

Newsplash 13

March 2007

Swimming, Water Polo & Socialising

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Welcome!

2006 was an interesting year for Northernwave: a few setbacks and lessons learned, a lot of progress organisationally and some amazing successes!

We move into 2007 with a strengthened and capable committee, regular financial monitoring, significantly reduced overheads & costs, a new web site, more efficient mailing, a sponsor interested in supporting Manchester Sharks, a better social programme in planning, tuition for casual members who need some swimming tips (coming soon), excellent coaching for both casual and competitive swimmers, newsletters are back on stream (sponsored) and we have signed up to the ASA's

Swim 21 quality programme that should enable access to more support for the club.

I'm proud that Northernwave is often seen not just as a club but a phenomena, and with more members helping make things happen we are making a real difference to our community and in helping Northernwave to become a better, more transparent club for its members.

In conclusion, my main goal for 2007 is that the needs of **ALL** the members of Northernwave (casual and competitive swimmers and polo players) get as much as we can offer from Northernwave for a fair price.

Thank you all and here's to 2007! (chink!)

Lady Trevor (MBE — please curtsy) (Club Chair)

Behind the veil...

Who are these people that represent your interests within the club and ensure that all the activities of the club keep going? See below...

Elected members

Remember the AGM? Part of what goes on is to elect members onto the committee. Members are elected every 2 years, 2 one year, 2 the next, to maintain some continuity on the committee. Here they are:



Trevor Burchick MBE (!)

Chairperson (2007-08)

Trevor@northernwave.org

Plans and directs strategies for the club, help raise funds, liaises with external organisations. Pursues side interest as international otter & hobnobber.



Mikey Maxwell

Club Secretary (2007)

mikeym@northernwave.org

Supports the day-to-day running of the club. The newest elected member, therefore has responsibility to get the drinks in until no longer the newest.



Steve Tomkins

Treasurer (2007-08)

steve@northernwave.org

Manages the money of the club, to make sure we keep our nose well out of the water! Hobbies include being Aussie and trying for most cunning putdown as cabin crew.



Mike Lane

Social Secretary

mikelane@northernwave.org

Represents members' interests, making sure that the interests of all the different types of member are considered. Has recently developed severe aversion to cats.

Co-opted members

Some of the club members support the committee on specific projects (it is a big club, after all!)



Mike Felse

Membership Officer

mikelf@northernwave.org

Maintaining the club database and ASA membership, supports the treasurer and chairperson (in so many ways!)



Ludo Otterbein

Water Polo representative

ludo@northernwave.org
captain@manchestersharks.co.uk

Represents the water polo team's interests, as well as being re-elected the polo captain. Hobbies include shoes, cooking and leather. (see page 3 for polo details!)



Gareth Parkinson

Communications

gareth@northernwave.org

Handles website, flyers and promotional material. (Like this, for example). Looks a bit like Ludo (bald) but less Gallic, more Gaelic.

Rob's New Year Wishes



First, I would just like to congratulate all the swimmers and water polo players on such a fantastic year:

- For gaining medals and personal bests at various competitions around the world.
- For putting Northernwave on the map in "straight" UK competitions, we are definitely

now a force to be reckoned with.

- To those swimmers who may have completed their first length this year. (A huge well done!)
- To those swimmers who have finally completed a length of Butterfly or other strokes.
- To swimmers who have shown determination through injury and other personal circumstances.

Now, what are my expectations for the new year:

- To see ALL swimmers improving ALL strokes.
- For those who have never competed to give it a shot! (its FUN! Honest!)

- To see more swimmers entering straight and gay competitions.
- To see swimmers having set goals and reaching and breaking them. (i.e. goal to move up into the next lane?)
- Personal Bests all round. (more important to me than medals)

PrideGames 2007 should be the summer's goal for everyone — now is the time to start preparing! Leading up to PG07, there are Paris and Antwerp. These dates are what the training program will be based around this year.

To achieve PBs and medals this year, we need to think about our year's goals and aims now. There will be a goal-setting workshop open to everyone, which will cover competitions, how to prepare, set goals and I will be on hand to give the **amazing** advice that I normally give!

So congratulations again on a fantastic year, let's think about the direction this year (and work off those mince pies!)

Rob x

Rob currently coaches on Tuesdays and Sundays. Our other coach, Mickey, coaches new developing swimmers on Sundays. Both of them enjoy shouting and have a well-meaning, supportive and encouraging type of sadism.

Details of competitions are on the back page. Details of the goal-setting workshop will be emailed, displayed on the website and at swimming events.

