

HALLIWICK ASSOCIATION OF SWIMMING THERAPY

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2025



C/o Hollycrofts, Walnut Tree Lane, Loose, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 9RQ
(Correspondence address only)

Registered Charity Number: 250008

ICO Registration Number: ZZ335177

The association's logo is a registered trademark ® in various jurisdictions and all rights are reserved.

HALLIWICK ASSOCIATION OF SWIMMING THERAPY

APPOINTMENTS & OFFICERS ELECTED AT THE 2025 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

For clarity, it is confirmed and underlined that the following are trustees of the association:

- a) Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer; and
- b) A named representative from each formed and active Halliwick ASTRA; and
- c) A named representative from each of the following standing committees: (i) education; (ii) publications; (iii) competitions; (iv) any other special or standing committee appointed by the Executive of the association; and
- d) Up to three other named members of the Executive co-opted to sit on the Executive of the association.

It is also underlined that trustees must be named, and able and willing to act as a trustee.

The following were duly appointed/elected as officers (as the case may be) at the association's 2025 Annual General Meeting, with trustees being denoted by '(T)', for the year 2025/26:

President –

Patrick Hastings (now sadly deceased)

Vice President – Ann Gresswell

Hon. Solicitor –

Nick Padfield (Hextalls Limited t/a Hextalls Law)

Independent Examiner –

Jason Foxwell FCCA, FCIE of Independent-examiner.net

Chair – William Wyatt MBE (T)

Vice Chair – Eric Dilley ACII (T)

Hon. Treasurer –

Dr Martyn Saville (T)

Hon. Insurance Advisor –

Eric Dilley ACII

International Halliwick Association (IHA) Representative –

Ann Thomson MBE

National Coordinating Committee

Representatives –

Ann Thomson MBE and Dawn Moore

Education Committee Representatives –

Ann Thomson MBE and Dawn Moore

Halliwick ASTRA 1 Representative –

Alison Skinner (T)

Halliwick ASTRA 2 Representative –

Chris Davis (T)

Halliwick ASTRA 5 Representative –

VACANT

Halliwick ASTRA 8 Representative –

Nicole Lawson (T)

Halliwick ASTRA 10 Representative –

Pamela Wood (T)

Halliwick ASTRA 15 Representative –

Dawn Moore (T)

Education Committee Representatives –

Ann Thomson MBE and Dawn Moore

Competitions Committee

Representative – John Bentley (T)

Data Protection Officer –

William Wyatt MBE

NOTE: The position of Secretary remains vacant with Eric Dilley ACII agreeing to act as Acting Secretary.

THE HALLIWICK ASSOCIATION OF SWIMMING THERAPY: A VERY BRIEF SYNOPSIS

The Halliwick Association of Swimming Therapy is registered with the Charity Commission for England & Wales (number 250008) and was founded in 1952. It is a data controller and processor and is registered with the ICO as such (number ZZ335177).

The Halliwick Association of Swimming Therapy promotes all aspects of swimming for disabled people. It uses the Halliwick Concept. This is an approach to teach people to participate in water activities, to move independently in water, and to swim without the use of floatation aids. It takes into consideration the benefits that can be derived from activities in water and the fundamentals necessary for learning. The Concept has also influenced hydrotherapy techniques. The Ten Point Programme provides a structure for the Halliwick training programme.

James McMillan, MBE devised the Halliwick Concept (then 'Method') in 1949. Since then, the Halliwick Concept has and continues to evolve. Any group or individual interested in the Halliwick Concept may affiliate to Halliwick AST. Groups may be swimming clubs, SEN schools, hospitals, and training centres; there are currently over 68 affiliated groups, including Personal and Overseas affiliations. The association can offer comprehensive insurance at competitive rates for affiliates. We also organise local, regional and national swimming galas.

There are also various training courses available. Details can be found on our website at <https://halliwick.org.uk/courses-training/>.

OFFICERS' & COMMITTEE REPORTS

National Chair's Report

We were very sorry to hear of the passing of Patrick Hastings on 04/08/2025. Patrick first became involved with Halliwick in 1965 when he joined Halliwick Penguins Swimming Club as a swimmer. He swam in galas but also trained as an instructor, later also becoming their treasurer. He then became this association's treasurer from 1972 to 1978, continuing to swim in club, regional and national galas until 1992. He was also (along with his late wife, Marjorie, who sadly passed away in 2010) a co-founder of Barracuda Swimming Club. In 1999, Patrick became this association's chair, a position he held until 2014. He was also heavily involved in this association's competitions committee, and helped develop and then, some years later, revise Halliwick AST's Gala Organisation Pack. We remember him with great thanks and fondness.

