season nears its end, we have had the usual flurry of competitions – including the Worcester County Relay Championships, several open meets and the concluding galas of the Ross PGL and Nuneaton and District Junior Leagues.

In the next three weeks, we have the remaining Mercian League gala (at Walsall this Saturday), another one or two open meets (including the Wolverhampton Open this weekend) and the end of year British and English Summer Nationals at Sheffield. The Summer Nationals start on 24th July, with five Redditch swimmers qualifying this year – Amelia Rodd, Emily Farr, Alisha Stephenson, Millie Checkley and Lizzie Kingham.

Worcester County Relay Championships

This year's Relay Championships were hugely successful for RSC. We had entered more teams than in recent years, with entries in every age group from 9-10 years through to the open category, with a further team competing in the masters' events.

Every one of Redditch's relay teams qualified for their respective finals and, in total, Redditch swimmers won 17 medals – 9 gold, 3 silver and 5 bronze – and the Joe Bradley Memorial Trophy, presented to the top girls' team on overall points. Redditch had only won this trophy twice before, in 1984 and 1986.

In addition to this, three new County records were set by our 15/16 and open girls' teams.

League Competitions

Saturday 9th June was the date for this year's PGL Final at Gloucester. Qualifying for the final in 2nd place, we travelled in hope that last year's victory in this competition might be repeated. In the end, however, despite a brilliant performance from our swimmers, we had to settle for 4th place – as a large number of speeding tickets again proved to be our undoing. Redditch swimmers are just too fast for this competition!

The Mercian League has been a struggle this year – a fact that will unfortunately be reflected in our final league position. Round 2 was swum at Walsall on the same day as the PGL Final, consequently limiting our selection options. Our 6th place finish put us into the "C Final" (teams 13-18 in the league), which we might perhaps have won – if it wasn't for a clash with the open meet at Wolverhampton, which has affected team selection much more than originally envisaged. At the time of writing, 30 selected swimmers have indicated that they are not available!

On 16th June, we were at home once again for Rd 3 of the Diddy League. Although we weren't quite at full strength, our swimmers produced the magic once again – cruising to another very comfortable win, which ensured that we qualify for September's final as the Division 2 leaders.

Open Meets

Several RSC swimmers attended the Wyre Forest Open in early June and then a larger group represented the club at the Stourbridge SC Junior Sprint Meet on 10th June. The Stourbridge meet was particularly successful for the club, with numerous crystal trophies being brought home, as well as a cash prize for Redditch SC as top club.

Last weekend a team of eight young Redditch swimmers returned to Eindhoven, for an open meet that some of the club's swimmers have attended for each of the past three years. The meet again proved very successful, with 13 medals being won.

Other matters

A large number of Redditch swimmers represented Worcester County at the annual Three Counties Gala, at Wolverhampton on 1st July. Performances were generally good and several were exceptional. Worcester County finished second to Staffordshire.

Over the past few weeks, a few selected swimmers have attended development camps run by Worcester County and/or City of Birmingham SC. Ashleigh Green has recently been selected to attend three regional camps.

Paul Wilkes has entered the 200 fly at the 2018 European Masters' Championships, to be held in Slovenia in September.

Another round of squad moves was completed on 1st July.

Chris Britt

Head Coach

10th July 2018