At the house of Bling

By his Royal Highness, Lady Trevor

Just in case you've been asleep, last year saw over 100 people from Greater Manchester participating at the 1st World Outgames in Montreal 2006 (so many a special jet was chartered from Manchester Airport!) Participants took part in ten different official activities, including swimming, polo, tennis, badminton, football and singing (the Mancs accent is beautiful for a singing voice). That excludes the myriad of parties and functions!

In recognition of Team Manchester's collective successes (with many personal bests and over 100 medals), the Lord Mayor of Manchester hosted a special celebratory reception for participants and their friends, with lots of lovely wine and nibbles!



Despite all the medals on show, the Lord and Lady Mayor still out-blinged everyone (that necklace of his has 365 diamonds, you know).

Speakers, including myself and two City Councillors, waxed lyrically about our various achievements and looked forward enthusiastically to the 2nd World Outgames in Copenhagen 2009. When asked, do you want us to host the 3rd World Outgames 2013 a resounding "YES WE DO" was bellowed out!

For Northernwave, the evening represented a big step forward in developing a new, more supportive relationship with Manchester City Council, one that will hopefully help our club achieve its goals of greater inclusivity and sports for all in the future.

Watch this space for more details of the club's progress, and of any tantalising gossip about the 2013 Outgames!





Manchester is gearing up to host the second PrideGames multi-sport tournament in August 2007. With over 20 separate sports and leisure activities already confirmed over ten days, PrideGames 2007 will be the largest LGBT multi-sport event ever held in North West England, and the first to include a Youth Games specially for our younger participants! Up to 1,200 athletes and supporters, plus around 2,000 spectators, are anticipated from across the UK, Europe and beyond. With a broad programme of introductory taster events and competitions, there should be something for everyone!

Over the following months, each club staging a tournament will be hard at it organising their event, with social events planned for all. Northernwave is doing its part for PrideGames, organising a swimming tournament in the Manchester Aquatics Centre that we expect to be as successful and fun as the last one! There may even be the possibility of a water polo match or two!

Now is the best time to be part of it. You can volunteer to help out with the organisation of the event, either for the swimming tournament or for the PrideGames organisation, to host someone, a great way to meet new people and support the European hosting network.

It's also a good time, if you're so inclined, to start thinking about competing – the tournament is open to all levels of ability, and the challenge is a great way to focus your training (ask our coaches for good advice on training and what to enter). Ultimately, the only person you have to beat is yourself! Plus, it's great fun!

Will you be ready?



Manchester Sharks: The Next Generation

2006 was very successful for the Manchester Sharks. They participated to the first Outgames in Montreal in July and also Paris Tournament in May where they finished **third** after Amsterdam (2nd) and London (1st) (the previous year the Sharks finished seventh - what an improvement!) The end of the year was even more exciting with the first Sharks Water Polo tournament at the Manchester Aquatics Centre in November, involving 8 teams from all over Europe. The Sharks again came third, the final was Amsterdam and London again, though this time Amsterdam won it! Well done the team for a great 2006.

This year, the Sharks are ready for a more challenging year. Firstly, the team voted to enter the Bolton and District Water Polo league. This is a whole new dimension for our club. They will face straight water polo teams from the area and will have to commit to a

league calendar. It'll give us a chance to improve, though we expect some tough games! At the same time, we elected our first captain of the year, (I was very grateful to be re-elected!), with the runner-up,

Darren, being offered the new position of vice-captain.

Secondly, Rob has hung up his polo whistle to focus on his studies and to rejoin us in the pool. We thank him for all the effort he has put in keeping the sessions challenging and enjoyable. For the time being, we have enlisted the help of Geoff Holme, a very experienced coach from Salford who has offered to give us some concentrated training to make us as good as we can be for the upcoming league fixtures. However, we're still on the lookout for a permanent replacement: let us know if you have any leads!

Thirdly, we have organized support for our new members during sessions so that our new members don't get flung in at the deep end (metaphorically: there is no shallow end at Miles Platting!). We're very welcoming to new members, give me an email or a phone if you are interested!

Look forward to seeing you in the pool on Thursday at Miles Platting! (7pm sharp! ;)

Ludo, Captain (07970283675,
captain@manchestersharks.co.uk)



Hot cash injection

Following an unexpectedly slow start to grant funding success in 2006, we finished a year on a high with two very welcome successful applications, £995 from Operation Fundraiser and £900 from Salford Community Chest!

As is normal for grants, they can only be spent on what is agreed. The funds will be put towards marketing, recruitment of new members in Salford, new equipment, our web site, a nutrition workshop, new flyers, a women's swim session start up at Moss Side and a programme of informal extra teaching exclusively for our

casual members on Tuesday nights. We have up to 12 months to spend it and spending will be monitored and performance reported back to funders by a NWSC committee team.