The association's committees (its Executive Committee and its Education Committee) along with a number of working parties have continued to meet during the year. For logistical reasons, and to preserve the association's funds, these meetings have continued to be 'virtual', which has worked well.

Others will report on various aspects of the association's work and activities during 2025, but focussing here on the 'headlines', and as far as the Executive Committee is concerned:

- We continued to recognise the work that countless people do for Halliwick up and down the UK. We were delighted to present Leigh Evans, Pat Finch BEM, Sue Woodward BEM, Graeme Knowles, Kim Knowles, Joyce Evans, Wendy Walsh, Hazel Beaver, and John Kirchoff with Distinguished Service Awards in 2025, each for Services to their club and/or region. Many congratulations to all. If there is someone in your club or group that you think deserves an award, or even just a 'thank you', take a look at <https://halliwick.org.uk/affiliation/halliwick-ast-awards/> and get in touch.
- Several of us 'showcased' Halliwick at Elevate 2025 on 18-19/06/2025, which took place at Excel in London. They were a busy and tiring two days, but enjoyable and raised our profile, not least with an engaging stall including a 'mock gala', trophy presentations, and even a virtual tour of Halliwick's history. Congratulations are due to all involved. The working party set up to explore the continuing development and viability of Halliwick AST is due to meet soon.
- We continue to represent ourselves and collaborate with others on the Swimming for Disabled People, National Coordinating Committee (the SDPNCC), and we also remain affiliated to the International Halliwick Association (the IHA). The IHA's General Meeting took place on 08/05/2025 (alongside an IHA conference), the General Meeting being re-adjourned on

22/11/2025. We were well represented and both the conference and General Meeting were successful, Halliwick AST even managing to virtually host the re-adjourned General Meeting on 22/11/2025, coordinating some rather complex voting that took place.

- Clubs and regions continue to organise competitions and this culminated, in 2025, with the Halliwick AST National Championships 2025, superbly hosted by Halliwick ASTRA 15 in Wales on 25/10/2025. The hosting was faultless, and we had a fantastic day, Halliwick ASTRA 15 being 2025 National Champions. Following the sad loss of Beryl Kelsey in August 2024, a brand-new trophy, the 'Beryl Kelsey Memorial Trophy', was presented for the first time to the winner of the Girls' Championship race. More information about the day can be found at <https://halliwick.org.uk/2025/10/26/halliwick-ast-national-championships-2025/>. The National Championships 2026 are likely to be in London, and we will confirm details immediately these are available.
- Membership of the Halliwick Community Forum Facebook Group (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/5155366197829688>) continues to grow and is proving to be a great 'safe space' for people to discuss all things Halliwick and share news within their club or group. Please join if you are an affiliated club, group, or individual.
- We published newsletters in January 2025 and February 2026, and these were circulated to clubs, groups and other affiliates. We do hope that these proved interesting and useful. Past newsletters can be found at <https://halliwick.org.uk/resources-for-halliwick-ast/newsletters/>.
- 2025 has also seen the piloting of a new programme aimed at new club volunteers. It aims to give a new club volunteer an introduction to Halliwick and the 10-point programme, through a series of videos. If this is something you would be interested in for your club, please go to <https://halliwick.org.uk/2025/08/15/volunteer-induction-programme/>.
- It is great to see that Halliwick AST courses (Foundation and Advanced) are happening and demand for them continues, as well as for one-day training days. Details of courses available are posted on our website at <https://halliwick.org.uk/courses-training/>). We are also continuing to see an increase in the order of our many publications (<https://halliwick.org.uk/resources-for-halliwick-ast/>), sales of which all go to help support the work of the association. Do take a look to see if there is anything that your club or group would benefit from.

As always, we really do need volunteers to help (whether on our committees or otherwise); I repeat my plea that if you (or someone you know) is interested in joining our Executive Committee or another committee of the association, or

has a few hours to spare and would like to do something for the association, please do get in touch. You can always email us at halliwickast.chair@gmail.com, about that, or anything else Halliwick-related. Don't forget that our website (www.halliwick.org.uk) is kept up to date and is a great place to find information and resources. Additionally, if you are an affiliated club or group, there remains a dedicated password-protected area for you, which contains additional resources for clubs and groups. If you need a password, do email the address above requesting the password and it will be sent to you.

