

Annual Report

2020

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“ *What became clear was the resilience and ingenuity of clubs, who devised many ways of keeping the sport alive without water, buoyed, no doubt, by the expectation of ‘normality’.*

President's Report



Firstly, I would like to express the honour I feel to have been given this opportunity to be Swim England South East President. It is with a little sorrow that I could not fulfil the role as I would have liked for reasons we all know.

Indeed, it was to have been a special “year” in that I had the privilege to have this position for 19 months and as I write there remains approximately three more lockdown months left until the AGM.

From September 2019 until the end of normal on March 23rd 2020 I was able to visit a number of very special events and was honoured to meet all of the fabulous athletes across our disciplines. I thank the organisers of these events because you were all so welcoming and engaging when I came to visit.

If anything has come out of these past months, for me it shows just how strong the “swimming family” is. Compared to many other sports, the commitment required by the athletes, their family support group and the army of volunteers to train and compete under normal circumstances is huge.

Add in the vital roles undertaken by the practitioners and administrators and these

numbers grow even more. This commitment has been borne out again in these exceptional times by the vast number of online events designed to engage our athletes and to keep them healthy, both physically and mentally. These sessions have been truly inspirational to observe.

All I ask is for us to keep together and to please help each other whenever we can and please continue to do this when we are all able to resume normal service sometime, I hope in 2021. Look at keeping this family together and we will all find ourselves stronger in the future.

My thanks go to the Regional Board for their support during my term in office, they work so hard to support the South East Region.

Finally, I wish my good friend Brian DeVal the best of luck for his year in office. His existing involvement with Sussex ASA and within the Region will enable him to bring much additional insight to the role. I'll always be happy to fill in anytime he is unavailable.

Terry Norris
President Swim England South East

“Most of the activity within clubs is provided or supported by volunteers, and, bluntly, our sports would founder without them.”

Chairman's Report

You could be expecting this Chairman's annual report to be the shortest on record, given the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. Aquatic sports (and pastimes) virtually vanished in March 2020, reappeared in a reduced guise in the summer, but effectively disappeared again in November. In theory, then, there would be little to say about swimming, diving, water polo, or artistic (nee synchro) other than that the Regional Long Course Masters' competition was held in January... That, however, would fail to recognise the masses of activity fostered by the Region in support of our affiliated clubs, and their members, in these trying times.

It became clear in March that the Government would, albeit, apparently, reluctantly, have to impose restrictions with a view to reducing or preventing the spread of the Coronavirus, Covid-19, amongst the population, as experience elsewhere in the world showed the virus would lead to excess deaths, especially amongst the vulnerable. The first lockdown was announced on 20 March and came into effect on 23 March. Aquatic sports ceased, particularly in groups and indoors. This announcement had been preceded by a "phoney war", during which operators had shut facilities or reduced their availability. At least lockdown provided certainty!

The Regional Management Board was concerned about the impact that lockdown would have on clubs, their employees and their volunteers. Support provided by Government, in terms of the furlough scheme and support for the self-employed, alleviated some of those concerns, but the viability of clubs, both in terms of finance and voluntary support, in the long term was, and remains, a worry.

What became clear was the resilience and ingenuity of clubs, who devised many ways of keeping the sport alive, without water, buoyed, no doubt, by the expectation that "normality" would return: sadly, as we have all discovered, "normality" will possibly never return. Anyway, I am proud of the work of the Region, particularly by its staff, to help clubs through this initial period. What is more, these efforts have evolved in an ever-changing scenario, to deliver support through a number of phases – preparing for the return to the water, re-entering the water, starting embryonic

competitions and then, sadly, getting out of the water again.

There are those who have been critical of Swim England, the national governing body, through this period. It must be recognised that the organisation has taken an enormous hit, financially, which led to the early furloughing of a large raft of employees, followed by a restructuring, whereby the workforce was substantially reduced. Regrettably, that restructure led to all field staff, like club development officers, being made redundant. Fortunately, the financial impact on the Region, perhaps because of its prudence in previous years, is far less dramatic, and the Regional Management Board agreed that there was no need to furlough our 3 staff, nor call for redundancies, as there was much to be done, even if there was no swimming per se. In many respects, therefore, the Region has filled the gaps left by the withdrawal of field staff, and other support, by the national governing body.

