



AYLESBURY'S PERFORMANCE SWIM CLUB

www.maxwellswimclub.org

9TH AUGUST 2004



A golden farewell for Janko

Maxwell Swimmers bring home the medals at Janko's last meet.

Below is the Championships own report posted on the British Swimming web site and is a fitting tribute to our departing Head Coach.

SHEFFIELD - Maxwell coach Janko Gojkovic, was with his swimmers for the last time at the ASA Youth Championships tonight and they did him proud winning five medals - two gold, two silver and one bronze. Gojkovic, a three time Olympian for Bosnia, is returning home after six years with the club

Maxwell's first gold came in the boys 17/18 yrs 100m backstroke from Paul Turner (58.84) who just beat Ian Powell of Millfield (59.09). Powell from Guernsey had been looking for his second backstroke gold but it wasn't to be. Graeme Lyons (West Dunbart) took bronze 1:00.06.

The second gold came from Craig Gibbons in the boys 17/18 yrs 100m freestyle. Gibbons touched in 50.27 ahead of Edward Denton of Millfield (51.74) and Ben Hutchinson of Crawley (52.71).

Maxwell's first silver medal was won by Hannah Capstick in the 16/17 yrs 100m butterfly. She finished in 1:02.61 behind Plymouth Leander's Cassandra Patten (1:02.52). Haslemere's Chloe Winter took bronze (1:02.67). The second silver came from Edward Downes in the 200m IM (2:07.31). Ahead of Downes was Euan Dale of Millfield (2:03.81) and behind was Craig Elliot from Cocker-mouth (2:10.43). The bronze came in the boys 400m medley relay. Millfield claimed gold and City of Newcastle took silver.

Asked how he was feeling after his swimmers' performances an emotional Gojkovic said "I'm feeling sad and happy at the same time. Sad to be leaving behind what we've done over the last 6 years. Happy at how well the swimmers have swum tonight and I hope that one of them will be in the Olympics team next time. I will leave with a lasting memory of a best session for us with two gold, two silver and one bronze."

And for what he'll be doing in the future Gojkovic added "I've been involved in the World Class Potential Programme over the last two years and this has been very beneficial for me, the swimmers and the club. I'm returning to pass on this experience in coaching and swimming development as there's little set up at home."

Commenting on Gojkovic's contribution to the World Class Potential programme John Atkinson National Youth Coach said "We'll be sorry to see Janko go. He's done some great work and will leave a lasting legacy with his swimmers doing very well. We'll be building on this and Craig Gibbons for example will now move on to the Swansea high performance centre under sprint development coach Bill Pilczuk. We all wish Janko the best of luck for the future."

In total Maxwell swimmers won 9 medals - the Clubs most successful haul in recent times. Craig won a second Gold in the 50M Freestyle, Hanna took a further silver in the 200M Fly and Ed gained a bronze in both the 100M Breaststroke and 400 Individual Medley. Sarah Turner achieved a new personal best time of 1.09.92 in her 14/15 years 100M backstroke event and had good swims in both the 200M and 400M Freestyle events. Our Bronze Medal Relay team consisted of Paul Turner, Adam Hilliard, Ed Downes and Craig Gibbons.

Congratulations and well done to Janko and all our swimmers for some fantastic performances.

Janko's gone - So what happens now?

In the six years that Janko has been Head Coach at Maxwell a huge amount has been achieved, the Club has changed from an organisation that was fragmented around North Buckinghamshire to one that is tightly focused in Aylesbury. It's developed swimming programmes which have enabled our swimmers to become National Champions and more. It has established a skilled and motivated team of Coaches and as a result has proved this year (At Youth Nationals) to be the most successful Club in both Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire and proving a worthy rival to many large Metropolitan Clubs. No small achievement for a Club of 120 or so members in semi rural Aylesbury. There is no doubt about it, we have much to thank Janko for.

But the last thing Janko would want is for us to squander his legacy so its vital we recruit a new Head Coach that will build on all that has been achieved so far. Clearly this will take a little time but I hope by early October we will have a new Head Coach in place.

The process is now underway and by working in conjunction with British Swimming the post has been made known to Coaches at the recent National Competitions in Sheffield. Additional promotion of the position is also being made through various media with a closing date for notification of interest of the 31st August. Formal applications will then have to be made within a week, after which the appointments panel will shortlist candidates for interview. It is intended that interviews will then take place during the second half of September.

In the meantime I am delighted that Kevin Brooks will be working with us and taking on many of the Head Coach duties. Many of you will know Kevin who was with us for many years initially a swimmer and later as Deputy Head Coach to Janko. Two years ago he relocated to Bournemouth (to take a BSc in Sports Management) and during this period Kevin has been working at Ferndown Swim Club taking responsibility for the junior section as well a coaching national and international swimmers such as Karen Legg.

Kevin joins us on Monday 9th August and will take responsibility for or senior squads, he will also provide Coaching during the Maxwell Shutdown for swimmers who are attending the British National Short course finals at the end of August. He will be with us till at least October so giving the Club the continuity required for our swimmers to continue to excel.

The Club is now in the best shape its ever been in and its swimmers success has already meant that potential candidates for the Head Coach post have already been in touch. I am very confident that we will find a new Head Coach that will continue to build on what Janko has already achieved and further develop the Clubs contribution to the British Swimming World Class Programme.

Jonathan Smith
Chairman

The Club says goodbye to Janko

In a small event last Saturday, representatives (Coaches, Swimmers, Parents and Committee) of Maxwell Swim Club wished Janko a fond farewell. Janko accompanied by wife Gabrijela and new son Fabijan was presented with a number of gifts and cards from the Club.

One of our youngest swimmers Chloe Brewer, gave Janko a Seiko Titanium watch (see picture) bought with the collection money from swimmers and parents.

An emotional Janko commented that he had had a wonderful time at Maxwell and would follow the Clubs future fortunes with great interest. It was pointed out to him that somehow he had avoided the tradition of the swimmers throwing a departing Coach into the pool (fully clothed of course) and that when returning to visit (as he promised he would) he should wear something suitable!