In closing and as always, I give my sincere thanks to all who sit on our various committees, for the work that they do (on the committees and otherwise for Halliwick), and for the support they have given me and the association throughout 2025. I also, of course, thank those that affiliate to the association. Without you all, the work we do would not continue.

William Wyatt MBE
National Chair

Halliwick Association of Swimming Therapy Accounts (01/01/2025-31/12/2025) and Hon. Treasurer's Report

**NOT PUBLISHED ON WEBSITE
AVAILABLE ON REQUEST**

**Martyn Saville
Hon. Treasurer**

Acting Secretary and Insurance Officer's Report

It is always difficult to produce a report for the year's Annual Report that is interesting and does not repeat what is being said elsewhere. However, I make no apology for referring to the comments made in the Chair's report about Patrick Hastings who sadly passed away on 4th August 2025. I was not able to be present at the funeral but did manage to view the service via the internet and a very fitting service it was. I personally knew Patrick for many years, and I will miss him greatly.

As always, it has been a busy year, and I will recount the areas that I have been particularly involved with.

Affiliations

At the beginning of the year, I send to each club and Personal Affiliate papers to enable them to re-affiliate. The cost of affiliation is only £25 for clubs and £15 for Personal Affiliates. I detailed what the benefits of affiliation are in my last report for the Annual Report but if anyone wants to know what these are please do not hesitate to ask me. If nothing else, there is a wealth of experience available to everyone affiliated from people that have been involved in the Halliwick Concept for many years and who would only be too happy to share their experiences. It is always so frustrating each year that I have to chase so many people to renew.

In the last year three clubs and three Personal Affiliates did not renew their affiliation. Reasons are various but one club simply closed down because no one wanted to take over the administration of the club. I can fully appreciate that people much prefer to be instructors rather than administrators!

The other thing that cropped up regarding affiliation of clubs is that I know several clubs where indications are that they might lose their pool either due to refurbishment or financial considerations. I do know that once a club closes

down for a 'temporary' intermission it is extremely difficult to restart. Volunteers drift off and funding (if the club is lucky enough to get any) may be allocated elsewhere and is difficult to reinstate. Watch this space as there may be clubs suffering this fate in the 2026 year.

Our club closures were slightly offset by two new clubs starting up.

Insurance

This is the greatest headache of my life. Our affiliations are due on 1st January but our insurance renewal, for historic reasons, does not renew until 15th February. In the past, I have tried to issue affiliation requests in early January and then follow up with insurance requests at a later date. This created lots of enquiries about where the insurance requests were, so much so that I gave up the idea and I now send out the requests for both affiliations and insurance renewal together. Therefore, I have to wait to hear from our brokers that terms will be offered and at what those terms are. This, consequently, creates requests at the beginning of the year as to where the requests for affiliations are! I can't win.

Similar to affiliations, I spend a considerable time chasing outstanding premiums especially when clubs do not pay the correct amount!

Great credit must go to Claire Hamilton and Stephen Richards of Towergate Insurance Brokers (now renamed to Everywhere) who help us considerably each year in obtaining the best terms possible.

As far back as I can remember, the scheme has always made a loss. Now some of this can be directly attributable to the cost relating to the Halliwick Association of Swimming Therapy itself but we still subsidise the clubs. In the 2025 year, the deficit was approximately £500 but it promises to be considerably more in the 2026 year as insurance premiums constantly increase each year. I will press to keep the premiums charged to clubs as low as possible as it is the smaller clubs that suffer disproportionately more as there is a minimum premium for each of the smaller clubs. However, I have to listen to other Executive Committee members who may have different ideas about premiums.

Executive Committee Meetings

We have held three Executive Committee meetings throughout the year-25th January 2025, 27th April 2025 (followed by an Annual General Meeting) and 14th September 2025. I do try to attend each Executive Committee meeting but, unfortunately, I could not attend the September meeting. My niece bought me tickets for a couple of rugby matches (One of my other passions) during the Women's Rugby World Cup and it would have been foolish to turn them down. I saw England win their match on their way to a successful final. I got soaked but it was well worth it.

My role is to send out Agendas for each meeting and produce the minutes thereof (which is not easy whilst trying to take an active part in the meeting) and issue those minutes.

It is saddening to me that whilst we have clubs spread throughout the country very few people attend these meetings and they are open to everyone. I do appreciate that people are busy but there are only three meetings a year and they are online which means that people do not even have to travel to attend. It would be nice to see many more of you attending. It is at Executive Committee meetings that the direction of the Halliwick Association of Swimming Therapy is determined and lots of things that you may not be aware of are discussed.