It is fitting, therefore, at this stage to pay tribute to the excellent work undertaken by Bryony Gibbs, the Regional Manager, Kristie Jarrett and Ben McDonald, our Regional Club Development Officers, who have all worked tirelessly to adapt and deliver the Region's offering to clubs in a changing scenario. What is more, they managed to ensure that virtually all the Region's non-SwimMark clubs achieved Swim England's minimum standard for affiliation, in terms of governance and safeguarding – Stronger Affiliation – by the deadline, last Christmas – a great achievement. I know you will all join me in applauding their unstinting support for our sports through 2020.

As you will know, the pandemic scuppered our plans to hold the Annual Council in April last year. The Board postponed the event to an evening in September, when we held the meeting by Zoom, on a weekday evening. And it was the best attended ACM, in terms of actual club delegates, for years! Remote meetings are definitely the way forward: your Board has not met in person since early March last year.

Given the decision of the ACM in 2019, when all appointments were extended because of the Region's change in financial year, there were no elections at the 2020 ACM. However, a vacancy had occurred towards the end of 2019, when Ivan

Horsfall-Turner resigned. Eventually, the Board appointed Rosa Gallop, latterly the Swim England Club Development Officer, to the vacancy with effect from November 2020.

As I have said in previous years, all of the Board are volunteers, giving their time freely. The Board members are very industrious, all of them having regional roles beyond being “just” a member of the Board. My Vice-Chairman, John Davies, for instance, continues to lead our Development Group (he has done so since the inception of the Board), a very important part of the regional operation. Roger Prior remains as the Board Member responsible for Finance. Carys Jones chairs the Staffing Sub-Committee. Brian Deval continues to lead on communications. Sara Todd is convening a group reviewing the Region’s strategy, in these changing times. There is a Board liaison member for every discipline.

On the subject of communications, this has been a very important part of the Region’s activities, in face of the uncertainty of the past 10 months. Our website and social media presence, managed so effectively by Brian, has been, I feel, a crucial aid for our clubs and their members. I believe we led the way amongst regions, and were certainly engaged before Swim England, in surveying our clubs about the circumstances in which they found themselves.

Obviously, most of the activity within clubs is provided or supported by volunteers, and, bluntly, our sports would founder without them. Clearly, they have not been called upon so much in 2020 to support, for instance, competition, but there are, for instance, new roles in clubs – eg, Covid-19 Lead – which have to be performed. While we look forward to the resumption of competitions in all disciplines, there is a concern that a number of the more active officials from the past will now be putting their whistles etc away. There will need to be a concerted effort to replace these stalwarts.

In this connection, may I pay tribute to a volunteer who did not have the year he expected – Terry Norris, our President. The number of official engagements must have dropped over a cliff edge, since March, which will, no doubt, have been a disappointment. Terry continues to serve until April this year, when Brian Deval is due to succeed him.

Finally, it is my very sad duty to report the deaths

last year of Ray and Janet Hedger, literally within days of each other. Both had been President of the Southern Counties ASA, which preceded the Region. Ray was our President in 2012/13 and the first President of Swim England from this Region, in 2014/15. Ray was a member of the Regional Management Board from 2005 to 2016, and Vice-Chairman of the Shadow Board and subsequently the Management Board from 2004 to 2016, while Janet was one of our delegates to the Swim England ACM for many, many years and was one of the scrutineers at each of our ACMs. Both will be sorely missed by our sport. Very sadly, because of the pandemic, the Region has yet to be able to pay public tribute to them, although the family have indicated that a service of thanksgiving for their lives is planned, when circumstances permit.

Roger Penfold
Chairman

Finance

2020 was, obviously, a year like no previous year. The financial statements for the year were always going to be difficult to compare with previous figures, given the change of the end of the financial year, so that the previous financial statements were for only a nine-month period. However, the emergence of the global pandemic and the subsequent lockdowns and restrictions vastly exaggerated that effect.

The lockdown occurred after the membership renewal period, so income from affiliation fees was pretty high; however, there were virtually no new members joining clubs later in the year, so the total affiliation fees were well below the estimate. Another major decrease in income (£22k) was caused by licensed meets only taking place in the first three months of the year. In light of the lack of regional events, the Regional Management Board decided to waive the sponsorship charge for the year. The Masters Long Course event, always popular and profitable, took place before the lockdown. With no swimming championships, the large surplus usually generated did not materialise. However, the overseas swimming camp took place very successfully and most of the swimming expenditure shown was towards that.

