

Thank you! Good evening everyone!

Can I start by echoing what Lisa has said in thanking everyone for the part they've played in the Club's success and survival this year.

Thank you swimmers, parents, squad reps, Covid reps and lead, the Committee and all its off-shoots, Demo Dan and our tremendous coaching team, for your patience, your trust, your time, your hard work and your enthusiasm for the Club. It's all stood us in really good stead throughout the year, regardless of what's been thrown at us.

Although, in some ways, this year seems to have flown by, in other ways it hasn't. It feels like an age ago since the last AGM, where we all sat in the canteen of the old Alton pool, with no candidates for the role of Chair or Vice Chair, with us staring at our feet, twiddling our thumbs and hoping that someone would volunteer. Fortunately, in true superhero style, although minus a cape and with her pants on the inside, Lisa swooped in, with Mike in tow, took the reins, the club was saved for another year and the rest of us breathed a huge sigh of relief!!

Obviously, like the rest of us, after the initial success of the County Championships, they had no inkling of what was to unfold in the spring but, what a fantastic job

they have done in co-ordinating everyone to skilfully steer the ship through some very troubled waters.

And, although we can't be with them in person, we have engaged the services of a couple of beautiful assistants to hand over a small token of our appreciation on the Club's behalf! So, Mike, thank you for everything you've done as Vice Chair and for the support you've given to Lisa and the Club. And Lisa – thank you for your ever-present enthusiasm, dogged determination and unwavering dedication to the role of Chair and to the club as a whole. Although I'm taking the helm, I'm very glad you'll still be with us on the ship.

As the new Chair, all that remains for me to say now is welcome to the new committee members joining us this evening – thank you for volunteering. Thank you to those existing committee members who have agreed to stay on in your roles for the next 12 months, I really appreciate your support. And a special thank you to Fiona (or Robin as I also know her) for agreeing to step up to Vice Chair, and ensuring our status within the club as the Dynamic Duo is preserved!

As Batman said, 'it's not who we are underneath but what we do that defines us'. On that basis, I'm really

looking forward to where the next 12 months takes our club and all our swimmers, whatever level or ability.