

Nantwich Neptune Lifesaving Club Christmas Newsletter 2022

Welcome to our first ever newsletter. As a family club, we believe in being open and honest and felt that this was the best way to keep everyone informed on things that have happened and things that are coming in the future.

Changes in our staffing

As some of you might be aware, during the pandemic two of our founding members, Brian and Shirley Wiltshaw, stepped down from the club after almost 50 years. Our club would not be without all the hard work Brian and Shirley put in and we will forever be immensely grateful to them.

Brian and Shirley used to deal with the financial side of the club, and this was taken over by Dave, Sheila and Steph Evans. Unfortunately, before the Summer they made the tough decision to also step away from the club. They had been members of the club for many years and were always willing to step up and help at competitions or with teaching. They will be very missed at the club.



This meant that we were without somebody to meet people in reception and to ensure our finances were correct. After searching around, Ian Potts agreed to step in and support the club in this aspect. Ian and his wife Stephanie first started helping at the club over 20 years ago when their eldest son started in the rookie programme.

After the Summer, we returned many teachers short. Phillipa and Nathan decided to step away and focus on their studies and work, and Emma has moved to university. We wish these 3 the best of luck in their future endeavours and hope to see them at the club again soon.

We were also very saddened to hear that Julie Pearson had taken the decision not to return to the club either. Julie was the heart of the club. She was there every morning with a smile on her face, organising the groups and ensuring that everything was running smoothly. She would then spend countless hours behind the scenes ensuring training and safety was maintained and updated, corresponding to parents and potential lifesavers and planning and organising competitions for the group and the district. Julie is phenomenal and has left a massive hole in the club. We wish her all the best for her future and our doors will always be open to her.



The Executive Committee

Our club operates with an executive committee who ensure that the values of the Royal Life Saving Society and the club are both aligned and that the club is operating safely and correctly. Due to losing several members of the club in a short time, we have temporarily appointed the following people to fill the roles of those who have left:

Chair: Liam Potts

Secretary: Emma Serventi

Treasurer: Ian Potts

Child Safety and Welfare Officer:
Emma Serventi

During our AGM in the new year, these positions will be open for re-election. If you have any concerns or queries about these temporary appointments, please email us on:

NantwichLSC@outlook.com

Information on nominations will be sent out in the new year.



Survive and Save Events

This year we have seen an increase in the number of people taking part in the Survive and Save scheme. This scheme follows on from the Rookie Lifeguard programme and introduces new elements like Beach and Open Water Lifesaving. In September, some of our Survive and Save members took place in both Beach and Open Water assessments. We are super proud of how they represented our club and in their achievements on the day.

Matilda, Brett, Ben, Will, George and Dan achieved their Survive and Save Bronze Stillwater and Bronze Beach Medallions.

As a result of these events, we also have the youngest ever Survive and Save Distinction winner, Izzy Serventi. Izzy has completed 3 Survive and Save Gold awards within a 2 year period and has now been awarded the distinction. Her next goals are to continue to promote the RLSS values by teaching the next generation of lifesavers.

Our Rookie Lifeguards; Jacob, Scarlett, Alfie and Miguel also went to Boundary Water Park to take part in an interclub competition. Jacob came first, and they all worked very hard. Well done to our Rookies!



Lifesaving Academy

RLSS UK has just launched the new National Lifesaving Academy awards. These are a suite of progressive awards that teach personal survival, first aid, CPR, rescue, and fitness skills to anyone aged 12 years and over. Their aim is to teach candidates how to stay safe around water and how to safely assist others who may have gotten into difficulty in both aquatic and non-aquatic situations.

As part of the programme, they have brought back the prestigious Bronze Medallion, recognising this important part of the RLSS UK heritage.

The awards are structured to teach foundational skills and then progressively build up the candidate's skills. On achieving the Bronze Medallion level of award, the candidate receives Recognition of Prior Learning hours towards the RLSS UK vocational lifeguard qualifications.

The awards are structured into three levels (Bronze Lifesaving Certificate, Bronze Star, and Bronze Medallion), and multiple environmental strands are available at the Bronze Star and Bronze Medallion levels; Pool, Open Water and Beach.

For those of you who are currently running Survive & Save, this will continue to be offered until September 2023.

We will start to introduce the new awards next year.



Going Digital!

This year, we have made your life easier by going digital. All our member data is stored on Online Club Manager, so we can track awards, and communicate with you efficiently.

You can now pay using your debit or credit card.

Our social media pages are updated daily, which has helped communication, and has also increased our brand awareness.



Everybody Awards

Nantwich Neptune Lifesaving Club has been awarded the Everybody Club of the Year Award!

The 2022 awards took place on Friday 7th October at Crewe Hall, with host Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson and keynote speaker Eddie the Eagle Edwards.

After gaining her RLSS UK Distinction Award, Izzy Serventi, was also awarded the Young Achiever of the Year Award!

It was an absolutely amazing night, and we are so proud to have won.

The club prides itself on being a 'family', and over the last 50 years we must have contributed to saving hundreds of lives. Here's to many more!

Financial Information

Last year, we were informed that the pool hire was going to increase from £75 to £118.75. This large increase was a huge concern for us as we were without access to our bank account and were struggling to meet the £75 a week requirement. We had a huge recruitment drive and increased our weekly cost to £4 a session and are now able to access our bank account again. Due to this, we will now meet the increase of costs on most weeks and so are not looking at increasing weekly fees next year.

In the past, our membership has been a yearly fee of £15 (plus £10 for every additional child). Due to an increase in costs from the RLSS, we have had a complete review of our membership. From January, membership will be £7.50 per term (January, April and September), with £6.50 for each additional child. There is an option to pay this in a yearly sum of £22.50 per year and £19.50 for each additional child.

But what changes? From January 1st, all badges and certificates from the Rookie Lifeguard and Survive and Save schemes will be fully subsidised by the club.

If you have any concerns regarding the payment of the subs or the weekly session, please speak to Liam, Emma or Ian, or email us at NantwichLSC@outlook.com

We want to ensure that lifesaving is accessible to all, and remains that way.

Competitions

During the pandemic, we were unable to host any competitions or take part in any competitions that district have organised. In the new year, we are hoping to return to hosting our yearly club competition as well as a competition with other nearby clubs.

Please keep your eyes out for emails and more information in the new year.

Staff Training

Em and Keith currently hold Rookie Lifeguard Instructor qualifications. Chris from Chester Lifesaving Club has been visiting us over the last few weeks. He has been assessing Em and Keith, so that they can achieve their Lifesaving Instructor qualification. Chris has one more visit to make at the end of January, for their final assessments.

Liam has completed the new Lifesaving Academy Instructor course.

Matilda and Anya have completed their Assistant Lifesaving Instructor course.

In the new year we hope to run the Young Leader award for Survive and Save lifesavers who would like to help plan and run an event for the younger lifesavers. Please let Em or Liam know if you are interested in this opportunity.

wishing you a
Happy Christmas
and a wonderful 2023!