On the expenditure side, most of the disciplines spent little. Unlike Swim England, we did not furlough any of our staff and I believe we should congratulate them on supporting clubs, coaches and athletes so well in challenging circumstances. The increased expenditure on staffing costs was due to an extra three months in this accounting period.

The net effect was a surplus for the year of some £26k, against a budget of a substantial deficit, so our reserves have risen by that amount. Some concern was raised last year that we had substantial reserves in a single financial institution, which was a risk, as the FSCS only guarantees £85k in any one institution. We undertook to diversify these funds, but this did not prove at all easy and various accounts appeared and closed to applications almost daily! However, to date we have moved two amounts of £80k into other deposit accounts.

Budgeting for 2021 was exceptionally difficult, as the income from affiliation fees was a totally unpredictable factor. In view of the uncertainty about the 2021 income, the Regional Management Board accepted a provisional budget and agreed that the Finance Sub Group would review it in late March and make recommendations to the Board at its April meeting.

Once again, I would like to thank the Regional Manager for the excellent work she has done in handling the Region's finances and the Finance Sub Group and Regional Management Board for their support.

Roger Prior
Board Member Responsible for Finance



Compared to many other sports, the commitment required by the athletes, their family support group and the army of volunteers to train and compete under normal circumstances is huge.

SWIM ENGLAND SOUTH EAST REGION

STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE REGIONAL MANAGEMENT BOARD FOR THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Current accounting practice requires the Regional Management Board to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the Region's state of affairs at the end of the year and of its income and expenditure for that period. In preparing those financial statements the Regional Management Board is required to:-

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is not appropriate to assume that the Region will continue in business.

The Regional Management Board is responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose, with reasonable accuracy at any time, the financial position of the Region. It is responsible for maintaining a satisfactory system of control over the Region's books of account, its cash holdings and its receipts and remittances and must also take adequate precautions to guard against falsification and facilitate its discovery.

SWIM ENGLAND SOUTH EAST REGION

ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF SWIM ENGLAND SOUTH EAST REGION

In accordance with our terms of engagement we have compiled the financial statements of Swim England South East Region for the year ended 31 December 2020 which comprise the Income and Expenditure Account, Balance Sheet and the related notes from the accounting records and information and explanations you have given to us.

The financial statements have been compiled on the accounting basis set out in note 1 to the financial statements. The financial statements are not intended to achieve full compliance with the provisions of UK Generally Accepted Accounting Principles.

This report is made to you, in accordance with the terms of our engagement. Our work is undertaken so that we might compile the financial statements that we have been engaged to compile, report to you that we have done so, and state those matters that we have agreed to state to you in this report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Regional Management Board, for our work, or for this report.

We have carried out this engagement in accordance with technical guidance issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales and have complied with the ethical guidance laid down by the Institute.

You have approved the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2020 and have acknowledged your responsibility for them, for the appropriateness of the accounting basis and for providing all information and explanations necessary for their completion.

Charterhouse (Accountants) Ltd
Chartered Accountants

.....
Charterhouse (Accountants) Limited
166 College Road
Harrow
Middlesex
HA1 1RA

9th March 2021
Date:

SWIM ENGLAND SOUTH EAST REGION

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

For the year ended 31 December 2020

	Year ended 31 December 2020		Period ended 31 December 2019	
	£	£	£	£
Income				
Affiliation fees	158,120		147,671	
Licensed meet fees	9,589		31,721	
Bank interest (net)	368		242	
Sponsorship	-		2,875	
Miscellaneous income	125		408	
Swim England grants	6,000		4,500	
		174,202		187,417
Expenditure				
Cost of Democracy				
Regional council meeting	-		2,873	
Swim England council	-		940	
Regional management board	582		2,562	
President's expenses	625		2,307	
Welfare officer's expenses	-		227	
Accountancy fees	1,752		1,659	
Bank charges	479		650	
	3,438		11,218	
Disciplines				
Diving (net)	6,601		5,806	
Disability (net)	388		7,074	
Masters (net)	(1,661)		1,554	
Open water	310		2,372	
Swimming (net)	12,409		(19,750)	
Artistic swimming (net)	(1,198)		7,631	
Water polo (net)	4,007		13,184	
Medals	-		1,401	
	20,857		19,272	
Development plan				
Course subsidies	24,686		28,516	
SwimMark	463		2,583	
Volunteer training	13,435		15,894	
Athlete support	434		2,768	
	39,018		49,761	
Staffing and Office Expenditure				
Staffing Costs	81,764		61,793	
Central establishment costs	6,121		10,676	
	87,885		72,469	
		151,198		152,720
(Deficit)/Surplus for the period		23,004		34,697

