

Cridders Swimming Eye



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Aquamark Success

Cridders Swim School has been working towards the ASA kite mark award, Aquamark for the last 30 months. On the 19th November 2006 Cridders subjected itself to examination for this award. It's my pleasure to announce that we were awarded Premier Scheme Status.

Aquamark was set up to provide information for parents, that schools that provide a learn to swim programme have been subjected to external scrutiny from experts within the field. Recognition through this scheme represents a mark of real quality.

The scheme has 4 Modules.

- 1) Programme Operation
- 2) Staffing
- 3) Participant / Customer Relations
- 4) Policy and Strategy

There are two awards. Approved; passing modules 1& 2 and Premier, passing 1,2,3 & 4.

Each module is sub divided into Aims and Elements. The elements touch on many areas such as Health & Safety, Education, Child Protection and so on.

The assessment criterion is to attain a minimum score in each element. Failure in any element could lead to complete failure.

The minimum score to pass the Premier Scheme is 355. The maximum score is 608. We scored 502. In many elements we achieved 'Role Model' Status.

In the UK there are 30 Schools with Premier Status and 6 with Approved Status. Only 2 other private swim schools have achieved Premier Status. I do not know how many swim schools there are in the country, but I know there are at least 16 in Havering alone, so our achievement is significant.

Well done to all the staff and helpers for the achievement and a big thanks to all the parents and swimmers for their support.

Cridders Endeavour Trophy

During the autumn term a trophy was donated to Cridders in memory of my mum, Vera Cridland. It was donated by Stan and Beatrice Shirley of Billericay in order to recognise all the community work she did during her life, especially in the field of swimming.

Vera taught our family that no matter how many times you get knocked down, you pick yourself up dust yourself off and try again. So we decided that a trophy that recognises endeavour would be a fitting tribute. The trophy will be presented at the end of each term.

Our first recipients of this award were Benjamin and Alice Hunt. Ben and Alice have worked hard in their lessons and are worthy winners. Well done to you both.

Swim School Developments

Cridders have negotiated with Zoggs to supply us with Silicon yellow and blue hats at a reduced cost and printed with Cridders on one side and Aquamark on the other. The cost of the hat will in the first year be £3.50 but we have been able to get a rate of £2.75 as a one off special to mark the recent award of Aquamark. These hats will be available shortly and only available at this reduced rate until the end of April or until stocks are exhausted. We have 100 yellow hats and 100 blue hats.

We have been unable to do anything with the polyester black and yellow hats at this time due to the nature of the product. However we are reconsidering if we should continue with these hats or change to silicon instead. We will inform all ASAP.

Currently we are negotiating with Zoggs to set up a swim shop. The idea is that parents at Cridders would be able to buy products at discounted prices.

The swimming programme is currently under review. The ASA is currently revamping the National Plan for Teaching Swimming and we will implement the changes as and when they occur. The review should be completed by the end of 2007. Our programme is based on ASA NPTS and we are constantly trying to be innovative in our delivery of swimming lessons. We will be looking at ways to deliver the national swim plan in a way that will enthuse and challenge the swimmers in the coming years.

As some of you may be aware classes are named, e.g. Shark etc. To simplify matters we are now renaming these classes as follows. Cridders 1, through to Cridders 8. Cridders 8 would be the top of the swim school. Entry into the swim school for non-swimmers would be between Cridders 1 & 3. Entry at whatever level is dependant on a trial.

The Web Site is under review. Some parents have suggested that we could have an up to date page or current page so that you know if there is a pool closure. This is a good idea and I am in the process of discussing this with the Web Master. Any other things that you would like to see on there please let me know.

Communication is very important and although we try hard we can always improve. We are now putting notices up on the board just below the stairs to inform all of future events including where we are in the current swim programme. This will help you plan your time so that you do not miss test night etc.

We are also looking at giving out at the end of each term the teachers report of how well the swimmers have done. This may take a little time to bring in. Cost is an important factor and if possible I would prefer to email these.

It would be good if we could make greater use of the email system and will be asking people if they want to sign up for e mail updates. Some of you may have received this News Letter by E mail, if you do not want this then please advise.

I have decided that I need more back room staff to help with the increasing work-load that is falling upon my shoulders due to regulations and the desire to improve the service we provide. I will keep all informed of new personnel.

Due to our obtaining Aquamark I have appointed Julie Carnera as my Aquamark Co-ordinator and we will be working together to retain this kite mark.

Swim fit parents will also be aware of another new appointment, Karen Ridgway. She will be looking after administrative affairs on a Thursday only. She has nothing to do with swim programme at all. Karen has been with the swim school since 2001 and her children both attend the school. David her son is now in the swim fit scheme.

Swim fit parents will also be aware that Gemma Walczyk is now the lead coach at Swim Fit and Vivien Maxey and Sara Price are her assistants. Planning and development of this session is in association with Trevor Cridland the Swim School Co-ordinator.

Teacher Training

We are currently putting together a schedule of education for the year 2007 / 2008. This will be a full programme of Continual Professional Development (CPD's) and further teacher qualification in other aquatic fields such as water aerobics.

Nicola Wakeham is currently undergoing training to become a tutor in lifesaving. Other teachers are looking to become qualified in Special Needs, Water Polo and Synchronised Swimming. We are also trying to organise an ASA Helper course for our pool assistants.

In house training is on going and if any parent out there has any special qualification in the field of child care / education and feel that they could deliver a talk to our teaching staff please speak to Trevor

Pool Helpers

You will have noted that the helpers are now wearing red tee shirts. We felt that helpers needed to be easily recognised by parents, so we ditched the white helper shirts for the more vibrant colour red.

Please remember that the helpers are only assistants to the teachers and not teaching. They carry out the instructions of the teacher. Some look a lot older than they are so please be a bit patient with them. They are doing something worthwhile with their spare time and sadly these children never get recognised by the authorities.

Swim Fit

We have now implemented a programme of work that lasts in a period of six weeks. These include time trials and mini galas that have become very popular. We held some time trials recently and many swimmers got Gold, Silver, or Bronze awards. I am really impressed how well these children performed. Well done.

Well done to Jodie Stubbles, who won the first Rookie Coach award. Jodie made up a training session that the coach's thought could be used successfully.

Swimmers Corner

Did you see Daniel Charles on TV recently? Daniel was involved in making a programme called 'Secret Millionaire' shown on Channel 4. Millionaire Emma Harrison wanted to donate some money to a good cause. Daniel goes to Crossroads in Dagenham, a scheme for children with special needs, which was going to close due to lack of funds. Emma spent a lot of time talking to and playing with Daniel whilst undercover. At the end of the programme she donated £30,000 to keep the club going.

Well done Daniel and well done Emma.

We have our own budding little starlet in Megan Ruffell. Megan is an active young lady. When she is not swimming she spends her time, singing, dancing and acting. She has been short listed for many West End plays and recently she completed a short film. I am sure she will have many starring roles in the future.



And who's this? Our own little Crystal Patterson. Crystal does lots of modelling and has even modelled for Disney. Well done Crystal , Naomi Campbell eat your heart out.



Ben & Alice with their Cridders Award