

## GB #1 CLUB

### CES Grabs Number One Senior Slot

They say that statistics and "league tables" can be made to read what you wish. But the results from the ASFGB points evaluation for National Long and Short Course events in 2002 are beyond dispute putting City of Edinburgh Swimming at the top of GB Senior Points Table for the year. This is an achievement of which all the swimmers can be proud and, as Head Coach Tim Jones commented, "This is a mantle that I certainly do not intend to give up lightly".

Points scored at the GB Long and Short Course events have been totalled to arrive at the final senior tally. CES does not compete at the National Age Groups or other youth events, so those have been discounted.

Overall performance tables that include world ranking positions issued by ASFGB put CES in number two position in GB rankings, just behind Barnet Copthall whose star swimmer Sarah Price scored so well at the Commonwealth Games. Sarah is currently ranked in the world top three. Sarah has trained with CES on a number of occasions so we would like to think that we have helped her on her way!

The results achieved in 2002 put CES in prime spot for ASFGB funding to enable us to build further on the momentum currently being achieved by the programme. Chief Executive Jamie Edgar commented, "Scoring at this level is achieved by having world ranked swimmers supported by strength in depth throughout the squad. At CES, we are scoring at all levels and this is what has propelled us to number one spot in the GB senior rankings"

## Jamie Retires in Style



No, your eyes are not deceiving you ... Jamie Salter turned up to his retirement party at the Ceilidh-Donia Hotel dressed for the occasion, complete with pipe and slippers. Presenting Jamie with Life Membership of CES, Chief Executive Jamie Edgar commented, "There is not a single swimmer in CES who has not been positively influenced by Jamie in some way. Jamie was the first swimmer to join the programme and he set the standard right away for enthusiasm, commitment and success."

In reply, Jamie spoke of the high points in his career, the pinnacle for him being placed sixth at the 2000 Olympics. An Olympic medal was the only one that ever eluded him, but his advice to swimmers who have set their ambitions at that level is "Live the Dream!"

**Tribute - see overleaf**

## TIM'S REPEAT PERFORMANCE by a Special Correspondent

City of Edinburgh swimming coach Tim Jones has been credited with the 'Scottish Swimming Coach of the Year' accolade. It's the second time Tim has won this award, the last being back in 2001. He now has his attention firmly focused on the Olympic Games in Athens in 2004 and feels that his swimmers deserve as much credit for the award as he does.

Modestly, Tim told the press that the award was largely down to the performances of the athletes. "Without all the hard work that they put in then something like this wouldn't have been possible. The main focus has to be the Olympic Games in Athens in 2004 and there is a good chance that some of the swimmers could reap the reward there for all their hard work."

The fact that City of Edinburgh is producing athletes capable of competing at this level is all the more remarkable, Tim claims, because the club has only been in existence for six years. "Six years may sound a long time but in swimming terms it's not. The programme is really still in its infancy, yet we are already regarded by many as the top ranked programme in Britain."

Scottish Swimming's Chief Executive, Paul Bush, believes Tim fully deserves the recognition for the work he has put in. "The award for Tim Jones recognises his efforts over a number of years in developing the City of Edinburgh programme as one of the best in Great Britain and is most deserved," he said. I am sure we all agree.

# GOOD LUCK JAMIE

writes Tim Jones

Edinburgh star Jamie Salter finally hung up his trunks this past month on an illustrious career that spanned 3 Commonwealth and 2 Olympic Games.

Salter, 27, had been the pinnacle of world swimming for a number of years, winning many major Games medals along the way.

Originating from Redditch in the West Midlands, Jamie first came to prominence as a young age grouper displaying his talents on both backstroke and freestyle. From success as a junior swimmer he moved in 1992 into the City of Birmingham Advanced Swimming Coaching Scheme to ply his trade and develop alongside seasoned internationals Nick Gillingham, Paul Howe, and Adam Ruckwood.

**His first major breakthrough into senior swimming came in 1994 when he won the British Senior title for the 200m Freestyle and qualified for his first Commonwealth Games, which took place in Victoria, Canada. This proved to be the starting point of his medal-winning career when he won a bronze with the English men's relay team.**

Indeed, in his early years on the senior team, Jamie was more renowned for his ability to anchor the Men's 4 x 200m Freestyle teams to international medals than his performance in individual events. It was only after moving to Edinburgh shortly after the 1996 Atlanta Olympic Games (where he again recorded one of the fastest relay split times in the world) that he began to show real potential in individual events.

