

COACHES REPORT AGM 2008

2007 WAS A GREAT YEAR FOR SCUNTHORPE ANCHOR AND ITS SWIMMERS BUT IT WASN'T INDICATIVE OF WHAT WAS GOING TO HAPPEN IN 2008. MOST EVENTS WERE SWUM UNDER THAE CASA BANNER AND PRODUCED SPECTACULAR RESULTS.

OVERCOMING OUR EXPECTATIONS, OUR JUNIORS BECAME THE 1ST SWIMMERS FOR 27 YEARS TO TAKE THE LINCOLNSHIRE JUNIOR LEAGUE TITLE FROM THE 2 DOMINANT LINCOLN CLUBS AND GAVE US THE HONOUR OF REPRESENTING LINCOLNSHIRE AT THE SPEEDO JUNIOR NORTHERN FINAL IN LIVERPOOL. A GREAT PERFORMANCE, PLACING US IN THE TOP 6 CLUBS IN THE NORTH OF ENGLAND.

OUR SENIOR TEAM, ALTHOUGH SWIMMING AS CASA GREEN, WAS MADE UP ENTIRELY OF ANCHOR SWIMMERS AND CAME 3RD IN THE LINCS SENIOR LEAGUE. 3 PLACES BETTER THAN LAST YEAR. CASA RED ALSO HAD A GREAT PERFORMANCE COMING IN 2ND. WE WILL STILL SWIM THIS AS INDIVIDUAL CLUBS AS IT GIVES OUR SWIMMERS THE OPPORTUNITY TO COMPETE AGAINST EACH OTHER TO PREVENT COMPLACENCY; THIS IS DESPITE COMMENTS FROM OTHER COACHES THAT WE COULD AS A JOINT TEAM GIVEN VULCANS A GOOD CHALLENGE.

OUR BARNESLEY MINOR TEAM, SWIMMING AS ANCHOR, PUT IN A GREAT PERFORMANCE TO WIN THE LEAGUE AND GAIN PROMOTION AND AS I GO TO PRESS THE NATIONAL LEAGUE OF SWIMMING IS TAKING PLACE AND OUR NEWLY PROMOTED TEAM HAS MADE THE FINAL WHICH IS BEING HELD LONG COURSE IN COVENTRY.

AT THIS YEARS COUNTIES WE HAD OVER 20 SWIMMERS REPRESENTING OUR CLUB IN THE CASA SQUAD. THIS YEAR WE HAD OVER 150 FINALISTS AND WON 45 MEDALS, UP FROM THE 15 MEDALS AND 31 FINALISTS THE YEAR BEFORE. THIS PUT US 3RD IN THE TOP CLUB TABLE. A BRILLIANT ACHIEVMENT. MORE IMPORTANTLY JOSH JONES PRODUCED 2 NATIONAL QUALIFYING SWIMS.

JUNE SAW CASA COMPETING AT THE NORTH EASTERN CHAMPIONSHIPS WHERE AISLEY LEEMAN PRODUCED A GREAT SWIM TO GIVE SCUNTHORPE ANCHOR ITS 3RD NATIONAL QUALIFYING SWIM OF THE YEAR. IN THE AGE GROUP COMPETITION WE HAD SWIMMERS REACH 98 FINALS AND WIN A TOTAL OF 26 MEDALS, PUTTING US IN THE TOP 5 CLUBS IN THE REGION.

THE ICING ON THE CAKE THIS SEASON WAS THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS WHERE CASA HAD 9 SWIMMERS COMPETING, 2 OF WHICH WERE FROM ANCHOR. THE CHERRY ON THE CAKE WAS JOSH JONES PRODUCING CASA'S FIRST EVER MEDAL AT THE NATIONALS. A 1ST FOR ME AND A 1ST FOR ANCHOR.

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WE HAVE RECENTLY HELD OUR CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS AND I AM THRILLED TO REPORT THAT ALREADY WE GOT 187 COUNTY QUALIFYING TIMES FROM 42 SWIMMERS. A SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT ON LAST YEAR. WE WILL BE RUNNING AN 800M TIME TRIAL LATER IN THE MONTH AND HOPE TO ADD TO THIS TALLY. I AM HOPING TO INCREASE ON THIS IN JANUARY WHEN WE GO TO THE ROTHERHAM METRO MEET.

I REALISE THAT THERE ARE STILL PEOPLE WHO ARE SCEPTICLE OF OUR INVOLVEMENT WITH CADS BUT HOPE THAT THIS YEAR'S SUCCESS SHOWS HOW WELL IT IS WORKING. AS CASA WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO GIVE SWIMMERS THE OPPORTUNITY TO PROGRESS FURTHER THAN THEY COULD HAVE DONE WITH OUR LIMITED POOL TIME AND EXPERIENCE THE THRILL OF SUCCESS.

I WAS SAD TO SAY FAREWELL TO NATHAN IN SEPTEMBER, AS WE HAVE WORKED TOGETHER FOR 10 YEARS, AND AS WELL AS BEING MY BEST MATE, HE WAS AN INSPIRATION TO ME AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE SO. I HOPE YOU WILL ALL JOIN ME IN WISHING, AND GIVING ALL YOUR SUPPORT TO DAN, TO TAKE BOTH CLUBS FORWARD.

ONCE AGAIN I WOULD LIKE TO THANK ANDY FOR HIS UNWAVERING SUPPORT AND TO STUART FOR HIS EFFICIENT RUNNING OF CLUB EVENTS. PEOPLE DON'T REALISE WHAT THESE GUYS DO BEHIND THE SCENES FOR THE CLUB. I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO THANK THE COMMITTEE, POOLSIDE STAFF AND OFFICIALS WITHOUT WHOM THE CLUB COULDN'T FUNCTION. I WOULD LIKE TO SEE MORE PEOPLE GETTING INVOLVED IN THESE ROLES IN 2009.

LASTLY, CAN I SAY THAT THE CLUB HAS SET A HIGH BAR FOR 2009 AND I HOPE WITH THE COMMITMENT OF THE SWIMMERS AND THEIR PARENTS WE CAN TAKE THE CLUB TO NEW HEIGHTS.

DAVE LEEMAN – HEAD COACH – DEC 2008