



# Tales

## **Parent Advisory Board –**

As I mentioned in the previous email we will begin initiating the formation of a Parent Advisory Board. This volunteer board will help to guide the direction of the team and provide the support needed for the swimmers to reach their fullest potential. I am including a list and basic description of the open positions on the board. I would like to begin solicitation nominations so we may begin the work of developing a team handbook and bi-laws. If you have nominations (either yourself or another parent), suggestions or questions please email me [pbennett@wpi.edu](mailto:pbennett@wpi.edu), or stop me on the pool deck – I am in Londonderry on Mondays and Wednesdays and in Salem on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Sundays.

**President** – responsible for running PAB meetings, works with the coaching staff and PAB members to ensure resources are optimized toward improving the whole athlete experience.

**Secretary** – responsible for taking meeting minutes, publishing these for team viewing and assisting/guiding team newsletter.

**Webmaster** – responsible for updating the website, compiling entries and database management.

**Senior Group Parent Representative** (1 member) – responsible for bringing the needs and issues of the Senior Group swimmers to the PAB.

**Junior Group Parent Representative** (1 member) – responsible for bringing the needs and issues of the Junior Group swimmers to the PAB.

**Age Group Parent Representative** (1-2 members) – responsible for bringing the needs and issues of the Age Group swimmers to the PAB.

**At-Large-Parent-Representative** (2 members)

All members of the PAB work with the Head Coach (also a member of the PAB), to help guide the team, organize events and plan for the future and growth of all

*members of the RAYS. The PAB will meet once monthly, with the exception of the months of December and February. We will make every attempt to schedule meetings to coincide with practices. Each position on the PAB will have at least one responsibility – i.e. meet management, fundraising, team store, volunteer coordinator – etc. All positions on the PAB are subject to a two year term, with alternating elections so as not to allow multiple positions to become vacant in the same year. For the first PAB we will take nominations and volunteers, and begin the team-wide voting process once the PAB is established and stable.*

### **Meet the Head Coach –**

It occurred to me recently that while I have been working with your athletes for the last nine months, and the swimmers may know me, most parents do not, so I thought I would share a little bit about me.

My name is Paul Bennett, born in Gallup New Mexico many years ago. I lived and grew up in Sinclair Wyoming – a small Oil Refinery town in the south central section of the state. I have three younger brothers all of whom still live in Wyoming. I spent most of my time playing soccer, football and volleyball, as well as hiking, camping, backpacking, spelunking and hunting. While I knew how to swim at an early age, I didn't begin swimming competitively until I was a freshman in High School. I swam and lettered all four years. I spent a year at a Junior college in Wyoming and was awarded a soccer scholarship to a small private school in central Louisiana and swam and played soccer for two years, until the school cut the swim team. I worked for a major pharmaceutical company for a few years doing Mosquito Abatement Studies and furthering the development of a natural parasitic bacteria that is used in larval mosquito control. After a few years of work, I realized that I wanted to teach so I went back to school for another degree. I met my wife here in New England and we have been married for 7 years. I have two daughters – Avery (5) and Quinn (3).

I have been actively coaching since I was 16. I began as my home club team's 6 and Under coach and worked in that position until I graduated from High School. I continued coaching all the way through college and even a little while I worked as a field biologist. I served on the Wyoming Swimming Board of Governors and coached the Zones team for three years. I moved to New England in 2001 and took over the Andover/North Andover YMCA. I was at the YMCA until 2005 when I took over the Head Coaching position at

Worcester Polytechnic Institute. In the summers I manage the Haverhill Country Club pool complex.

In my time coaching, I have been fortunate to have athletes who were willing to put forward the effort needed to reach all levels of success as swimmers and students. My philosophy of coaching is very simple, I believe that every athlete can take away the rewarding lessons that the sport of swimming provides, and use them as life-long guides. Guides which have served me well. I teach perseverance, dedication, hard work and the value in learning and expanding one's knowledge base.

### **Meet Fees –**

Please turn in your meet fees as soon as possible we need to recoup these in order to pay out the entry fees for the upcoming meets.

### **Website –**

Be sure to check the website often – Tracy updates the website daily and does an amazing job.

### **In the next RAYS Tale -**

I will expand upon my plans and thoughts for the direction of the team.

### **Important Dates –**

Hampshire Hills Dual meet on June 12, 2010. Sign-up closed.

\*\*Entries after the close dates listed will not be accepted for any meet.

#### Championships\*

Regionals – July 9-11<sup>th</sup> Springfield College

14 and Under Champs – Harvard July 22-25

Open Championships – Harvard July 30 – August 2

NH State Championships – location TBD – August 7,8

\*Qualifying Times may be required.