

NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2017



So, how do we sum up the last 12 months in such a short space. I think the best way to describe it is “**successful**” and not just for the obvious reasons.

Yes, we’ve had one of the best years of **success** in the pool that I can remember as **#TeamBackwell**. A fantastic performance in the County Champs at the start of the year followed by a brilliant Cotswold League campaign which ended with us finishing top of the league and our first appearance in the A final for a number of years. Then there was the Mini Series in which a number of our swimmers set huge PB’s and the Four Seasons galas where our younger stars of the future began their swimming journeys in style. To top it all off, we re-entered the Arena League series for the first time in 5 years and we’re about to go into the final round lying 3rd in the league with top 3 being promoted. Fingers crossed.

Then there was the amazing **success** of the fund raising efforts of our swimmers. First for Macmillan Cancer Support in December 2016 and then for St Peter’s Hospice in Charlie’s Swim Club Challenge in October together raising thousands of pounds for causes very close to all our hearts.

Our new club kit, orange swim hats and hoodies I think can also be described as a **success** and has definitely made an impact on poolside.

It’s not only been a **success** in the pool. We’ve had a number of volunteers qualify as officials from Timekeepers to J2S (well done Jo Dodds!). Two of our young volunteers have also been taken on to the Somerset Young Volunteers scheme - well done. However, we do always need more if we’re to keep our ability to offer the range of competitions to our swimmers so make 2018 the year you volunteer!

However you measure it and whatever it means to you, everyone in **#TeamBackwell** can, and should, be proud of our **success** this year. Roll on 2018!

Have a great Xmas and New Year! (Xmas swimming timetable on next page)

THE COMMITTEE

PRESENTATION EVENING

Fri Jan 19th - Clarence House, Portishead BS20 6PY

After another successful Club Championships and to celebrate an eventful 2017 please join us for our annual presentation night and karaoke where the age group and stages winners will be announced along with a host of other awards and trophies and certificates will be presented. More details will be posted on the notice board and Facebook



A small selection of team photos from various galas and Open Meets over the last year. An incredible bunch of swimmers and brilliant team atmosphere all round. Well done everyone who has competed this year!!! Keep up to date on Facebook.

COACHES CORNER

What a start to 2017/2018 season we have had. The Club champs were completed with some great swims and lots of county times set, so well done to Joanne, Colin, Tracy and many others for all of the hard work needed to licence this event.

It has been Backwell's first taste of the Arena league for several years, and we are currently lying in 3rd position going into the A final.

COB and Soundwell open meets were also completed with more county times, medals and some speeding tickets!

Also the Somerset development meet was completed with quite a few swimmers getting a first experience of open meets (too many swimmers getting scratched for my liking, so next year I will make sure all swimmers have entry times).

Our small club has set **245 county qualifying times** for this years Somerset County Champs, which I believe is a record! Swimmers who have never set county times are now entering open meets in pursuit of qualifying times and succeeding in doing so, which is great to see and in the next couple of years it will be their aim to obtain regional qualifying times. Team Backwell is starting to make the transition from a small village community team to a major player in the Somerset region.

Can the Arena team get promoted? The answer to this is in our own hands. If we turn up at Millfield on the 9th December and perform, whilst making as much noise in support of the team, then yes, we can! Unfortunately I have no crystal ball.

In round 1 back in October we came a very creditable 2nd to a strong Poole side, whilst beating 4 other good sides including CoB B team. In November we were lucky to get a local draw at Horfield where we also achieved 2nd on the night to an equally impressive Devonport Royal team (Plymouth). When the results were issued a week later we had been promoted to 1st place due to Devonport being deducted points due to a team sheet error. This means Backwell are currently 3rd for December's final on 13 points out of a possible 14, behind Newport and Poole B swimming clubs who both have a maximum 14 points. This is a remarkable achievement for a place the size of Backwell to be competing with towns the size of Newport, Poole or even Burnham academy who use swimmers from Cheddar, Taunton Deane and Weston swimming club (hence the word Academy).

