

Hello club members, welcome to the Presidents Report for March 30, 2026

This month we had our break, following along with the SD69 school calendar, as we always do. The club goes into a sleepdown mode.

The Sunday class coached by Debbie has wrapped up and the limited feedback from the parents was really good, from what I heard. Great job Debbie, it was great to have a few more swimmers in the pool learning the sport. Getting the pool time was a big bonus, and we can continue to look for times like that to be able to offer courses and sessions like them to increase swimmer numbers overall.

The Training Meet in Nanaimo was a huge success, what a great turnout and change to see our club so well represented.

This is a bit of a prelude into the details of the BCAS Presidents meeting that I recently attended on March 9. The subject of the meeting was to inform club presidents of the upcoming funding cuts that are coming to BCAS. There are two levels of funding that keep BCAS in operation, as I understand it: Excellence Funding and Core Funding, provided by ViaSport and such. The Excellence funding is around \$30,000~ this past year and is going away completely. This funding affects competitive groups and functions and may impact events in a negative way in future years, time will tell.

More importantly though, the Core Funding is threatened to be cut off. This amounts to a large part (almost all, as I understand) of BCAS funding, last year around \$170,000~. (*Side note: Please don't hold me to these numbers. I saw them during the meeting, made no notes or recording, I am going off my terrible memory*). This directive has been given by ViaSport and to many other organizations similar to ours as part of broader government funding cutbacks. The challenge has to do with the lower enrollment overall throughout the province.

From what BCAS has been told, if they can get this year's total registration numbers up to over 1,000 (currently over 800), then the core funding will remain in place. This can be achieved if all the clubs do their part, ourselves included. A person can be counted, so long as they sign up on RAMP and get in the pool, even for just a SITI.

To help do our part, we could put on a SITI night during current class/pool time and invite parents out. We could easily get 15-20 parents in the pool, I think, which would satisfy the demands of BCAS. The participant does need to pay the \$8 fee upon registration, but we as a club can decide if we want to offer it back as a fundraising credit or something like that to offset it. I would need help with that.

The reality is if we don't help or do our part, and the Core Funding gets cut, BCAS would not exist in its current state going forward. They would be forced to amalgamate with another organization of similar size and scale, likely a pool-based sport like sport swimming or diving to

something like that. It would mean all kinds of changes and limitations as our focus would broaden, not narrow.

I am open to all kinds of ideas and ways to help with this. It is something we would have to put together this next month, sooner than later. Or before the end of the season. I guess, as I type that out I wonder if we could do it after Mid May -and still get the pool possibly, or things like that.

Summer Camp - are we doing that again? Coaches, assistant coaches? Next year coaches, Tabi - it sounds like she is coming back. Carol and Debbie? Farrah? Sasha? Is anyone interested in doing any AquaGo! Assistant courses or training to be able to help out on deck with regular or new offering classes?

Also, I then took the time to speak with Patrik (new BCAS ED) one on one after the call to get clear on things, he is very eager to help us, if we have any questions or snags along the way.

He also expressed that someone in Port Alberni reached out to him about starting a new club. I expressed my concern with that, as we have Sunday people, for example, that come down from there. I suggested we look at working together. We have the club in place, let's look at that person becoming an extension of our club and we could look at running classes out of that pool. AquaGo! As an entry level course. I don't know the details on their pool, (how deep, etc) but this could align with our club. A similar thing could work with/if Sasha and Courtenay were to come to life. Just thoughts to share with everyone.

Also, the club has been contacted by the QB Family Day organization, do we want to participate? See below:

"Hello! My name is Lana McCaul and I am a member at large for the Qualicum Beach Day Committee. We have enjoyed the active participation of your group at the event annually! We are hoping that you and your team can attend again this year. This year's Beach Day will be held earlier on Sunday, July 12th, 2026 from 11:00 am to 3:30 pm due to the low tide scheduled."

The competitive team will be heading to Mable Moran in Richmond in two weeks, April 10-12 for their next event.

We are still looking for those replacement board members. That being said, the hands aren't raising super fast. However, I have noticed that Nanaimo Diamonds have found their club administrator, so I have reached out to that person to have a conversation about it. I want to learn how it is working out, how much time they are billing and if they have interest in any duties with our club. Double, that being said though, I got to give a HUGE shout out to my co-secretary's. I want to hug them both. Recently, about a month ago, they gave me back some of my happiness by taking the responsibility of the club inbox off my plate, and I am grateful to them for it. Thank you to Kim Hill and Becky Baldwin, you are rock stars, thank you so much.

Our year end is approaching, Carol will be in touch with details about the event and we are looking forward to making the road trip to Kamloops in May, as well. Again, thank you to the coaches, board members, parents and swimmers for your dedication to the sport this season.

Mark Beuerman
President, Ravensong Waterdancers