

# ***Annual Report***

## **2022**

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***I send my sincere thanks to everyone at each event that I have attended; all of them volunteers working tirelessly to support the Region's athletes and making me so very welcome.***

***John Tripp  
President***

## President's Report

My first official duty as Region President was to attend and present diving awards at the 2022 South East Skills Competition in Tunbridge Wells in May. It was my first experience of a diving event and I learned a lot with the help of my hosts.

My term as Region President continued during the splendid summer of 2022 with a brilliant day of open water swimming in July at Westhampnett Lake for our Regional Championships. A most enjoyable change for me as an 'indoor' official. I was made to feel most welcome and it was a pleasure to present the awards during the afternoon.

In August I took the opportunity to use some volunteering leave offered by my employer to officiate at the Swim England summer championships. It was good to be back in Sheffield, having spent many summers at Ponds Forge with my daughters and to catch up with some old friends.

The new season and the Regional short course Masters in October at K2 was another opportunity to volunteer as an official at a competition; this time in support of our dedicated band of South East volunteer officials and event makers. I returned to officiate in Sheffield at the end of October, this time with my two daughters, both competing in the National Masters Short Course competition; it was just like old times! No time for a break, the Masters competition was followed by a weekend at the splendid Winchester Leisure Centre for our Region Winter Short Course championships.

As I write this report, I am presently two thirds of the way through spending a full day at each of our counties' Championships. Each county has been kind enough to allow me to officiate at their competition as well as presenting medals and trophies alongside their respective County Presidents. The standard of competition has been very high, with each competition organised to run smoothly and efficiently by the event teams.

I send my sincere thanks to everyone at each event that I have attended; all of them volunteers working tirelessly to support the Region's athletes and making me so very welcome. Finally, my thanks to my dear wife, Denise, who has

supported me throughout my term as President, despite being a 'swimming widow' for many weekends.

For the remainder of my term I am looking forward to being at the 2023 Summer Championships in Winchester and High Wycombe as well as watching some of our water polo players and artistic swimmers in action.

**John Tripp**  
**President**

## Chairman's Report

My last 2 reports were, I fear, dominated by the Covid-19 pandemic, and that was still a factor at the beginning of 2022. Very fortunately, the spectre of the pandemic receded as the year progressed, and I felt that, by 31 December 2022, we had, for the most part, recovered from it. Of course, life is not plain sailing, and events in the world, like the invasion of Ukraine, have led to other pressures, not the least the cost of energy and dramatic rises in the cost of living. Older persons, like me, can, however, remember when inflation was 15%!

Suffice it to say that 2022 saw our sports return to normal. We promoted all the "usual" regional competitions, and witnessed our clubs recruiting back close to the membership levels of 2019. Some figures issued by Swim England showed that the total membership of the clubs in the Region was 36,777 at the end of December: the figure at December 2019 was 38,836. For your information, the numbers across the 3 categories of membership were:

	Club Train	Club Compete	Club Support	Total
<b>2019</b>	<b>15643</b>	<b>15173</b>	<b>8020</b>	<b>38836</b>
<b>2022</b>	<b>14645</b>	<b>14437</b>	<b>7695</b>	<b>36777</b>

While this augurs well for the future, there are presently dips in the numbers of swimmers, divers etc in some age groups and qualified volunteers, like technical officials in swimming and other disciplines. It will probably take a couple of years to fill those gaps.

I have no doubt that this resurgence derives in part from the actions of the Region, particularly the work of its staff, in providing support to our clubs in their rebuilding after the pandemic. Therefore, may I pay tribute to the excellent work undertaken by Bryony Gibbs, the Regional Manager, and Kristie Jarrett and Ben McDonald, the Regional Club Development Officers, who have been tireless. Please join me in applauding their continued unstinting support for our sports during 2022. I should add that Ben left the Region, to take up employment as a paramedic, just after the year end. Ben had been a vital cog in the Region's machine for the past 3 years, and will be missed by the "minor" (an inappropriate description, but broadly understood, I feel!) disciplines which he has supported. Ben has also worked hard on more central issues, like Club Affiliation (previously Stronger Affiliation), the regional agreement and the Region's strategy.