Eric Dilley
Insurance Officer and Acting Secretary

Halliwick AST Education Committee Report

This report summarises the activities, developments, and achievements of the Halliwick AST Education Committee over the past year.

1. Introduction

Over the reporting period, the Education Committee has remained highly active, with a clear focus on raising the profile of Halliwick AST and expanding its educational reach. From April 2025, the Committee operated under the temporary leadership of Ann Thomson and Dawn Moore. In October 2025, Dawn Moore formally assumed the role of Chairperson. There are now four new members who form part of the education team: Emily Preater, Katie Farenden, Lewis Charlton and Vicki Graham.

2. Conferences and External Engagement

2.1. IHA Conference – Slovenia (May 2025): Alison Skinner, Ann Thomson, and Dawn Moore attended the International Halliwick Association (IHA) Conference in person. Dawn Moore delivered a presentation on Neurodiversity and strategies using the Halliwick Concept, which was very well received and resulted in an invitation to present in Denmark in 2026. Sarah Cox and William Wyatt participated in the conference online.

2.2. Elevate Exhibition – London Excel (June 2025): Members of the Education Team exhibited at the Elevate event at London Excel. This large-scale exhibition provided an opportunity to showcase the Halliwick Concept. Ann Thomson and Dawn Moore delivered a presentation on the history and philosophy of Halliwick, including a focus on neurodiversity and pool-based strategies. The exhibition required significant preparation but proved highly engaging, particularly with the ‘Swimming Gala’. We also had a VR experience created and a special thanks to Chris Economides for helping Dawn Moore to create and

develop the stand and generally pandering to whatever was in Dawn's head that she wanted to make. Thank you to William for the extra work that was needed and to Martyn for the daily entertainment. Elevate was attended by Alison Skinner, Ann Thomson, Chris Economides, Dawn Moore, Martyn Saville, Sarah Cox and William Wyatt.

3. Programme Development

3.1. First Aid / Keeping Safe Course: A new course aimed at disabled individuals, particularly those with ASD, is currently in development and nearing the trial phase. Initial trials will involve swimmers from Rhondda Polar Bears DSC. This initiative has been developed by Dawn Moore in collaboration with Richard Jones (Valley Training and Consultancy), who has generously contributed his time on a voluntary basis.

3.2. Induction for New Volunteers: A structured induction programme consisting of videos, questions, and certification has been launched. The programme was piloted at: Blaenau Gwent Otters; Cardiff Whales; and Halliwick Penguins. Feedback from the pilot phase was extremely positive. The programme has since been rolled out more widely and has also been used as a revision tool within foundation courses.

3.3. Green Foundation Course Handbook Update: Work has commenced on updating the Green Foundation Course Handbooks. Regular meetings have been held involving Alison Skinner; Ann Thomson; Chris Economides; Dawn Moore; and Katy Farenden. Initial contributions were also made by Catherine Kelsey and Sarah Cox.

4. Media and Outreach

During 2025, Halliwick AST contributed to two podcasts:

- a) STA Podcast: Dawn Moore liaised with Kayle Brightwell from STA and agreed a topic, then asked if Sarah Cox would like to be the guest speaker. Sarah Cox guest spoke about the importance of rotations in swimming. Although Halliwick could not be discussed in detail, listeners were directed to the association's website.
- b) Cardiff Video Podcast: Dawn Moore presented on the Halliwick Concept, including the history and philosophy, its application across UK clubs and settings and signposted to the website. This was an exclusive session for Halliwick AST.

5. Training and Courses Delivered

Over the past year, the following training activities were delivered:

- a) 3 Foundation Courses in Rhondda – Chris Economides & Dawn Moore (2) Dawn Moore (1); and
- b) 1 Advanced Course in Rhondda – Alison Skinner & Ann Thomson, Chris Economides and Dawn Moore assisting; and

- c) 1 Foundation Course – Hitchin – Alison Skinner & Ann Thomson, Dawn Moore; and
- d) 1 Foundation Course – Gibraltar – Sarah Cox; and
- e) 1 Foundation Course – Cambridge – Sarah Cox; and
- f) 1 Training Day – Lancashire – Chris Economides & Dawn Moore.

Leading on from the Rhondda Course last October, we have had a couple of new affiliations, with one being a club which brings the affiliated busy clubs in South Wales up to 7. The other in East Riding.

6. Club Engagement

Chris Economides and Dawn Moore visited Barracuda and Halliwick Penguins, as well as all Halliwick ASTRA 15 clubs. The Committee continues to offer visits to affiliated clubs as part of its support and engagement strategy.