SWIM ENGLAND SOUTH EAST REGION

BALANCE SHEET

As at 31 December 2020

	Notes	2020		2019	
		£	£	£	£
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	2	3,626		23,255	
Cash at bank	3	<u>348,130</u>		<u>312,429</u>	
			351,756		335,684
Less: CURRENT LIABILITIES					
Creditors	4	<u>38,669</u>		<u>45,602</u>	
			38,669		45,602
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			<u>313,087</u>		<u>290,082</u>
Accumulated surplus	5		<u>313,087</u>		<u>290,082</u>
			<u>313,087</u>		<u>290,082</u>

Approved by the Regional Management Board on the *9th March 2021* and signed on its behalf by:-

Roger Penfold

.....
Roger Penfold (Chairman)

Roger Prior

.....
Roger Prior (Board Member responsible for Finance)

SWIM ENGLAND SOUTH EAST REGION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2020

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

2 DEBTORS

	2020 £	2019 £
Trade debtors	557	1,219
Prepayments and accrued income	3,069	22,036
	<u>3,626</u>	<u>23,255</u>

3 CASH AT BANK

Included within the balance at the balance sheet date is £37,000 (December 2019: £37,000) which relates to monies received from the Amateur Swimming Association specifically to cover expenditure in the Disability Swimming discipline. As such, these monies remain restricted for this use until spent or released by the Amateur Swimming Association for general purposes.

4 CREDITORS

Amounts falling due within one year

	2020 £	2019 £
Trade creditors	1,195	4,362
Accruals and deferred income	37,474	41,240
	<u>38,669</u>	<u>45,602</u>

5 ACCUMULATED SURPLUS

	2020 £	2019 £
	General Fund	General Fund
Balance at 1 January 2020	290,082	255,385
Surplus/(deficit) for the period	23,004	34,698
Balance at 31 December 2020	<u>313,087</u>	<u>290,082</u>

6 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The Region is controlled by the Regional Management Board on behalf of the members.

Discipline reports

The impact of COVID-19 and restricted access to pools has had a devastating impact on all disciplines during the year. This is reflected in the very limited number of activities that we have been able to deliver since the start of the lockdown in March.

The exception has been the number of events and range of innovative work delivered online by our Regional Club Development Officers.

Artistic Swimming

Prior to the pandemic and the first lockdown the only event that had taken place in the UK this year was National Age Groups.

All other activities: grade days, judges training, courses for volunteers and regional squad training were cancelled and have not resumed.

Di Hughes
Artistic Swimming Manager

Disability Swimming

The Region was unable to deliver any competition in 2020. With National support we were able to provide access to online workshops for athletes and coaches during August and September.

In December Swim England held a Zoom meeting to support the National Para-Swimming Pathway Engagement Day. This was intended for Category 2 athletes not on programmes and their coaches.

One of our ex-swimmers, Alice Tai MBE, has been named as one of the athletes to sit on Team England's Athlete Advisory Panel for the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham 2022.

Sue Barker
Disability Swimming Manager

Diving

None of the Regions planned diving competitions for 2020 took place.

Only limited training has taken place in the Region during the year. The Region's very successful SEEDs development programme ran well at the beginning of the year and continued when we came out of the first lock-down but was stopped in October as we entered the second lock-down. Some club programmes were able to re-start, but these were again stopped in the last quarter.

Most diving clubs in the Region were able to maintain contact with their divers through on-line training programmes which helped keep the divers motivated.

Following the closure of Reading's Central Pool three years ago, diving has managed to remain strong in the area, with Albatross Diving Club utilising regular pool facilities at The Abbey School in Reading, Hemel Hempstead Leisure Centre and The Quays in Southampton where they enjoy an excellent relationship with Southampton Diving Academy.

The build of the proposed new pool has been delayed due to the pandemic and negotiations with the Reading Borough Council are ongoing.

There is no further news from Guildford Borough Council about the development of Spectrum 2 due to the pandemic.

Andy Hewat
Diving Manager

Masters

Lockdown prevented most of the planned activities for 2020.

The Region held its long course competition at K2, Crawley in January. It was well received and considered a successful meet.