The Region's Management Board has also been a significant player in this exercise. Again, all but one of our meetings have been remote, as during the pandemic, with one face-to-face meeting, in November, when the managers of the disciplines joined us, for what was a very fruitful meeting. Ever since the Region was established, the Board

have sought not to interfere with the working of the individual disciplines, believing that the experts in those various sports are the ones who should lead it. That said, we have Board Members who act as liaison with each of the disciplines, a model which has worked well in the past 17 years.

***"...all but one of our meetings have been remote, as during the pandemic, with one face-to-face meeting, in November, when the managers of the disciplines joined us, for what was a very fruitful meeting."***

You will know that all of the Board are volunteers, giving their time freely. They are all very industrious, and have regional roles beyond being 'just' a member of the Board. Roger Prior remains as the Board Member responsible for Finance. Carys Jones chairs the Staffing Sub-Committee. Sara Todd has been instrumental in re-shaping the Region's strategy, a not inconsiderable task. Alan Lewis has taken over the chair of the Development Group, following the retirement of John Davies.



***Rosa Gallop, now a member of the Regional Management Board but known to many as a Club Development Officer in the regional before her retirement, was presented with Swim England's Harold H Turner Award for her outstanding commitment to aquatics.***

As mentioned above, there is a Board liaison member for every discipline.

John Davies retired as a Board Member at the Annual Council Meeting last April, having been a Member since the inception of the Region, and, indeed, a Member of the shadow board before that. John's departure left a big hole: he has been a very influential figure, as Vice-Chairman of the Board, Chair of the Development Group and as one of the architects of the Region's structure and constitution. Chris Lee succeeded him as Vice-Chairman, but we have yet to recruit a successor as a Board member.

***"A key milestone in the development of the Region has been its incorporation. The South East was probably the last region to follow Swim England's lead, and become a company."***

Brian DeVal continues to lead on the Board in respect of communications, a vital part of the Region's role and its very existence, as well as being the Region's President until the ACM last year. At the 11th hour, we recruited John Tripp as Vice-President, so John succeeded Brian as President in April 2022. We have been blessed, as a Region, to have had a succession of hard working and committed presidents, and Brian and John have followed that tradition. However, as last year, at the time of writing, the office of Vice-President, and, therefore, the next President, is vacant.

A key milestone in the development of the Region has been its incorporation. The South East was probably the last region to follow Swim England's lead, and become a company. The rationale for so doing was explained to the membership of our 177 clubs prior to the 2022 ACM, and the ACM passed the necessary resolution. In the intervening period, following sterling work by Bryony Gibbs, and Board Members Chris Lee, Roger Prior and Sara Todd, together with support from Susan Harrison, company articles were drafted, and adopted by the Board, to whom authority had been delegated by the ACM, at a meeting in November.

Swim England South East Limited, a company limited by guarantee, was registered at Company House on 23 December, with a registered office, courtesy of Swim England, at Sport Park, Loughborough.

The Board is presently working with our bankers to open accounts in the Company's name, a seemingly tricky task, given the general regulations to prevent money laundering etc. In the meantime, the unincorporated body is meeting the Company's liabilities, and collecting its receipts. Once all the formalities are completed, the unincorporated body can be wound up, and there will be a motion to that effect at the 2023 ACM, which, in all probability, will, therefore, be the last one.

Having achieved this, however, we cannot rest on our laurels. The economic situation, which I mentioned at the beginning, is undoubtedly affecting our sports, reliant as they are, for the most part – open water excepted – on heated water. Together with the national governing body, we must do our utmost to keep facilities open. What is more, they need to be replaced when they are worn out, and enhanced. Remember, for the biggest Swim England region in terms of membership, we are not blessed with many long course, and usable, pools!