The summer of 1997 saw him break the illusive 1 minute 50 second barrier on the 200m Freestyle for the first time at the European Championships when finishing just outside the medals, but he again swam superbly in bringing home his relay squad for gold a couple of days later.

1998 proved to be a frustrating affair ruined by illness which forced him to take time out and re-evaluate his plans prior to the run-in to the Sydney Olympics. However the sign of things to come during the Olympic season came in December 1999 when Jamie won his first international individual medal at the European Short Course when placing 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 400m Freestyle in a new British record time.

Jamie was one of the few British highlights at the 2000 Olympic Games. Meticulous preparation and attention to detail saw him qualify for the semi-finals and then final of the 200m Freestyle with a series of personal best times. Pitched against the might of Ian Thorpe and Pieter van den Hoogenband, Jamie still managed a credible 6<sup>th</sup> place in what was the highlight of his career. Again in the relay event the British team were always challenging for the medal placings only to finish 5<sup>th</sup>, a tantalising 2/10th of a second away from second spot.

Since the Olympics Jamie has enjoyed successful campaigns in qualifying for the World Championships in 2001 despite carrying an injury, and picking up a relay bronze at last years' Commonwealth Games in Manchester. During this time he also managed to set a new British Short Course Record mark for the 200m Freestyle when competing at the 2001 Scottish Winter Meet in Inverness.

This last 6 months has once again seen Jamie refocus and set his sights on finishing his career on a high. It was particularly fitting that during his final race, the 200m Freestyle at the British Championships that he once again showed the class and flair that had been his trademark over the past 9 seasons. The rest of the competitors around him were simply not up to the task. His winning time of 1:49.12 put him over two seconds clear of the rest of the field. He climbed out of the pool to a huge ovation from the crowd that was fitting to such a servant of British swimming.

Jamie Salter's impact on City of Edinburgh Swimming is now around us for all to see. We have a team of swimmers that can compete on equal terms with the best in the world. Through the standards that he set, the time he spent helping to educate his colleagues, and motivation he gave, no one should ever underestimate the influence he has had on our programme.

## Edinburgh International 2003

The weekend of 12/13<sup>th</sup> April saw the Edinburgh International once again at the Royal Commonwealth Pool, Edinburgh. Supported by City of Edinburgh Council, Speedo and local businesses, the event emphasised its growing importance in the swimming calendar. Although the number of entries was considerably more than could be accommodated, the programme was extended from last year to give as many young swimmers as possible a chance to compete at this long course event. The high standard of swimming in the heats led to enthralling and closely contested finals in the two evening sessions.

MSP Margo MacDonald opened the event and attended both sets of finals. Margo was a competitive swimmer from the age of 7 and took special interest in the younger age groups, commenting on the high standard of technique being demonstrated by the sub-teenagers. The opportunity was taken to ensure that she continues to lobby parliament on behalf of non-commercial sport!

Over 50 clubs attended the event with a number from south of the border. As usual, City of Newcastle sent a strong team. However, first prize for vociferous support must go to South Aberdeen! We were pleased to welcome once again our friends from Iceland who demonstrated what can be done from training in an outdoor 25m pool all year round! It may interest readers to know that there are three 50m pools in Iceland, and they are all outdoor! Congratulations to their 17 years+ female freestyler and flyer who won best girl in that category.

As always, the technical officials led by Peter Syer did an outstanding job. We were also grateful to the staff of the RCP for the well presented state of the facility, and even the scoreboard behaved itself!

Speedo donated eight prizes of a 'Fast-Skin' swimsuit set, valued at almost £200 each, in each of the age-group categories – a truly great prize. Many thanks also to City of Edinburgh Council for their support under the FutureSport programme.

But, of course, it's all about swimming. CES Chief Exec Jamie Edgar was heard to comment, "We had almost 1000 swimmers in the water this weekend – some of them will go on to be world class swimmers. I don't know who, but I'm sure we watched one or two today"

**Results are available at [www.scottishswimming.com](http://www.scottishswimming.com)**