**Chair’s Report 2022**

Hello Everyone,

It’s that time of year again when I write to you before our clubs AGM and give you an update on the year that was and the direction for the future.

I’m exceptionally pleased to be able to talk about the season we have just had, primarily because we’ve had one! I wasn’t sure this would happen, but it has and long may it continue.

We are back on a full schedule and we’re attending gala’s, the poolside atmosphere is buzzing both from swimmers and from all the club’s delivery team.

Watching the swimmers train and seeing the efforts and progression from everyone gives rewarding feedback to our team.

It is the vision of the club to provide high quality swim training to the local community, increasing the number of children having the opportunity to learn the life skill of swimming and the long-term fitness benefits of an active, healthy lifestyle through sport.

As a club we have been focusing on our Teaching section to increase the numbers of new swimmers and on our Fitness Squads to retain those swimmers by giving them fitness and fun opportunities through training, whilst giving our competition squads focused training and gala opportunities so that they achieve their goals.

As you can imagine this has been a challenging endeavour which required a schedule change, in addition to investment in team numbers and training. The investment in people will need to continue to maintain this level of service.

We are looking for volunteers to assist poolside and to possibly train to be teachers on a Wednesday evening and coaches on other evenings.

To assist you need to be 14 and over, to teach or coach you need to be 16 and over. The cost of the training is absorbed by the club and paid back through service to the club.(Open to Parents too)

If we don’t fill roles through volunteering, then we’ll have to review the level of service provided and either reduce the service or pay for additional staff, which will need covering through an increase in member fees.

We saw a return to competition this year, which gave us the opportunity to put on our own Gala at Crown Pools.

This literally was a massive endeavour to get this across the line as we were faced with some big hurdles, which had to be worked through.

At one point we were going to have to pull the plug, but we overcame this and put on a great Gala.

From a revenue perspective putting on a Gala is a leap of faith, it costs a lot of money to put on, so you have to make it successful by getting the swimmers signed up and all of the fees paid, or the club will make a loss.

We are putting on our mini club championships in July within existing training sessions and will hopefully have a little party following this, more information will come on this very soon, if not already out there.

In November we will be delivering our next club gala at crown pools so if you want to volunteer to help out (you get a good view) then please make contact, there’s more than enough jobs to do.

As you’ll be aware we are a volunteer run organisation, some roles need a little more help to make things easier, as such we are looking for people with a finance background and experience in running a small pay role to assist Lyn our Treasurer. If you do have some experience and free time, then please make contact to discuss further.

So, to the future, the aim is to finish the season on a high with our remaining competitions and league schedule coupled with our mini club champs.

To ensure that our schedule and structure is ready for next season with sufficient resources to deliver it.

Next season is a big deal for Deben Swimming Club it will be our 50th year Anniversary, in today’s world that is a massive achievement and built from the dedication of those who came before.

We will be planning many events throughout the season and inviting past members back in appreciation of their efforts and to let them see how their club has grown and flourished.

You’ll see our President Penny Collinson during Club champs who is one of those inspirational people, who has been integral to the club’s success.

Hopefully I will see you all at the AGM and answer any questions raised.

Kind Regards

Stephen Bunclark - Chair Deben Swimming Club