More details of when the informal and women's sessions will be held will be announced at the swimming events, via email and on our new website.

- **New equipment!**
- **Updated website!**
- **Nutrition workshop!**
- **New flyers!**
- **Extra coaching!**
- **Women's sessions!**
- **A dedicated NW pool! (if only...)**

So OTT! - A social group for gay men



By Jon Casson

OTT is a gay men's social group which has been developing over the last three years. The group has gone to theatre, ballet, films, opera, concerts and exhibitions. It meets three times a year to decide what to go to and members volunteer to organise events. Supper before the theatre is arranged at a local restaurant. Some people come for the meal, others meet at the theatre. Some stay for a drink afterwards: all is voluntary but we have found that it's a pleasant way to develop friendships, share experiences and enjoy theatre. Some people have tried out things they have never done before, such as go to an opera: and enjoyed it! We have had some wonderful evenings. We try to vary the cost

of events and go to films at the Corner House which are less expensive.

To join the mailing list please e-mail joncasson@beeb.net, with "OTT" as the subject. Please come to the Summer 2007 events planning meeting at 7.30 p.m. on Sunday March 25th at The Ascott Hotel, 6 Half Edge Lane, Eccles, Manchester, M30 9GJ (www.ascotthotel.co.uk) or ring David Southward, 0161 950 2453. Please bring programmes for the events you think the group might want to go to.

UPCOMING EVENTS

10 DAYS ON EARTH

Friday 11th May

Award Winning Ronnie Burkett Theatre of Marionettes from Canada: a puppeteer of genius, moving, adult, powerful, not to be missed!

Please contact us by April 15th

THE SILVER LAKE

Sunday 15th July

by KURT WEILL

Jazzy, vivid musical (sung in English) featuring fox-trot, tango and an infamous banana dance: the last music he wrote before escaping from the Nazis.

Let's make an afternoon out and enjoy Buxton and supper before the show.

Please contact us by the end of March.

Where do sandwiches come from?

Not from the sandwich tree (unfortunately there is no such thing).

This is just a little thank you to Taurus for their continued provision of free sandwiches on Tuesday nights to feed the ravenous (some may say ravening) hordes of swimmers and their wives who descend on the pub after a hard swim (or a paddle, it still burns the calories!).

Because of the way Tuesdays are run, Taurus put the sandwiches out in a few batches to ensure there are some left for those who stay to play polo, and to prevent those stocking up for hibernation getting their

paws on the whole pile (you know who you are!).

Next time you see Ian or Polly, pass on your thanks for their continued support of the club, which they have provided in many ways over the years.

We hope they will continue to do so in the future. Thanks guys!



Swim Camp - Lancaster - 13th - 15th April



Following the success of last year's training weekend at the University of Lancaster, Northernwave has decided to put on another one! The weekend will feature extensive use of Lancaster's excellent pool, coached by our Rob,

and Liz Bellinger, our woman in London with a string of golds round her neck. It will also feature video work, goal-setting and mental preparation sessions. This weekend is designed for **anyone** who wants to make a big improvement in their swimming technique and approach, not just those who regularly compete in tournaments. The weekend is designed to improve your performance, from beginner to advanced. Accommodation and food is provided.

Cost of weekend £135. Places are limited, email Mike Lane at mw.lane@ntlworld.com or call or text on 07771 532333 to secure your place!



What's coming up?

Tournaments

Swimming tournaments are open to all, contact us for any information you need, or ask one of the coaches for advice on entering an event!

Name	City	Dates	Website	Description
IGLA Championships	Paris	23rd-28th May	www.igla2007.org	International Lesbian & Gay Championships, swimming, water polo, triathlon.
CPH 2007	Copenhagen	22nd-24th June	www.mermates.dk/2007	Mermates' 3rd International swim meet.
Eurogames 2007	Antwerp	12th-15th July	www.2007.eurogames.info	Europe's biggest annual gay sports event, in this gorgeous Dutch town.
PrideGames 2007	Manchester	13th-19th August	www.pridegames.org	Your chance to take part in Manchester's gay sporting event, held every two years. The swimming event is held at the Manchester Aquatics Centre on Saturday the 18th of August.

Social Events

Following suggestions from our members, we are planning to have more social events this year. However, these things don't run themselves! If you would like to get involved, drop us a line (contact details on front cover).



Eurovision Party

Glitter, glam and gayness galore!
12th May



Our own **PrideGames**, with so many events there's bound to be something for you!
13th—19th August



Halloween Party

Terrifying.
27th October



Christmas Party

Non-religious end of year celebration. Go wild in a festive sort of a way!
15th December