7. Community Initiatives

7.1. Halliwick Community Forum: Live sessions have been reinstated, with the first session focusing on Games and activities for young adults as suggested by Lewis Charlton, featuring guest speaker Helen Hughes. The next session will address the new Halliwick AST Water Skills Awards.

7.2. Halliwick AST Water Skills Awards: This initiative, developed as a legacy to Beryl Kelsey, is nearing completion and will soon enter the pilot phase. Key contributors include Ann Thomson; Camilla Benincasa; and Jane Stewart Parry. Jane recently talked about this on the Foundation Course in Rhondda.

8. Collaboration and Future Development

Dawn Moore has initiated discussions with: Lissa Davies (Octopus Swim School); Level Water; and Helen Hughes (Mini Water Adventurers). These discussions aim to explore training collaboration in the Halliwick ASTRA 2 region, and development of a new updated publication focused on games and activities with additional material. Further updates are anticipated.

9. International Activity – Denmark (February 2026)

Dawn Moore led a team to Denmark to participate in the HASAM Gala and delivered a two-hour presentation on neurodiversity and Halliwick strategies. The presentation was well received, by both in-person and online audiences. The trip included 38 participants (including 18 swimmers). This included a programme of organised activities, including cultural and recreational visits. The swimming team achieved: 2 individual gold medals; 2 relay gold medals; 1 individual silver medal; and 1 relay silver medal. The event provided both competitive success and valuable international experience. A special mention to Bodil Føns Knudsen and the Danish gala organisation for their wonderful welcome and hospitality.

10. Marketing and Publications

Dawn Moore, Martyn Saville and William Wyatt are planning to meet prior to the AGM to discuss marketing strategies and new publication materials and merchandise. An update is expected at the AGM.

11. Conclusion

The Education Committee has demonstrated a high level of activity, innovation, and commitment throughout the year. Its work has contributed significantly to the development, visibility, and impact of Halliwick AST. The Committee remains dedicated to continuing this progress and further strengthening the organisation in the year ahead.

**Dawn Moore,
Chair, Education Committee**

Halliwick AST International Halliwick Association (IHA) Report

1. IHA Conference 2025 Ljubljana, Slovenia 9th and 10th May 2025

Dawn Moore and Chris Economides submitted Abstracts for the conference, and both were accepted. Subsequently, Chris had to withdraw his poster and was unable to attend in **Ljubljana, Slovenia**. Dawn Moore's abstract was accepted for presentation and was subsequently promoted to a Keynote Lecture. Congratulations to Dawn. The topic covered the Halliwick Concept and Neurodiversity

2. The IHA General Meeting 2025 Ljubljana, Slovenia 8th May 2025

Alison Skinner; Ann Thomson; Dawn Moore attended in person. William Wyatt and Sarah Cox attended online. Discussion on the following Agenda items was postponed to a reconvened meeting later in the year:

- Certificate fee for Foundation/Advanced Courses
- Emeritus Awards
- Annual Subscriptions

Alison Skinner, Ann Thomson and Dawn Moore thanked Halliwick AST for the financial support towards attending the General Meeting and conference.

3. Election of Halliwick AST members to IHA Committees

The IHA General Meeting 2025 part two was held on Saturday, 22 November 2025.

4. Report on IHA Matters to Halliwick AST Executive Committee Meeting 27th April 2025

Papers to be discussed have been circulated. There are three papers to be voted on, the content of which will be on the Halliwick AST Executive Committee Agenda so that the vote holder at the GM can vote according to

the wishes of Halliwick AST. The papers are attached to an email from the IHA on 23/03/2025:

- i. Executive Committee: Fee for certificates (Attachment 3)
- ii. E&R Committee: Emeritus Lecturer (Attachment 4)
- iii. E&R Committee Approval of the documents: to be a Senior Lecturer.

At the time of writing, Halliwick AST members attending in person are Alison Skinner; Ann Thomson; and Dawn Moore.

Dawn Moore's abstract was accepted for presentation and has since been promoted to a Key Lecture. Congratulations to Dawn.

At the time of writing, two members of Halliwick AST are standing for election to IHA Committees. Ann Thomson for the Executive and Dawn Moore for the Gala.

5. Report on IHA matters for Halliwick AST National Executive Committee 14th September 2025

1. IHA General Meeting (GM)

Ljubljana, Slovenia. 8th May

GM attended in person by Alison Skinner (AS), Ann Thomson (AT), Dawn Moore (DM) and online by William Wyatt (WW) and Sarah Cox (SC).

Minutes should have been received by all members.