On a sadder note, I have to advise you of the passing of Margaret Tuppen MBE, one of the Region's Trustees, just before the end of last year. Margaret was a true stalwart of the sport, having been Secretary of the Sussex County Association for over 40 years – another very long serving volunteer who will be sorely missed.

Finally, may I congratulate all those members of clubs in the Region who were selected for and competed in the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham last summer, across a variety of sports: they are listed elsewhere in this report. Well done to you all!

***Roger Penfold***  
***Chairman***



## Finance

Unfortunately, 2022 was another atypical year, making comparison with the previous year difficult again. The aftermath of the pandemic still had a considerable effect on the Region's activities, so a budgeted substantial deficit turned into a small surplus.

### Income

Affiliation fees were very healthy and are getting back towards those in pre-pandemic years. In light of the 2022 outcome, the healthy balances and the current economic climate, the Board took the decision again not to increase the fees for 2023. Return of competition led to a level of income from Licensed meets similar to pre-pandemic levels and, with the ability to hold Regional Championships, our sponsorship income returned. The diversification of our bank accounts also returned a 330% increase in bank interest. Thus, our income was 140% up on 2021.

### Expenditure

It was good to see that the activities of the disciplines and central development have started to increase as things get more back to normal. However, expenditure in most areas was still well below that budgeted.

We have substantial expenditure on Staffing and Office Costs, but I am sure Clubs are grateful for the support they get from our staff and I know the volunteer discipline management groups value the administrative support they get.

### Thanks

Once more I would like to thank the Regional Manager and the Regional Development Officers for the work they do in minimising costs and assisting the volunteers in budgeting. The Regional Manager continues to manage the day to day finances impeccably and, yet again, the excellent year end financial reports she produced were not queried or altered at all by the accountants. I thank the discipline managers for keeping good control over the finances allocated to them. Finally, I thank the Finance Sub Group and the Board for their support and sound advice.

### The future

We are all aware of the current rates of inflation and escalating costs of fuel, which are likely to affect aquatic facilities substantially over the next

few years. We are already seeing substantial increases in facilities hire charges, catering and hotel costs. This will undoubtedly impact on the Region's costs. The Board decided that we had sufficient reserves to cover such increases for 2023 without increasing affiliation fees or competition entry fees, but we will have to look at the way the year has gone when we are budgeting for 2024 and beyond.

***"I would like to thank the Regional Manager and the Regional Development Officers for the work they do in minimising costs and assisting the volunteers in budgeting."***

At the end of 2022, our new company, Swim England South East Limited was incorporated. While the somewhat tortuous process of setting up banking arrangements for the new company takes place, all finances will continue to be handled by the old unincorporated Swim England South East Region. Once we are in a position to do so, all the assets of the unincorporated body will be transferred to the new company and the unincorporated body will be dissolved. As a result, the 2024 Annual Council Meeting will receive two sets of accounts, one for the unincorporated body for the period 01 January 2023 until the date of its dissolution and one for the new company from 01 January 2023 to 31 December 2023.

***Roger Prior***  
***Board Member Responsible for Finance***

# SWIM ENGLAND SOUTH EAST REGION

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

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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

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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 2022 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.

*Charterhouse (Accountants) Ltd*  
*Chartered Accountants*

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

*16th March 2023*  
Date: .....



