

Chairperson's report

I am pleased to welcome you to our AGM today and update you on the highlights of the past year for Hoddesdon Swimming Club.

Coaching

As you can see from Mary's Coach report we will be having some changes in the club going forward. It is exciting for Andrew and Mary to share the Head Coach role to drive performance and technique within the club. I am proud to have heard coaches and swimmers from other clubs complement our coaching team on a number of occasions. It is also nice to have such a large coaching team including some new ex-swimmers becoming involved. Thanks to Mary, Andrew, Steve H, Steve G, Martin, Brad, Ryan, Christie, Grace, Hayley, Emma, Michelle and Eleanor, Jessica, Alexandria and Dominic poolside, as well as Kevin, Ryan and Dan in the gym.

Club swimmers

Our swimmer numbers are very healthy showing a lot of new swimmers coming in from local Learn to Swim programmes. We currently have 180 swimmers aged 10-62yrs of all ability with 40 parent members. From January it is likely that we will have to have a waiting list for new swimmers.

Borough of Broxbourne

Our joint venture with Cheshunt has seen our swimmers take part in lots of different competitions. It has been great to see the swimmers all getting along so well and showing success. This includes lots of pbs, great relay swimming and finishing in strong placings. I am looking forward to the final round of Arena where both of our teams will fight it out in separate galas.

Swimming successes

Mary has also discussed in detail the successes that our swimmers have achieved this past year. Based on our club size our results are outstanding which is a reflection of the hard work of our coaches and swimmers. The quality of technique is something I feel that our swimmers show above and beyond other clubs and this is demonstrated across all strokes and distances.



We have had successes at open meets, Peanuts, Major and Arena leagues and from counties through to English and British nationals, which show how effective our programme is. Our swimmers have performed at the ESSA national schools championships as well as being selected for England, Regional and County talent programmes.

It is also exciting to see that we have lots of emerging talent coming up which with investment will flourish in time. All our swimmers whether they are swimming at national level or contributing at head to head galas or swimming for fitness contribute to the

success of our club. This can only occur with the support from parents to help swimmers to achieve their best when they are ready.

Website

As you may have heard we are moving towards a new website which is currently under development by Linda. This will offer lots of new features such as access to pbs, automatic registering for open meets, coaches tips and video etc., but will require all parents to sign up for this. This will be rolled out in Dec/Jan so look out for emails about this.

Finance

Helen will take you through the finances of the club but I am happy to say that as a club we have managed to improve our bank balance significantly across the past year due to profits from our open meets and changes in our pool locations. Some of the benefits from this have been new equipment and providing gym sessions for free. Thanks to Helen for her tireless work in managing the finances. As always we are looking towards the future to see how we can develop as a club and improve the opportunities for swimmers.

Swim camp

I was lucky to be one of the team managers on the recent swim camp in Majorca. This was a great success and I can really see the hard work paying off in performance of swimmers that attended. It was a pleasure to have such a highly motivated and well-behaved group of swimmers, which were a real credit to our club (and parents). We will be running this again next year 2018 based on the success of this one for those in Comp 2 and 3.

Volunteers

We are fortunate to have a fantastic group of volunteers who contribute to the club success through committee, officiating, team managing and helping out at our events. The positive complements we have had recently at open meets and club champs with external clubs shows what an amazing team we have.

“Could I just say a huge thank you to the Hoddesdon team for a great gala? I’ve helped out at quite a few and yours currently rates the highest for officiating enjoyment! It was really well-organised and everyone was so friendly.”

“I just wanted to say thank you on behalf of all the Ware swimmers for another fantastic and well organised open meet. I know that so much work goes on behind the scenes, but it was a great weekend.”

“Thank you so much for a brilliant meet. Our swimmers have a great time.”

“It was lovely to feel so welcomed by a lovely club. Please pass on our thanks.”

Our volunteers continually put the effort in across different events. I would like to say a special thanks to Rachel who does an amazing job organising officials. For her to consistently get the numbers and calibre of officials at our events show the hard work she puts in across the year.

I am pleased to say that we have had officials pass their qualifications this year with Rachel getting her J2, and Ryan and Sean getting their J1 qualifications. They are now moving to the next level! We have also had 12 new team managers trained up across the year.



I would also like to congratulate Ian Mackenzie for receiving the Harold Fern Award presented at the Amateur Swimming Association Annual Dinner. This award is for outstanding contribution to aquatics, which Ian has shown for many years from club to national level. We are proud to have him as part of our club.

Although we have amazing support, we are always looking for more volunteers. There is a timekeepers course running on the 10th of December which we are keen to get people to attend (14yrs and above). Also if you want to get involved in any of the other events please let us know.

Dates for the diary

Christmas party 20th December
Summer Sprint Open Meet 30th June- TBC
Novice Open meet 15th September-
Borehamwood
County Qualifier 24th/25th November-
Borehamwood

Finally I want to thank all of you and especially your swimmers for helping to make Hoddesdon Swimming Club the success that it is. I am really looking forward to the next year based on the great foundation and hard work we have established in the past year.

Regards and happy swimming,

Anna Baker
Acting Chairperson
Hoddesdon Swimming Club