It was agreed to postpone decisions on:

- The certificate fee for Foundation/Advanced Courses
- Emeritus Awards
- Annual Subscriptions

The date for the reconvened component of the meeting was 20/09/2025, but this has been postponed.

Ann Thomson was elected to the Executive Committee. Dawn Moore was elected to the Gala Committee. After the meeting, Chris Economides was co-opted to the Education and Research Committee. So, Halliwick AST is well represented.

Dawn Moore's lecture as a Keynote Speaker on Neurodiversity and Halliwick was very well received.

Topics covered in the Conference:

Balance Control and Proprioception: Hydrotherapy Exercise for Cancer clients: Perceived Effects of Aquatic Rehabilitation on Students' Psychological Well-Being and Physical Health: Competitions for people with disabilities: Halliwick, A Multidisciplinary Opportunity Making an Impact: Underwater Bubble Blower and Floating rings: Halliwick Concept and Competitive Swimming for people with neurodiversity: Effects of Water Immersion on Respiratory Muscle

Strength in Patients with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy: Water Through the Screen. The inevitable future of online exams: Halliwick Gala competition with time handicap: evaluation measures - WOTA, AIM, SWIM (psychometric validated): Adaptation of strokes, entries, exits and turns for different disabilities Link between 10-point program and swimming strokes. Alison Skinner, Ann Thomson and Dawn Moore attended in person. Sarah Cox attended online. Alison Skinner, Ann Thomson and Dawn Moore would like to thank Halliwick AST for the financial support towards attendance at the GM and Conference.

Ann Thomson MBE
Halliwick AST IHA Representative

Report from National Co-ordinating Committee - Swimming for Disabled People (NCC-SDP)

Aquatic Therapy Pool Rescue Award (ATPRA)

For information go to: <https://www.rlss.org.uk/aquatic-therapy-pool-rescue-award-atpra>.

Olive Bowes (OB) had requested a copy of the content for review. Some issues discussed were lack of people to deliver the course and exclusion of SEN/ALN Schools. MH will contact Nick Grazier (RLSS) again.

The Joan Martin Memorial Fund

The NCC-SDP donated a total of £5,000 to Halliwick AST in memory of Joan who was a founder member of the Committee. In 2019 a face-to-face event was held in London for Halliwick AST members. £2,000 was used to subsidise travel and refreshments. The next event was held online because of Covid-19. In 2025 Halliwick AST asked if the NCC-SDP would agree to a change of purpose for the fund to the development of educational videos. The NCC-SDP agreed to transfer the remainder of the fund (£3,000). The training videos were completed and some clubs have started using them. Joan Martin's name features in the credits.

Grant Funding

Of interest to Halliwick AST is that Cardiff Whales Halliwick DSC were awarded the full grant with the proviso that the Governing Body (Halliwick AST) would overview the use of the grant to spend on training a volunteer and to produce leaflets advertising for volunteers. This has been a great success. The Club meets regularly on Sundays, and the number of swimmers and volunteers has increased. The volunteer has successfully completed both the Foundation Course and the Advanced Course.

Halliwick AST Podcast with STA

Sarah Cox from Halliwick AST joined Kayle Brightwell from STA on the STA podcast where the topic was 'The Importance of Rotations'. The podcast was well received.

Numerous emails have been sent to Level Water and invited them to have a representative on the NCC-SDP, but a response has not been received from Level Water so far.

**Ann Thomson MBE and Dawn Moore
Halliwick AST NCC-SDP Representatives**

Certificate Registrar's Report

Halliwick AST: Record of Certificates of Competence for 2025

Date	Venue	Name	Assessor	Awarded
17/04/2025	Rhondda Sports Centre	Dawn Moore	Alison Skinner	Certificate as Halliwick Lecturer (No. 2012)
27/07/2025	Rhondda Sports Centre	Christopher Economides	Ann Thomson	Advanced Course Assistant/Pool Demonstrator (No. 0001)

**Chris Economides
Certificates Registrar**

REPORTS FROM THE REGIONS

Halliwick ASTRA 1

Active clubs within the region are Barking Beavers SC, Halliwick Penguins SC, Pimlico Puffins SC, Redbridge Dippers SC, Venturers SC and 'We Swim' (with several clubs under that banner – Barbican, Canada Water, Crouch End, Elephant & Castle, Hoxton, Old Street, Tottenham Green, Queen's Park, and Vauxhall). We also 'adopt' Barracuda SC (officially in Halliwick ASTRA 11 but the only active club in that region).

