

CMSC Newsletter items:

1. **Christmas Dinner** – was a big success again with 34 people coming along to new venue ‘Cantina’ for what turned out to be a wonderful meal. Our thanks have been passed along to the management but Dave and Annie ‘Michelin-Buttwell’ had already made 2003 for them by letting them know how well-received the food was at the time.

Highlights of the evening included ... Annie Butwell trying to get the Chef’s phone number ... Janet’s face on hearing she was the lucky winner of the ‘Gareth Morgan Award For Alternative Use Of Paid-for Swimming Time’ ... Gareth Morgan and Martin Hambly trying not to look like people’s Dads in ‘Surfers’ night club ... Bill being rescued from the middle of Westgate Street post-Surfers by two passers-by who turned out to be work colleagues ... any other noteworthy gossip has not yet reached the ed or Clare and therefore can’t have happened!!

2. **Welsh Closed Championships (Wrexham)** - was very well attended by the club with Tony Roblin, Terry, Rich, Natalie, Christine, Annie, Pam, Susie, Colin, Geoff, Andrew, Carys, ‘Andy Berriman’ and Elaine all enjoying a day and night in North Wales. With so many competitors at such a small competition C.M.S.C. was undoubtedly the most enthusiastic contingent with the best (and certainly the loudest!) team spirit.

As usual with the Welsh Closed the format for the gala was slightly different to most Master’s competitions with no medals for individual races but rather with up to 6 swims by each person earning them points over the day to find overall age-group winners. Performances were good with most club members achieving a WASA ashtray prize for their efforts.

More importantly it was a good turnout at our domestic event where some members new to racing could get involved and everyone had a good time. Thanks very much to Terry for organising accommodation.

3. **The Club Constitution** – As the club constitution has not been reviewed since 1986 the committee have gone through it and will be proposing certain updates which will need to be agreed at the club A.G.M. These will be circulated in the next few weeks.
4. **Members Survey** – with the review of the constitution, our aim to gain WASA’s Dragon Mark quality award, and of course because we want the club to provide what the members want (!) there will be a short questionnaire in the next few weeks for you to tell us what you think. Please do take the time to complete it so that we can get a good idea of what our members think and want from the club.
5. **Vice-Chairman Position** – constitutionally the club has a Vice-Chairman’s position on the Committee but the post has not been filled for some years. With increasing external commitments for certain existing committee members (congratulations to Ant and Joanne!) we would like to ask for someone to take on this position and to take responsibility for sending off W.A.S.A. membership forms. Other commitments would be to attend a handful of meetings a year

and take the tin occasionally. Please let Terry, Rich, Ant or Elaine know if you are interested, or just want to ask a bit more about what it involves.

6. **Waterpolo Introduction session** – twelve people have put their names down so far to give this a go, as much to try something different in the pool for an hour as anything else. I will try to arrange an hour at U.W.I.C. sometime and will let everyone know when I have a date/time for it.

Anyone else who is interested in this one-off introduction session please let me know. It is aimed at anyone, of any ability, who has not played before and wants to learn some basics while having fun.

7. **Dates for Your Diaries**

Isle of Wight Masters – 20th-21st Feb, closing date 26/01/04

W.A.S.A. Welsh Open Championships, Swansea – 05th-07th Mar, closing date 06/02/04

Capital Masters Gala, Sofia Gardens – 27th Mar, closing date 06/03/04

Guernsey International – 02nd-04th Apr, closing date 01/03/04

GB Masters – 23rd-25th Apr, closing date TBC

World Masters Championships, Italy – 03rd-13th Jun, closing date 03/04/04

ASA Nationals, Sheffield – 29th-31st Oct, closing date TBC

8. **Club Social** – first club social of the year will probably be the party on the 27th following our Capital Masters gala.
9. **‘Dragon Mark’** - is the name W.A.S.A. have given to the quality award they introduced during 2003. The award is aimed at ensuring the standard of the internal running of clubs. C.M.S.C. hope to gain the Dragon Mark award during 2004.
10. **Splott Pool** – is currently still scheduled to remain closed for a few more months. We will let you know the firm date for the move back top Splott from Llanrunney when we have one confirmed to us.
11. **Club AGM** – will be on **XX**th February at Y Mochyn Du (The Black Pig) before training. All paid-up members are welcome and can vote.

RPL 03/01/04