

Case Study: Shark Fin Swimming Club

Shark Fin Swimming Club is a local amateur swimming club. The club was established a number of years ago and Albert took over as chairman approximately 3 years ago. The club runs entirely on volunteers, who coach the swimmers, organise competitions and run a club shop selling costumes, goggles, and other swimming paraphernalia at a small profit to the club. The club has approximately 200 members of all ages and abilities, but predominantly children aged eight to fifteen.

Each member pays membership fees once per year, which pays for pool use, running local galas and for coaches to transport the team to away matches. The club has a number of teams that compete in a variety of leagues. The information for this is kept on the Internet by each league's committee and Albert is not interested in duplicating information that is readily available on the Internet.

When new members join, they have to complete a registration form with their personal details, and it has to be signed by a parent or guardian if the member is under sixteen. This information is then transferred to a member card and a number of spreadsheets that store information on training groups, best timings for each stroke, etc. The current system only stores data as a snapshot, with all past training groups and times overwritten.

Every two months the club hold a 'time trial' where everyone swims each stroke under race conditions and their times are recorded. This information is compared with timings stored for each stroke and updated accordingly, overwriting the old time if it was slower. Training groups are likely to also change as a result of this as members with similar abilities and timings swim in the same group. The teams are also likely to be updated to make sure that the best swimmers are representing the club, although swimmers cannot be demoted to a lower team during the season.

The club shop is run by Agnes and is 'open' during the training sessions on Sundays. There is a wide variety of stock available to buy for training sessions, such as swimming costumes, goggles, floats, fins, hats, bags, etc. There are also items such as costumes, track suits and T-shirts that carry the club logo and are personalised with the member's name. All stock is kept at home by Agnes and brought to Sunday sessions in case anyone wants to buy anything. A list of items sold is typed up by Agnes after every Sunday session and at the end of each month are passed, with a summary of the sales for the month and the money, to Janis, the Treasurer. An accurate stock inventory is not available, but more stock is ordered from a number of selected suppliers if Agnes feels she is running low on any item.