We were deeply sorry to hear of the sad passing of Patrick Hastings on 04/08/2025. Patrick was a long-time member of Halliwick Penguins SC, and co-founded Barracuda SC with his late wife, Marjorie. He was also, of course, heavily involved in Halliwick nationally. We remember him with thanks for all that he did for Halliwick.

Halliwick Penguins SC have a new chair, Prakash Patel, and he is fulfilling the role very well with the support of a full committee. The past chair, William Wyatt MBE, is now one of their vice presidents. We were sad to say 'goodbye' to Sylvia Burrows of Barracuda SC (who has now retired) but are pleased to see the club continues.

Our clubs are continuing their return to competition, and we held our regional gala (although later in the year than we have held them in past years), in September 2025, which was greatly enjoyed by all, and superbly organised by John Bentley and his team. We were also very excited to have swimmers from Barking Beavers SC, Halliwick Penguins SC and Pimlico Puffins SC represent the region at the National Championships in October 2025, which were superbly hosted by Halliwick ASTRA 15 in Wales. We were only able to field a small team for the day but, given our size, we did well. Many congratulations to Halliwick ASTRA 15 (Wales), who were overall winners.

A Hertfordshire Foundation Course was held in 2025 and went well. We hope that a London-based Foundation Course will take place in the not-too-distant future. We will also be planning our regional gala 2026 with a mind to the National Championships 2026.

We remain somewhat 'behind' with our Annual General Meetings, but we hope to get 'back on track' very soon. Janet Jones BEM continues as Chair, with William Wyatt MBE as Secretary and Alison Skinner as Treasurer (assisted by Darren Pallett). The region continues to be financially viable.

William Wyatt MBE, Secretary to Region 1

Halliwick ASTRA 2

Halliwick ASTRA Two (London-South of the River Thames, Kent, Surrey and Sussex) have three clubs that are still running. These are Conquest Swimming Club based in Beckenham; Enterprise Swimming Club based in Purley and

Spartan Swimming Club based in New Malden. Unfortunately, Thanet Beavers Swimming Club dissolved last year.

We held a Regional Gala in Sevenoaks Leisure Centre, and a team went forward to the National Gala in Rhondda, Wales held on 25th October 2025.

We have regular committee meetings throughout the year.

Two instructors met with Dawn and Chris online last week to go through the new induction programme for two members of the Enterprise Swimming Club.

Chris Davis, Secretary to Region 2

Halliwick ASTRA 5

No report has been forthcoming. This is still an active Region.

Halliwick ASTRA 8

After a short break for the Christmas festivities, we returned to swimming.

Due to local issues at Crewe Leisure Centre with the small pool, we were joined for the first three months of the year by the Alpha Swim Scheme members. A small group, adapted, fun-based learning scheme for children with special educational needs and disabilities. The sessions are designed for children with autism and other neuro diverse conditions and offer smaller groups & stronger instructor ratios to provide a more relaxed and supportive environment. It tends to be a group of very young children who attend to develop water confidence over ten sessions. The Seahorse Swimming Club is the natural next step for some of these youngsters though due to volunteer numbers currently we are restricted to offering the opportunities to swimmers or those whose parents will initially support in the pool.

We have planned our invitational gala at Sale on the morning of 14th June the regional gala at Crewe on the evening of Saturday the 26th of September. Swimmers are already in training for these events.

We have arranged to award Halliwick certificates to a number of stalwart volunteers in Astra 8 when we meet for the invitational gala. We look forward to sharing photographs of this event in due course.

This year Seahorse group will celebrate our 70th anniversary, Sailfin their 50th & Aquadis their 56th anniversary year (sadly their golden jubilee was not celebrated at the time due to Covid/ lockdown rules). To celebrate our combined 176 years, we are planning a picnic at Tatton Park which is fairly central to our clubs.

Seahorse were thanked by the Rotary Club for our annual contribution (an evening collecting with the Santa float) and received a donation to support the club. One of our local swimmers, Caroline, has recently completed her swim to raise funds for Hope House (A Children's Hospice) and Ethan Carroll completed his charity swim for the Wishing Well project. A project which

delivers community led activities and events designed to promote health, well-being and personal development locally. We raised £280 for Children in Need in November.

Seahorse have been nominated by BBC radio Stoke for the “make a difference award” in the Community Group Category.

Seahorse said au revoir to Esmee, one of our lovely volunteers who is travelling on a gap year.

Halliwick ASTRA 10

No report has been forthcoming. This is still an active Region.

