



## Chair's Report

For the second successive year we have had to deal with a hugely disrupted swimming season, being locked out of the pools for large chunks of time and having to follow tight Covid-19 restrictions at other times.

I would like to thank the committee members who went above and beyond during this period. Simone, Katharine and Carolyn for keeping membership and communications ticking over, Michael for keeping us financially solvent (not an easy task when we see how many clubs have closed for good), Emma for constant negotiations with pool providers, Nick for his Team Unify wizardry, and Mariana for managing all the Covid-19 risk assessments and procedures.

I also want to thank all the swimmers and their parents for following the rules and allowing us to continue to access pools (when they were open).

When swimming eventually returned properly in Spring, we were able to get up and running with Level X events, and a big thank you to all the parents and volunteers who stepped up to help us run these.

I am delighted that we have emerged from the worst of the pandemic in a strong position as a club. We have a full swim school (and waiting list), some great young talent coming through our squads, a committed coaching team ably led by Pat, and vibrant Masters and Water Polo sections.

In particular, I am delighted that we were able to secure a long-term partnership deal with Whitgift School over the use of their pool. This was not an easy task, and we are currently the only community partner for the school, so we are all learning as we go.

The pool hire rates have risen considerably post-pandemic, which puts a strain on our finances which will need to be addressed in the new year, but I cannot overstate the importance of having this partnership with Whitgift, which provides the foundation for our future and underlines our status as the pre-eminent swimming club in Croydon.

Finally, I am delighted with how the new season has started, with a smooth well-run club championship weekend and already some stunning aquatic performances from club members.

Here's to a fantastic 2021\22 season.

*Lee Findell, Chair*



## Club Secretary Report

Similar to last year our 2020/2021 season has proved to be both interesting and challenging, with disrupted training and limited opportunity for competition due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As always thanks must go to all our dedicated coaching team, officials, volunteers and committee members who have given their time and commitment throughout this year. Particular thanks must go to Mike Murray and Diane Gamble, our regular club officials, who continue to support our galas and assist with training of our officials! We also want to thank Milan Jotic for his support with the dreaded booking system – we know how frustrating it was to have to book places for training but his help was invaluable to set up the system and to monitor this to ensure equity for places.

At last year's AGM Carolyn Browne was officially voted on as Membership Secretary alongside her volunteer role. Her support has been invaluable both as volunteer coordinator and membership secretary, particularly with a number of changes within squads and frequent requests for swimmers to trial and join the club since we have returned to a more even keel with training opportunities. As a result, our membership continues to grow, and as Lee mentioned in his report, our swim school is back up and running with a waiting list, and there has been ongoing interest in our fitness squad with a second training session added. Thank you to Angie Kopka, our Swim School Administrator, for all her hard work in supporting this.

Last year Fiona Blair stood down as Trophy Secretary and Jackie Tonks volunteered to take on this role. Unfortunately, she is no longer available to support this role and we are therefore looking for a volunteer to join the Committee. We were grateful to have several parents volunteer to support the recent Club Championships and hope one of our parents would be willing to come forward. We have details of the role requirements to share and are happy to support this – it could even be a shared role!

We also have vacancies for Competition Secretary as Ingrid Ciccardini steps down this year, and Graeme Blair has also stepped down from the Jack Petchey role. Thank you to both for their brilliant support. Again, volunteers joining in these roles will be very much supported by the Committee.

Massive thanks again must also be offered to our Club Chair, Lee Findell. His commitment to the club is tireless. He has continued to lead the club relentlessly throughout the year liaising with Swim England, a range of pool operators and most recently negotiating with Whitgift for our return, alongside Emma Brown, our fabulous Swimming Secretary. In the background so much activity has continued with the Committee meeting on a regular basis to ensure ongoing training opportunities so thank you as well to Mariana, Ilona, Michael and our club president, Nick Hallam for all your commitment and support.

This is our standard comment in each annual report BUT the club cannot run without its volunteers! If you have some time to be able to volunteer to assist the club no role is too onerous and will support us enormously taking the club forward.

*Simone Kelly & Katharine Malhotra, Club Secretaries*



## AGM Head Coach Report 2020-2021

As we all know it was very difficult year for all CASC members, as we spent only 5 months in the pool during the entire annual training cycle.

During the second lockdown swimmers from Pewter, Silver, Gold, Diamond and Platinum squad trained twice a week with their squad coaches during the zoom land training.

We came back to normal training in April 2021. Two months later we held a Level X gala that allowed some swimmers to qualify for the Surrey Championships. It was the first swimming competition that has been held since restrictions were lifted.

