



aquaFORCE

volunteers

Issue 1, March 2007

WELCOME

The purpose of this update is to provide information, news and examples of best practice for volunteers and professional staff involved in supporting and managing volunteers on a monthly basis.

Please forward this on to anyone you think it is relevant to.

AQUAFORCE AWARDS

The Amateur Swimming Association is delighted to announce that the 2007 Aquaforce Volunteer Awards will be launched on 1st March.

This year there will be four awards that include

- Outstanding contribution to club
- Outstanding contribution to county/region
- Long Service Award (25 years and over)
- Young Volunteer Award (Under 25 years old)

All nominations should be submitted to their ASA Regional Office by the 1st July. The four winners from each region will then be automatically nominated for the National Awards. If County Associations would like to feed into this process they can use the same form.

Each National winner will win tickets for yourself and a guest to attend the World Short Course at Manchester in

April 2008 with dinner and accommodation included.

To nominate someone it's a simple process. Please visit www.britishswimming.org

and complete a nomination form.

TEAM MANAGER TRAINING

The ASA Team Manager Training and Development Programme has been developed to equip volunteers with the necessary skills and knowledge in order to successfully undertake a Team Manager role.

The training comprises of two modules, one for novice Team Managers entering into a role within local competition, the second for Team Managers who are required to stay overnight or travel abroad.

Over the past 18 months over 1,000 volunteers have successfully attended the programme. The ASA is keen to build on this success and ensure that training remains free of charge. In order to achieve this, presenters will be able to access all the resources needed to run a course online in the volunteers & officials / team manager section of

www.britishswimming.org

If you would like to organise a course for your club please contact your Regional Education Officer.

CLUB AND COUNTY CONFERENCE FEEDBACK

Thank you to everyone who attended the Volunteering Workshop on the 21st January. The session was well received, and provided a successful opportunity for people to share best practice and feed into the 2007/08 ASA Volunteer Strategy.

Two key messages from the day have been incorporated into the new strategy. These were the need for more ASA resources to support volunteers and the importance of a regular and up to date communication process

Since the conference an audit of existing resources has begun, which will enable the identification and development of resources that are most needed. The launch of this monthly update is the first step to providing regular news, information and best practice to Regional and County Volunteer Coordinators who will be communication hubs for their areas. An improved website and increased profile of volunteer news will also be a priority for the ASA over subsequent months.

LEARNING LOOPS

Volunteer England has recently launched a new accredited qualification called Excellence in Volunteer Management.

The programme features training



modules, e-learning opportunities, FAQs, a good practice bank, publications and information sheets. It has also created Learning Loops.

Learning Loops are a development tool where volunteer managers are empowered to identify their learning needs and how these needs can be met. The Loops are supported by a Learning Advisor, who will work with group members to encourage sharing of experiences and knowledge amongst individuals.

If you would like to find out more information about the learning loops or any of the other features that Excellence in Volunteer Management offers please visit

[www.volunteering.org.uk/
managingvolunteers/](http://www.volunteering.org.uk/managingvolunteers/)

COMMISSION ON THE FUTURE VOLUNTEERING

Does volunteering mean the same to everyone?

Should we expect people from all cultures and backgrounds to volunteer?

Are government initiatives in the sector helping or hindering?

The Commission on the Future of Volunteering is an independent body established to develop a long-term vision for the future of volunteering within England.

Between now and 1st June 2007 volunteers across England are being asked to have their say on what is

happening in volunteering today and what they would like to see happening in 10 years.

The England Volunteering Development Council is leading the commission. The Council engages with volunteers, volunteer-involving organisations and volunteering infrastructure organisations in order to provide a coordinated lobby to steer government policy, the thinking of opposition parties and community action.

If you would like to find out more about how you can provide feedback to the Commission please visit

www.volcomm.org.uk.

CONTACT US

If you have got any information or examples of good practice that you would like to share through future updates please send it to volunteering@swimming.org

If you would like to be added to or removed from the circulation list please email volunteering@swimming.org

YOUTH AT THE TABLE

Do you think young people should be more involved in decision making processes that impact upon them?

If so there is a unique opportunity for your organisation to nominate a young person (25 years and under) to receive a free days training that will equip them with the necessary skills to be an effective and active decision maker in your organisational governance.

There are three places available on a first come first serve basis. People will be expected to show a commitment to ensuring that young people who attend the course will be given the opportunity to put their learning into practice. For further information on the training please visit www.byc.org.uk/yatt.

If you would like to register your interest in attending the workshop please email Yvette.Heywood@swimming.org before the 31st March. The date for the workshop has not been confirmed yet but it is expected to be in September 2007.

