**Secretary’s Report 2016**

This year hasn’t been without its ups and downs. September and December brought about the resignation of two members of the committee, Ian Muscroft our Chairman and previously Vice-Chairman, who for many years has seen the club grow in strength under his leadership and Sue Mogford who has given lots of time to the club in her role as fundraiser. They were both integral to the running of the club and are missed by all. This summer sees the resignation of Chris Muscroft our Treasurer and a long standing coach. Chris has been a big part of the club for many years and will leave a massive hole, both with her teaching and as a friend. We wish Chris all the very best.

On the up side the club gained Mark Blackmore as Chairman who stepped up to the role and has proved to be an excellent Chair. Mark has put many hours into this role and I personally hope he will be in this position for many years to come. On the fundraising side, Leanne Milburn joined Don on raising funds and has become an asset to the team. From grants to organising an abseil event that everybody who took part or went along to enjoyed.

A big thank you to Guy who as well as being on poolside all hours puts in a lot of time behind the scenes writing programmes, organising swim camps and lots of other things that are taken for granted. All the coaches have been busy behind the scenes pulling together a system which should encourage the swimmers to move forward. This has been headed by Guy and supported by our squad coaches Shirley, Fran, Gillian and Alister, together with those that give their time on a Saturday morning and assist during the week, Lorraine, Emma, Karen, Chris, Sue, Shirley Sharp, Alison, Rhiannon and Mae, all of who I would like to thank for all the hours they give voluntarily to the club throughout the year. Without their dedication the club would not be able to exist. I would also on behalf of the club congratulate Rhiannon on passing her Level 1 teachers certificate.

A big thank you to everyone on the committee, without their hard work and commitment the club would not run as smoothly as it does. Barbara who looks after our merchandising to Mark, Don and John who organise our galas, as well as their individual roles - Mark as Chairman and who looks after the web, Don our Gala Secretary as well as Fundraiser and John Workforce Development Officer. Maria and Ian our Welfare Officers who this year have been called upon for their expertise, quite often resolving difficult situations. Lorraine our Disability Officer and Chris Williams who often is on poolside at galas. A thank you to Shirley Sharp and John Flynn for representing the club at galas up and down the country in an officiating role. To all the helpers who give their time at galas and fundraising events and assisting those in roles throughout the year.

I would like to thank the following firms for their donations. Impetus Environmental Trust, SNF (UK) Limited, Cleveland AMAL Branch of the Communication Workers Union, Joyce Construction & Civils Limited, Harry Peers Steelworks Limited, First Choice Skip Hire, KD Plant Services Limited and Scott Brothers.

This year saw our Junior League swimmers in action again and I would like to commend them for putting in 100% to reach the final. All the young swimmers swam well and enjoyed the competition which is what it is about. A thank you to Gillian who spent many hours going over team sheets and making sure all the swimmers had a swim, to Karen, Mark and Ian on poolside to John and Shirley Sharp who officiated for the club. To Katalin for baking her gorgeous cakes for everyone as we came out of the pool. It was a treat for the swimmers and especially the coaches - a very big thank you.

All the swimmers have improved in the past year reaching Olympic Trials, British Championships, Nationals, NER’s and N&D’s. There have been many pb’s which is an accomplishment in itself. I have just come back from the Sheffield Meet and it was a pleasure watching all the swimmers accomplishing pb’s and reaching finals. To see the effort and determination was excellent to watch. I would like to wish all the swimmers of the club all the best for the coming year.

Last of all a big thank you to Tees Active staff who have all been accommodating and polite, without them the club wouldn’t be able to function. I wish TA all the best for the coming year and that our relationship carries on from strength to strength.

I only hope I haven’t forgotten anyone and wish everyone involved in Billingham Swimming Club all the very best for the year ahead.

