



Chair's Annual Report 2019/2020

Welcome and thank you for attending.

As you will be aware this has been an unusual year to say the least. It has raised many challenges and was not something that any of us could have planned for.

However, we got off to a good start with our Camp to Kelly college in October, which was organised by Emma Dodd and was a great success and very much enjoyed by all. Thank you, Emma.

In November our annual presentation evening, which was once again organised by Becky Oxley and Theresa Foresheew, took on a slightly different format and was thoroughly enjoyed by all. So, a massive thank you to them. **At this point I would normally plug the next one!**

Open Meet

What we thought was going to be the first of our open meets was held at the end of November, beginning of December, and was well attended. **As always, these events are critical to the survival of the club as fees do not cover the costs of our pool hire and expenses.** This is not just the responsibility of a few but the whole club and I am always amazed and extremely grateful to all our amazing volunteers who give up so much of their time to make these events so successful. Soundwell has built a brilliant reputation for the way in which we run such events and are always commended for their smooth running and incredible atmosphere. Swimmers achieve good times in a friendly environment, which allows them to gain confidence in their swimming journey.

So many different roles are required for this to happen, thanks to our,

Officials

Chaperones

Team Managers

Coaches

Poolside helpers

Workforce Volunteers

But a special mention must go to our Competition Secretary Sarah Taylor – who was supported by Jenny Bridges who both did an incredible job of collating the entries to enable us to operate a successful meet.

Unfortunately, our March /April meet was unable to go ahead due to the pandemic and it is unlikely that we will be able to hold any open meets this year. This obviously has a huge financial impact on the club.

For many clubs, the pandemic has resulted in their being unable to continue, for some it has meant looking for a new venue to operate from with pools not being able to reopen.

Whilst we are fortunate in that we are able to continue, it has not been an easy task to negotiate pool time across our usual pools. The coaches held a meeting last night and the timetable should now be available. Please understand that many hours have been put into this and whilst we have done exceptionally well with regards to pool time compared to some, there will be some differences. Our aim has been to ensure the safe return to swimming for as many of our swimmers as possible. Whilst taking onboard all the concerns our swimmers, coaches, teachers, parents and volunteers have.

Thank you to all those who completed our survey to enable us to plan for our return. Emma Dodd who is our Covid Lead has done an incredible job, setting up and collating the surveys. In addition to the Risk Assessments for each venue in accordance with Swim England guidance and Pool Operating procedures.

Also, many thanks to Sarah Taylor who has been finalising the contracts with the pool operators. To Jenny Bridges who has spent a considerable amount of time juggling the role of secretary with her own businesses at what has been a difficult time for us all. To Tracy Blake for the amazing job she has done as treasurer over the last two years. And to Donna and Stuart for their continued support in their roles as welfare officers, they have done a great job supporting members and raising questions and offering solutions to ensure everyone's safety.

I would like to thank Jon for his continued enthusiasm and dedication to his role as Head Coach, he has held the club together with his zoom land training and communication with swimmers. And to Clare Brewer and the LTS team for their understanding and flexibility during this time.

Many thanks also to our team of volunteer coaches/teachers who are keen to return to continue coaching/teaching our swimmers to the highest standard, we are fortunate to have such a strong coaching/teaching team.

Captains this year have had an unusual year in that there has not been the opportunities to be as involved, but I would like to mention that Jake T has been present at a number of committee meetings where he has been able to voice opinions from a swimmers perspective, raise issues and participate in discussions. He has done

this with maturity and confidence. Exactly how we would like our Captains to conduct themselves.

Overall, it has been a challenging year and I know many of you have questions regarding ongoing fees.

As you can imagine pools are raising their prices to try and recoup their losses (Circadian stand to lose £1.8 million this year) and whilst we are not increasing fees we are needing to resume our fees in order to maintain a viable club. Obviously, we are happy to review these again in January, but for now we need to manage our finances with caution. And as I have already mentioned our fees do not cover our outgoings and without the possibility of holding any Open Meets we are left with no option if we wish to continue.