Despite limited time we spent for training in the pool we've achieved satisfactory results with five swimmers ending up on the podium:

Arun Oelkers who took 3 golds for the 50m, 100m and 200m freestyle and 2 Silvers (50m and 200m Butterfly) in the 16y.o. age group,

Zain Lam who took 2 golds (50m and 100m Breaststroke) in the 15y.o. age group,

Harry Chaudhury who took gold for the 100 m Freestyle, 5 Silvers (50m, 100m and 200m Backstroke, 50m and 100m Butterfly) and one bronze for the 50m Freestyle in the 13y.o age group,

Josh Dolling who took one Silver medal in the 200m Butterfly in the 13y.o. age group and Teo Sorel who took 2 Silver medals (50m and 100m Butterfly) in the 11y.o. age group.

These results came after a difficult time for swimming across Croydon and the whole country, with limited access to pools and very strict covid protocols.

*Patryk Folinski, Head Coach*



## **WATER POLO REPORT May 2020 – April 2021**

At the end of this AGM year water polo, like all other sports, continued to be affected by Covid19 with disruption to our training and competitions,

Our normal pool at Whitgift opened to us from September to November 2020 half term and then remained unavailable to us until September 2021. With help from the CASC Swimming Secretary and other Club officials we secured pool time at South Norwood, Croydon High School, and Warlingham which allowed us to have limited training under the Guidance provided by Swim England. Our thanks go to our Covid Officer (Amanda Lyons) who attended 99% of our training sessions, and the coaching team who were flexible with their voluntary time which allowed our players to continue to enjoy water polo whenever the swimming pools were open!!

We enjoyed some open water swimming and water polo at Divers Cove in Godstone during the warmer days of summer 2020 which was good for building team spirit.

There were no water polo competitions held between May 2020 and April 2021.

Since September 2021 we have returned to full use of Whitgift pool and looking forward, the prospects from Croydon Amphibians water polo are fantastic with increased pool time and opportunities.

Competitions have restarted in the British Water Polo League (Division 3) [www.bwpl.org](http://www.bwpl.org) and the London Water Polo League [www.lwpl.pitchero.com](http://www.lwpl.pitchero.com) There is competition during the winter for our Senior Men and Women, as well as all our junior teams, under 18 boys and under 18 girls, under 16 and under 16 girls, under 14 and under 12.

### **INTERNATIONAL HONOURS**

Congratulation to Rebecca Mulcahy, Sarah Mdaoukhi, Pippa Danielson, and Juliet Lyons, who during the Summer/Autumn of 2021 all represented ENGLAND in European competition. Other multi club members who have spent time training with Croydon Amphibians, who also represented England in 2021, were Mhairi Nurthen, Erin Andrew, Emily Campbell-Lamberton and Toby Roberts.

Sarah, Pippa, and Juliet are joined by Jared Thompson and continue to train with various National Academy squads, and we have many younger players attending the London Regional Academy which is now training at Whitgift on Friday evenings.

During the year we received funding from the Jack Petchey organisation, and we have continued to receive Sponsorship from Equilux Electrical contractors.

Academy sessions teaching water polo takes place on Wednesdays at Trinity 7.15pm, and Saturday afternoons at Whitgift 4.00pm. These sessions are offered to any CASC swim squad member at a reduced fee.

A big thank you to all our volunteer Coaches Chris Martin, Milan Jotic, Barry Danielson, Alfonso Tucay and Ellie Danielson who are providing excellent coaching and leadership along with Ultan Brennan who is our inspiring and motivating Coach/Team Manager.

The water polo section has 90 playing members and the club has 3 active SE qualified Assistant water polo coaches and three Level 2 Coaches. We also now have 5 active or qualified Referees that are helping the sport.

Water polo is offered to all Club members and is particularly keen to recruit new players from the swim squads.

*Chris Martin, Water Polo Secretary and Coach* [casc\\_waterpolo@outlook.com](mailto:casc_waterpolo@outlook.com)



### **Masters Report 2020/2021**

Like many other parts of the club, Covid-19 has had a massive impact on the Masters section, particularly when it came to being able to train together. With additional restrictions placed on swimmers over the age of 18 we've only been back in the water properly since May 2021. However, we've now settled into our regular training regime, with four sessions a week led by our coach, Chris Hatton.

Because of the lack of training time no one has taken part in any competitions yet, but provided no further restrictions are put in place, 2022 should prove to be a more normal swimming year, starting with South East Regional Long Course Championships in January.

Our main focus for next year, as ever, will be the Surreys, which take place at the end of June. In addition, a few of us have signed up for a Channel relay swim, which is scheduled for July 2022.

Finally, a shout out to Lucy Ashdown-Parkes who completed the North Channel solo swim on 2 August 2021, becoming the 34th female to complete it. Well done Lucy!

*Marianne Rooke-Alden (Masters secretary)*