All other 2020 planned activities: South East Region 1500m competition, South East Region short course meet, South East round of the Inter County National event and the Region's development day were cancelled.

Glen Isaacs
Masters Manager

Open Water

There were no activities during the year.

Carol Butler
Open Water Manager

Swimming

With the exception of a few level 4 meets in the Channel Islands there was no competitive swimming in the Region between March and December.

Before the arrival of COVID-19, the Swimming Group, working together with the Coaches Forum addressed issues surrounding the size of the Region and the capacity of the Region Swimming Championships (we currently cannot guarantee to accept every swimmer who has a realistic chance of qualifying for the British Championships or Swim England Summer Meet).

We undertook an extensive consultation with members that showed that the preferred approach was to split the Region into two geographic areas for the 15yrs/Over Championships. This will not be progressed until 2022 at the earliest and further

detailed planning is needed.

Although there is a plan from Swim England for the resumption of swimming competition as we know it the only "competition" that was able to be held was Level X (timed swims in training sessions) which proved popular with many clubs. However, the first series of this was not completed because of the lockdown that came into force on Boxing Day.

Mike Lambert
Swimming Competition Manager

Water Polo

In the first quarter competitions and regional training went ahead as normal with a very strong uptake.

During the first lockdown, we were able to move Table Officials courses online and make these available free of charge. This will go some way to providing a strong foundation for competitions in the future.

The restrictions on returning to competition, particularly for 18yrs + groups, has been challenging for clubs but we are hopeful that most of our players will return to the sport when they can.

We would like to thank Ewan Partridge for 10 years of volunteering in the role of Girls Head Coach. His role has been taken by Lauren Hand who has now joined the Regional Water Polo Group. Lauren is currently being supported by the rest of the coaching team.

On her retirement from Swim England Rosa Gallop has also joined the Region's Water Polo Group as a volunteer and brings with her tremendous experience in developing the sport, particularly in building Water Polo Networks across the Region.

Ben McDonald
Water Polo Manager

Development

Away from the pool there has been a lot of development work taking place online with the Region leading innovative sessions to support athletes, clubs and officials. This we believe has gone a long way to helping maintain the enthusiasm of everyone in the sport during these tough times.

In January we sent a squad of 24 to Luxembourg to compete against some of the world's best swimmers at the Euro Meet. Our team raced well and the whole team learned a lot from the experience. Throughout the weekend, eight B final places were contested, and three swimmers achieved spots in A finals against extremely tough opposition.

Our A and B finalists included Ella Dyson, Eva Okaro, Illizane Pinfold, James Baxter, Jemima Hall, Neil Redman, Maisie Thornton, Sophie Shaw and Tegan Drew.

The squad was supported by Head Coach Paul Lloyd and coaches Stephen Murphy and Zichen Liu. Terry Norris and Louise Sansome attended as Team Managers.

We have worked continuously through the lockdowns and have found new ways of delivering online training. By the close of the year 155 people had completed Team Manager 1 training and 38 Team Manager 2. This new way of working also meant we were able to deliver 20 open and closed Safeguarding workshops and seven Time to Listen workshops.

We also worked with the Institute of Swimming to provide free access to some of their courses.

Our Young Volunteer Programme for 2020-2021 welcomed 142 candidates from 38 clubs in the Region onto the programme. The programme will be delivered online with practical activities taking place in their home club settings.

We ran a Regional Pathway Camp in September for 40 swimmers using Zoom. The day included practical land training sessions and workshops.

Using Zoom also allowed us to keep in contact with counties, clubs, coaches and other club volunteers through regular seminars. These

proved very useful as a way to exchange ideas and provide support during the most difficult periods. Similar sessions were also held by the Regional Coaches Forum, all of which were very well received.

Through our website and social media channels we were able to keep people up to date with information about returning the pool and providing tools for clubs.

As clubs began to return to the pool in July, we delivered Covid-19 Lead training using the Swim England guidance. These workshops were opportunities for clubs to look at their risk assessments and new procedures.

Throughout the year we have worked with clubs to complete either their SwimMark accreditation or Stronger Affiliation. By the end of the year 99 clubs maintained their SwimMark status and 79 had completed Stronger Affiliation. This will help ensure that clubs in the Region are safe environments with qualified personnel in place.

***Kristie Jarrett / Ben McDonald
Regional Club Development Officers***



Through our website and social media channels we were able to keep people up to date with information about returning to the pool.