For those of you who are not bored yet and are still with me, the following scenarios below will see us promoted:

- 1) If we win, we get promoted.
- 2) If we come 2nd, we get promoted.
- 3) If we come 3rd, we get promoted.
- 4) If Newport or Poole come 1st and 2nd, Devonport come 3rd, and Backwell come 4th we get promoted if we are within 50 point of Devonport.

We are also competing against Tiverton, Chard and Kingsbridge Kingsfishers whose coaches probably all feel that their teams can get promoted.

At the start of the year I had to write my 2 year plan and I predicted that we would make the A final this year but be promoted in our 2nd year. So come on Team Backwell and prove your own coach wrong!

Back at the club, the lessons are nearly full up and we have had some very good swimmers coming through to make Backwell even stronger in the future. All are young helpers are really stepping up to the mark, it was a shame to lose great teachers like Jake Richardson, Ellie Redfern and Lily but our 15/16 year olds taking over are brilliant. So well done to Stan for passing level 1 teaching course and good luck to Hollie and Kerri who are taking it in January. A big thank you must go to Jake, Imogen, Jess, Sarah and James for your time and commitment as Backwell would not be around without you lot. This team is led brilliantly by our head teacher Elaine Tancell, so thank you Elaine.

COACHES CORNER - CONTINUED

Development squad is where our biggest change has occurred. Team Backwell have been very lucky to gain the services of Sue Rogers, a coach who has the knowledge and skills to lead Development forward. You only have to watch Development train to see how hard they work and how talented they are. We have some very good swimmers in Development, and at least 3 of them have swam in all rounds of the Arena (with one having an individual swim at the young age of 9, so well done Florence). Our aim for the Development squad is to develop technique, skills and work ethic to set swimmers on the road to a long distinguished swimming career. Well done Sue and team!

Potential squad under the leadership of Chrissy has always been Backwell's strong point, with swimmers like Ben, Elizabeth and many others it is where a lot of new county qualifiers are coming from. Potential have contributed 6 swimmers to our Arena team. A special mention to Lydia who was given the individual backstroke, which is not her preferred stroke in the first two rounds and instead of moaning or questioning the decision she ended up with a first and second place. Also please watch this group train and see how hard they work!

Another special mention goes to Ben, who after many meetings and pointers as to what I want and require to see from him, he is now a new Performance squad member.

Performance Squad has been great up until now, but I am starting to sense they are beginning to relax and not fully commit coming up to Christmas. Last week I had to stop training and say I don't recognise the squad as it looked more like the squad I inherited 3 years ago. I am sure this is only a temporary thing as most of the Arena team come from this squad and have proven with hard work and commitment what they can achieve. Stretching down after sessions has generally worked very well, even though some swimmers believe they are far more educated than us coaches and still sneak off. Pre-training is starting to happen but still needs improving. Come on Squad, you don't look silly doing it you look silly when you don't.

It is a pity we will swim the Arena final without 3 excellent swimmers who will be missed. Hollie W, Daniel R and Ava B unavailable for various reasons but there is strength in depth and I know others will step up to the mark. A very big thank you to Woody and Max Evans who will be swimming for us in the afternoon gala and not playing matcher with their football teams.

Should I have written this letter next week after the A final. Watch this space. Come on TEAM Backwell I believe in you!

RICH BRYANT, HEAD COACH

XMAS SWIMMING SCHEDULE

LEARN TO SWIM

Lessons for Stages will end on **Thursday 14th December** and will resume on **Tuesday 9th January**

SQUADS

Last session for all squads will be **Thursday 21st December**.

First session for all squads will be **Tuesday 2nd January**

There will be no training between these dates - Happy Christmas 🎄🎄🎄🎄🎄🎄

Clubs Annual Celebration 19/01/2018
Presentations, disco, food, raffle.

**Mini Series at Hutton Moor. Doors
open at 5.30pm** 06/01/2018

Cotswold League Round 1 13/01/2017
At Easton Sports Centre

Four Seasons Winter 20/01/2017
Cheddar Leisure Centre

Somerset County Champs
Jan 27 - Feb 11th Millfield

Cotswold League Round 2
17/02/17
Wellington

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