



National Plan for Teaching Swimming Case Studies, 2008

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Regional Business Manager	Nikki Merrill

Sarah is happy to discuss Hatfield Swim Centre's experience of implementing the NPTS. Before doing so, you may wish to read her following comments about the process.

How did you find out about the new NPTS?	Attended ASA conferences														
Were you implementing the NPTS 1997 edition?	No														
When did you start to implement the NPTS 2007 edition?	N/A														
How easy was it to purchase your NPTS pack?	Placing the order was no problem but the delay in receiving the pack caused problems in organising the implementation of it as we launched in January.														
Do you think it is good value for money?															
Did you attend any CPD training and if "yes" how did you find out about the courses and were they useful? If you have not attended any of these CPD's could you please explain why?	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 80%;">NPTS Overview</td> <td style="text-align: right;">Y</td> </tr> <tr> <td>NPTS FUNdamentals</td> <td style="text-align: right;">N</td> </tr> <tr> <td>NPTS mini-polo!</td> <td style="text-align: right;">Y</td> </tr> <tr> <td>NPTS Flip n Fun</td> <td style="text-align: right;">Y</td> </tr> <tr> <td>NPTS Aquafun</td> <td style="text-align: right;">N</td> </tr> <tr> <td>NPTS Competitive Development</td> <td style="text-align: right;">N</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Others:</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Comments: Found out about the courses through Nikki Merrill (regional business manager) and the ASA website. The mini-polo and flip n fun courses were good for the technical knowledge of each sport but it was not clear how it fitted in and followed on from the NPTS. More handouts on session ideas/plans, games, practices etc would be good.</p>	NPTS Overview	Y	NPTS FUNdamentals	N	NPTS mini-polo!	Y	NPTS Flip n Fun	Y	NPTS Aquafun	N	NPTS Competitive Development	N	Others:	
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Please detail the resources used to help you implement the new NPTS?

Nikki Merrill- who was extremely helpful and went out of her way to assist in our switch from STA to the NPTS.

Parent's evening- although not hugely attended by parents very beneficial to those who did attend.

Launch Day- very successful with a good attendance from kids and parents. However the booking of this was not well organised. I requested the posters and invite to arrive early to ensure they could go out with the rebooking letters before Christmas these did not arrive until 1 week before the event despite myself and Nikki Merrill chasing them. This did not leave enough time to send them out to all of our current swimmers. I also requested additional invites as we had over 900 current swimmers and we did not receive enough for each swimmer. This mean we had to create our own invites to send out.

NPTS programmers pack- arrived extremely late causing huge problems with organising and implementing the new scheme. The most frustrating thing is that no-one was able to give an accurate answer as to when the pack was going to be available and every date that we were given was put back. This meant it was impossible to plan and prepare for the launch. The pack we were first told would be available from end of August beginning of September finally arrived late October.

DVD/CD pack- arrived after we had already launched the scheme. The ticksheets etc on the CD are terrible I had already put together scheme's of work, ticksheets, registers etc temporarily whilst waiting for this to arrive and the one we had put together are far better than those provided by the ASA.

The delay in information lead to a delay in us producing our in-house swim school leaflet. Once complete I emailed it to your department that signs off literature including the ASA logo. This was sent at the end of November. A month later at the end of December I received a reply stating a number of changes needed to be made, This was far too late as we were launching in January so therefore we had already sent it to print. We also found that some of the alterations requested were rather petty as we were promoting the ASA.

<p>What other resources would you like the ASA to develop as a priority?</p>	<p>1. more training for teachers on how to teach and assess the new scheme. Different games, 2. Better tick-sheets, registers and scheme's of work 3.</p>
<p>What were the main skills gaps areas with the swimmers when you transferred and how did you overcome these?</p>	<p>Butterfly is continuing to be problem as our higher level swimmer are not capable of completing the distance required in butterfly to the correct standard but are able to achieve everything else. We have overcome this by allowing them to move up to the next stage if they can complete everything else required.</p>
<p>Based on your experience is there anything you would have done differently?</p>	<p>Waited longer to launch the scheme as I felt that the ASA were not at all ready for January.</p>
<p>Do you feel you received sufficient help from your RBM? How can we improve the service the ASA give you?</p>	<p>Yes Nikki Merrill has been extremely helpful going out of her way trying to resolve some of the issues we faced regarding the launch day and producing our swim school leaflet. Nikki also replies very promptly to all enquires. The ASA can improve by producing information and literature by the date they first stated and responding to queries regarding launch day and literature quicker.</p>
<p>Please could you detail if you are currently using or considering using any of the other ASA awards eg- Swim a Song/ Distance Badges?</p>	<p>We currently use the swim a song and distance badges and challenge awards</p>
<p>What would be your key recommendations for a programme yet to implement the new NPTS?</p>	<p>Thorough training for teachers</p>

Olympic diver Pete Waterfield marks the launch of the NPTS at Hatfield Swim Centre