Notable Achievements

Despite so many events being cancelled this year athletes from across the Region managed to achieve notable successes in all disciplines in the first three months of the year.

Artistic Swimming

The Senior GB Squad competed at the French Open in March 2020. The team came 4th in the Free Team Event and 2nd in the Free Combination Event. Of the 11 athletes that travelled and competed 4 were from the South East:

Cerys Larsen	Reading Royals
Isobel Blinkhorn	Reading Royals
Laura Turberville	Reading Royals
Daisy Gunn	Reading Royals

Disability Swimming

The following swimmers were accepted onto the Podium Potential programme:

Katie Crowhurst	Wycombe SC
Tylor Loannou	Wycombe SC

Diving

Divers from the Region started the year in amazing style at the British Senior Nationals:

Junior events

Evie Johnson	1st 3m	Southampton Diving Academy
Leon Baker	1st 1m	
Cameron Gammage	1st 3m	
Leon Baker	2nd 3m	
Robbie Lee	1st platform	
Evie Johnson	1st 3m	
Leon Baker and Cameron Gammage	1st 3m Synchronised Diving	

Senior events

Leon Baker	3rd 1m	Southampton Diving Academy
Leon Baker and Cameron Gammage	2nd 3m Synchronised Diving	

Cameron Gammage, Leon Baker, Robbie Lee, Milo French (SDA) and Tilly Brown (SDA) were all selected for the Junior International Squad. **Tanya Brown (SDA)** was selected to represent Ireland at the World Cup (all these events were subsequently cancelled).

Masters

Individual

Joanna Corben	Fareham Nomads	World LC record	100m Back
Sally Mills	Mid Sussex Marlins	European SC record	200m fly
Joanna Corben	Fareham Nomads	European LC record	200m Bac
Sally Mills	Mid Sussex Marlins	British LC record	100m fly
Hannah Keen	Hastings Seagull	British SC record	50m free
Joanna Corben	Fareham Nomads	British SC record	100m Back

Relays

A Gwynn R Dudeney M Johnson S Mills	Mid Sussex Marlins	World LC record	Women's 4x100m Free
A Gwynn R Dudeney M Johnson S Mills	Mid Sussex Marlins	British LC record	Women's 4x50m Free
B Hunt F Parker A Meek J Pearson	Kent Weald Swim Sqd	British LC record	Men's 4x50m Medley

Water Polo

The following boys and girls were involved with national trials before mid-March.

2004 age group

Girls Lucy Bullock, Maddie Calthorpe, Lucy-Mai Helliwell, Caitlin Silk, Audrey Tala
Boys Jamie Bond, Matty Smith, Owen Street, Josh Luff

2005 age group

Girls Ruby Rosser, Madeline Russell
Boys Antonio Bardella, Owen Halligan, Alexander Stephenson, Harris Lindsay

Club Covid-19 Champions

Throughout the first and second shutdowns in 2020 we heard of exceptional people in clubs who provided leadership, help and support to members. They've run Zoom sessions, set challenges, organised fund raising, negotiated with councils and pool operators and tried to ensure that their club has a place to train and call home.

We gave clubs the opportunity to recognise everyone in their club who went above and beyond to help make sure there was a vibrant club to return to. Many clubs in our Region downloaded and presented our "Covid-19 Champion" certificates to these special people. Some clubs also asked us to make a special mention of their "Champions" and we are very happy to name them here alongside the club's citation.

<i>Nominee</i>	<i>Club</i>	<i>Reason for nomination</i>
Ali Schwiderski	Wycombe District Swimming Club	As our volunteers co-ordinator Ali has managed to recruit over 100 volunteers to work as Covid Liaison Volunteers at our pool swimming sessions and organised all the rotas and briefing documents.
Ben Poulton	Wycombe District Swimming Club	As a member of our Covid response committee Ben has been heavily involved in the production of our risk assessments and procedures and protocols for our return to the pool and reviews all our volunteer feedback forms to ensure that these documents and our procedures are updated in response to current events on a regular basis.
Chris Jenkins	Elmbridge Phoenix Swimming Club	As our Covid Liaison Lead, Chris dedicated much time, thought and energy to ensuring that our swimmers and coaches were able to safely return to the pool. This involved incredible collaboration with pool operators and attention to detail when establishing our new Covid safe procedures. Once the swimmers were back in the pool, he provided regular briefings to Club members and on a daily basis, managed our team of Covid liaison parent volunteers and liaised with pool operators. This was no mean feat especially alongside his full time job. Our club members have been so grateful for all that he has done and he has done it all with such grace and selflessness.
Clare Turner	Eastleigh Swim Club	Clare has worked exceptionally hard during these challenging times on her role as covid lead and treasurer giving many hours of her time. She has led the way in ensuring policies can be met, the club survives financially, worked with the coaching team, pool providers and volunteers whilst ensuring the club members are at the heart of the decisions. Clare really has gone above and beyond.

