**Details about the Wilmslow Scorpions Performance Squad** (*previously known as the Wilmslow Scorpions Elite Squad*)

**Background**

Some time ago Hilary Centeleghe (our home gala Referee, Racecraft Skills and now Performance Squad Team Manager) and Paul Ibeziako (previous Chairman) talked about the possibility of our swimmers competing at higher level galas than they were currently; and to ultimately achieve Paul’s dream of getting a Wilmslow Scorpions swimmer to the Olympics! But let’s not get ahead of ourselves, let’s first concentrate on getting some swimmers to the Cheshire County Championships, a gala Hilary Centeleghe identified as a potential spring board to creating a higher performance squad.

To do this she first identified, from our Club Champs, a number of swimmers as having the potential to be developed into a high-performance competitive squad (under the classifications below) with an initial target of competing at the **Cheshire County Championships**, but then progression to Regionals and potentially Nationals.

**The Squads**

There are 3 performance squads

**County Squad** (those who already have times that would qualify for the Cheshire’s in that particular age group)

**County Potential Squad** (those that are very near the qualifying time)

**Futures Squad** (these are some of the current 9-year olds showing potential)

**How to qualify for the Cheshire County Championships 2019**

To begin the process, our swimmers need to have official British Swimming (BS) registered qualifying times, to gain acceptance to enter the Cheshire Championships. To gain these official times we must target a number of galas which are Licensed British Swimming meets – i.e. not unlicensed meets like inter-town or our current Clubs Champs.

Because some of our swimmer’s Club Championship results closely met the entry times required for the North Midlands Championships, Hilary Centeleghe, through her position as a licensed British Swimming Referee, was able to persuade the organisers of the North Midlands Championships to accept some of our swimmers Club Championships swim times as qualifying entry times. We will be targeting further licensed meets for more swimmers to get registered swimming times.

**Find out where you rank**

Check out your stats here <https://www.swimmingresults.org/biogs/> or see where you rank in Cheshire or Regionally/Nationally here <https://www.swimmingresults.org/12months/> (please note only licensed meets will post times to these sites).

**It’s a joint effort**

The introduction of these squads is very exciting for the club, and this now needs the collaboration of all the coaches, the swimmers and parents as it requires coordinated commitment. Congratulations to all our Coaches for the success and achievements our swimmers have gained to date!

**How to join the Performance Squads**

At each club champs or indeed any other gala we will try to identify potential swimmers to add to the squad.

**North Midlands Gala 2018**

After a brilliant start at the North Midlands gala we’re already achieving so much more than anticipated with the following swimmers gaining Cheshire County qualifying times - Joseph Mortlock (50 fly & 100 breast), Oliver Mortlock (100 breast), Heidi Stansfield (100 IM, 50 Free & 50 Fly) and Susie Moores (50m Free & 50m Fly) and some very near Cheshire County Championship Qualifiers (just pipped due to the newly announced age restriction/eligibility).

**The next targeted meet - Satellites Last Chance Qualifier 2018**

The next meet to target is the Satellites Last Chance Qualifier on the 9th & 16th December and we have a number of swimmers entered. Information about the gala is here: [http://swimsatellite.com/satellites-last-chance-county-qualifier-2018/](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__swimsatellite.com_satellites-2Dlast-2Dchance-2Dcounty-2Dqualifier-2D2018_&d=DwMGaQ&c=ZWY66qCYUTYUcOev9C2GlDEcKuYKzoWDVNR_L93Z9mQ&r=RQjyHkzXtZ9R5gg8WAkndiRW1wo93nehrk0YHaKfcLA&m=N1Vpb1yjQC0JyPmSTAqNYizCQZ7QpDYbcWte4vkemUU&s=tuZEyTy_cOmZO6e49v_VRSpoEIqEeiqKXkc2NNWhd6g&e=)

And finally, if you’ve got any questions about the performance squad please email Hilary on [teammanager@wilmslowscorpions.co.uk](mailto:teammanager@wilmslowscorpions.co.uk)

Please note we have changed the name to **WILMLSOW SCORPIONS PERFORMANCE SQUAD (previously known as the Wilmslow Scorpions Elite Squad)**