Halliwick ASTRA 15

Regional Overview

The Welsh region continues to be a very strong region, already consisting of six clubs working together, and we now look forward to working with the newly affiliated Swansea Stingrays, who have a planned visit on the 12th of April 2026. This brings us to a total of seven clubs.

Training & Development

The region has hosted three Foundation Courses and one Advanced Course over the past year. From these courses, the region has gained seven new instructors and three advanced instructors. We congratulate them on their hard work for their clubs.

Chris and I delivered our annual mini-Halliwick training session for the region free of charge. This is well-attended and available to all affiliated instructors, helpers, and more able swimmers. It includes two hours in the classroom and 1.5 hours in the pool, providing a brief overview of the Halliwick Concept.

At our last Foundation Course, we gave out a new certificate for Halliwick AST to Charlotte Gallacher from Rhondda Polar Bears. Charlotte has proved to be invaluable for pool demonstrations and the participants really enjoy interacting with Charlotte who is autistic. Charlotte was awarded ‘Pool Demonstrator’ certificate after demonstrating on three courses.

Club Milestones & Achievements

Gwent Dolphins and Rhondda Polar Bears celebrate 50 years this year, with a planned inclusive surfing day to mark the occasion, along with limited-edition club merchandise.

At our last presentation, we added seven more trophies to our already extensive collection, due to our ever-increasing numbers. These included inventive titles such as the ‘Frosty Paws’ Cup and the ‘Cooler Than an Iceberg’ Cup.

Competitions & Events

A successful Halliwick AST National Gala was hosted in Rhondda for the first time, with Wales continuing their winning streak, closely followed by Halliwick ASTRA 8. It was wonderful to see Halliwick ASTRA 1 and 2 able to make the journey and be welcomed to the home of the Rhondda Polar Bears.

Three swimmers from Barry Beavers, three swimmers from Blaenau Gwent Otters, and twelve swimmers from Rhondda Polar Bears competed in Denmark in February 2026 at their first international gala.

Thank you to Chris Economides and Sue Woodward for helping me in Denmark, and a special thank you to Bodil and the Danish team for making us feel very welcome. (I am happy to hire Sue Woodward out as the entertainment team to raise money for our region!)

This year, we are delighted to welcome Towy Salmon back to competing in galas and we look forward to Towy Salmon hosting their first gala in a number of years in beautiful Carmarthen where they boast an 8-lane pool.

Fundraising & Social Activities

Last year, the Otters hosted their second successful annual fun day to raise money for their club, and a stall was also set up to raise money for the region. Unfortunately, we couldn't persuade Chris Economides to go in the stocks this time – there was some vague excuse from him as to why he couldn't.

Towy Salmon were inventive last year when the pool closed for maintenance for three months. Chris and I enjoyed joining the club for a bowling session, followed by a singing, dancing, and arts and crafts session, and a wonderful buffet.

Barry Beavers enjoyed a trip to Fonmon Castle, and Blaenau Gwent Otters enjoyed their annual trip to Torquay.

Cardiff Whales enjoyed a sponsored event raising a lot of money and the club is enjoying increased membership under advanced instructor, Lucy.

Community Support & Partnerships

The Rhondda Polar Bears enjoyed their presentation evening with special guests, including our regional president, Keith Beer, the Mayor of Rhondda Cynon Taff, and the Rhondda Rotary Club. The club is very well supported by the Rotary Club each year and has also benefitted from being one of the mayor's chosen charities last year.

The Rhondda Polar Bears also benefit from affiliating with RCT Sport, which enables them to access small grants. These have included funding for the pool and hall for last year's National Gala, as well as hire costs for the regional mini training session.

Member Spotlight

Over the past year, one of the swimmers from Gwent Dolphins had a serious accident and spent most of the year in hospital. The outcome was that Kailem would not be able to walk again. We have observed Kailem's sheer determination, along with the dedication of his foster parents, Graeme and Kim (Gwent Dolphins chairman), who finally brought Kailem home to his own adapted bungalow. There, he is able to transfer using a wheelchair and pull himself up to stand using walking sticks and a frame. As a region, we are incredibly proud of Kailem and how strong he has been. This is largely due to the support of Graeme and Kim, who visited him most days whilst he was in hospital, worked with various agencies, and pushed for him to have accommodation near them so they could continue to support him.

Closing Remarks

As a region, our support for one another is strong, and as Chair of Halliwick ASTRA 15, I would like to thank every member for their dedication. I would also like to thank my fellow committee members for all their support, especially at galas, despite some of them dealing with health issues.

Dawn Moore
Chair to Region 15