Nominee	Club	Reason for nomination
Dave Greenaway	Fareham Nomads Swimming Club	Dave has worked tirelessly to create and maintain a safe environment for our swimmers. We managed to get back in the pool in August thanks to Dave's dedication to delivering a workable risk assessment followed by ongoing liaison with our pool providers, committee and coaches. Dave has formed a well trained and reliable team of Covid liaison officers who he keeps up to date with the Swim England and government changing guidance. Dave is always available to help with questions which arise and issues which have to be worked through. We are immensely grateful to have him support the club in this way.
Elaine Cinquegrana	Staines Swimming Club	Elaine has worked tirelessly over the last six months to ensure the safety and well being of the staff, swimmers, volunteers and parents. She dedicated hours researching and understanding Covid 19 supporting the development of a comprehensive risk management plan and operational procedures. She has ensured that everyone is fully informed and been available to answer questions and listen to feedback. From everyone at Staines Swimming Club we are hugely grateful for Elaine's commitment and dedication in these unprecedented times.
Gail Hubbard	City of Canterbury	She has taken on all the Covid admin, making our lives as easy as possible, organising everything pre-poolside so that coaches can focus on the poolside. The loss of our Director of Swimming has been difficult for the whole club, but she has worked tirelessly to make sure everything can continue to run smoothly, despite incredibly hard circumstances.
Helen Roberts	Dorking Swimming Club	For Stepping Up and accepting the role of Lead COVID Officer for Dorking Swimming Club without even knowing what would be involved. Helen has trained quite an army of COVID volunteers as we have introduced our swim squads back to swimming training, attending sessions where her own girls are not swimming just to make sure everything is OK. This in addition to being a full-on Swim Mum with 3 girls in 3 different squads at least one of them swimming or training every day of the week.

Nominee	Club	Reason for nomination
Jill Russell	Dorking Swimming Club	For Stepping Up and taking on the administration and registration tasks required during Dorking Swimming Clubs ,ÀReturn to Training,À phases where we had to maintain numerous lists and control numbers during our ,ÀReturn to the Pool,À stages for all squad, juggling the needs of each squad member across the 7 squads we,Àve been able to return to training and knowing exactly who has swam when so we can cover our costs.
John Reed	Wycombe District Swimming Club	John Reed is the lead on our Covid response committee and the named Covid 19 liaison for our club. In this role he has overseen the production of our risk assessments and procedures and protocols for our return to the pool all of which continue to be reviewed and updated in response to current events on a regular basis to ensure that our club's 600 swimmers can continue to enjoy their sport in a safe and secure way.
John Tucker	Wycombe District Swimming Club	As a member of our Covid 19 committee John was responsible for leading the initial project planning to prepare the club for the return to swimming – working out all the tasks required and the order, deadlines and allocations. He was involved in the preparation of the club's risk assessments and procedures and ongoing review and amendment of these.
Kevin Brooks	Wycombe District Swimming Club	Kev has been the driving force behind getting our swimmers back in the pool as soon as possible – he has worked tirelessly to keep in touch with our pool operator and work with them to produce protocols and procedures to ensure our members and coaches can return to swimming in a covid secure environment.
Philippa Elwell	Dorking Swimming Club	Coordinating Level X galas and last minute adjustments to schedules to allow as many children as possible to complete the Phase 1 cycle following the Government announcement that pools were to be closing again. Outstanding Organisational Skills and Perfect Teamwork.
Steve Gilbert	Didcot & Barramundi SC (DABS)	Liaised with 3 pools, completed risk assessments, communicated with club members, been poolside 4 days a week, organised team of Covid monitors – basically provided non-stop help to get us back in the water
Trixie Nisbet	Lewes Swimming Club	She has kept us 'afloat' and ensured that we can return to swimming in Covid-19 secure manner.

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