

## Chairperson's report for WSLSC AGM November 9th 2016

Our club has once again had a fantastic year, with many successes at Devon and National events, and also on the International Stage at the World Championships- notably Woolacombe were once again represented on the GB team (Summer Whiteley and Lily Nichols), and Jack Hutchens won gold in the 1km run for Woolacombe's senior team at the Interclubs. Our Senior, Youth and Masters Interclub teams gained many medals at these world championships, with our Youth team coming out 12th in the World, and the top British team! Massive congratulations to all athletes who travelled to the Netherlands to represent their club and country.

We have also trained 8 new lifeguards (thankyou to Joe and Annette Deasy, Freddie Hedger, Kevin Turner and Mike Horstead, who have been training lifeguards for many years), trained 8 new coaches (thankyou Keith Gammon), and passed numerous nippers, youth and masters at competency awards. We have also attracted nearly £20, 000 in Lottery (and other) funding, enabling us to keep up to date with our club equipment- including for the first time in many years a brand new double ski which won several medals at the Nationals (part paid for by Fullabrook CIC) (thanks to Dan Halsey and Lindsay Allix).

All our sections have continued to be lively and competitive, and again this is due to the commitment and hard work of our section reps: Mandy Greening, Scooby Lark, Sean Deasy and Jon Ward, together with their team of coaches and lifeguards. It has been once again fantastic to see some of our younger members stepping up to lead- in particular Freddie, Sean and Scooby - or to become lifeguards and volunteer for the club- Jake Liversedge, Alex Ward, Summer Whiteley and Lee Oliver all providing cover at sessions or volunteering for the RNLI. These young people are a credit to their club and to surf lifesaving sport. But also many sessions would not have been able to go ahead without some longstanding helpers and coaches like Rich Lark (who lead the senior pool sessions), Michelle and Keith Gammon, David Liversedge, James Hood, Nick Thorn, and many others. We are incredibly lucky to have members who have been with the club for many years, and continue to donate vast amounts of their time to the club. Members like those, and Annette and Joe, Freddie, Dee Thorne, Nathalie Sayer and Don Duffield are the backbone of our club and it is difficult to see how we could function without them. It is also wonderful for the club to have some newer members who seem to be willing to immediately become immersed in the club and give their time willingly and with enthusiasm- Dan Halsey, Jess and James Sxmankiewicz, Mandy and Rob Greening, Charles Easy and Mick Cooke being fantastic examples.

As outgoing chair, I would like to thank all our volunteers personally as it has made my job in the last three years much easier and a real pleasure. I truly believe that the more you put into something, the more you get out of it- and I have certainly been blessed with gaining a great deal personally from Woolacombe SLSC, and have made some lifelong friends. I wish you all the best of luck for the future, and I look forward to seeing you all in the pool or on the beach!

Nicola Oliver 12th Nov 2016