# SWIM ENGLAND SOUTH EAST REGION

## INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

For the year ended 31 December 2022

		2022		2021	
		£	£	£	£
<b>Income</b>					
Affiliation fees		165,067		147,914	
Licensed meet fees		35,414		-	
Bank interest (net)		2,689		809	
Sponsorship		5,750		-	
			208,920		148,723
<b>Expenditure</b>					
Cost of Democracy					
	Regional management board	569		739	
	President's expenses	218		325	
	Accountancy fees	2,340		2,250	
	Bank charges	805		458	
		3,932		3,771	
Disciplines					
	Diving (net)	11,122		2,372	
	Disability (net)	1,551		1,139	
	Masters (net)	184		522	
	Open water (net)	6,184		-	
	Swimming (net)	26,593		12,913	
	Artistic swimming (net)	1,684		(1,588)	
	Water polo (net)	15,804		4,657	
	Medals	212		983	
		63,333		20,998	
Development plan					
	Course subsidies	27,047		18,710	
	Volunteer training	7,737		7,056	
	Athlete support	1,042		361	
		35,826		26,127	
Staffing and Office Expenditure					
	Staffing costs	89,685		80,255	
	Central establishment costs	7,087		4,872	
		96,772		85,126	
			199,863		136,023
Surplus / (deficit) for the year			9,057		12,700

# SWIM ENGLAND SOUTH EAST REGION

## BALANCE SHEET

As at 31 December 2022

	Notes	2022		2021	
		£	£	£	£
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
Debtors	2	17,459		9,641	
Cash at bank	3	<u>383,493</u>		<u>362,846</u>	
			400,952		372,487
<b>Less: CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>					
Creditors	4	<u>55,355</u>		<u>43,540</u>	
			55,355		43,540
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			<u><b>345,596</b></u>		<u><b>328,947</b></u>
Accumulated surplus	5		<u>345,596</u>		<u>328,947</u>
			<u><b>345,596</b></u>		<u><b>328,947</b></u>

Approved by the Regional Management Board on the *16th March 2023* 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 2022

### 1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

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

### 2 DEBTORS

	2022 £	2021 £
Trade debtors	-	-
Prepayments and accrued income	17,459	9,641
	<u>17,459</u>	<u>9,641</u>

### 3 CASH AT BANK

Included within Cash at Bank on the 2021 Balance Sheet was £36,800 which related to monies received from the Amateur Swimming Association specifically to cover expenditure in the Disability Swimming discipline. It was agreed in October 2022 that these funds be released for general purposes. The balance of these funds when they were released was £36,656.74.

### 4 CREDITORS

Amounts falling due within one year	2022 £	2021 £
Trade creditors	21,181	10,222
Accruals and deferred income	34,174	33,318
	<u>55,355</u>	<u>43,540</u>

### 5 ACCUMULATED SURPLUS

	2022 £	2021 £
	<b>General Fund</b>	<b>General Fund</b>
Balance brought forward	328,947	313,087
Surplus / (deficit) for the year	9,057	12,700
Released liabilities	7,592	3,160
Balance carried forward	<u>345,596</u>	<u>328,947</u>

### 6 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

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

## Discipline reports

### Artistic Swimming

#### Overview

In the first half of the year, we delivered six regional training days comprising both land and pool based training sessions.

The focus of all sessions was to improve technical skills, swimming technique, stamina and times. Land training focussed on strength and conditioning, flexibility, team building and preparing for the land routine portion of competitions. These sessions were occasionally led by external specialist coaches with skills in speed swimming and gymnastics.

For one of these training days, where club coaches from across the region were invited to attend, we were fortunately able to have GB Artistic Swimming Coach Paola Basso from the World Class Performance (WCP) team leading training and providing expertise to both coaches and athletes.

Paola Basso also led a session for eight athletes (top six 13–15-year-old athletes from the competitive squad based on National Age Group figure results from March and two 16-year-olds identified as having potential to attend GB Youth trials) and lead coaches from the region.

***“The focus of all sessions was to improve technical skills, speed swimming technique, stamina and times.”***

To widen access to contemporary training techniques we gave access to a package of 6 webinars, led by WCP team, for coaches and athletes to attend.

We did try to source a sports psychologist to provide education and tools to aid competition day preparations. Unfortunately, we were not able to do this but will try again for next season.

However, we were very lucky to have been joined by a gymnastics coach and a speed coach to help athlete development which really benefitted our squads.

#### Talent development and competitions

##### ***Development Squad***

The new South East Regional Development Squad started working together in 2022. This followed a period of change since COVID as to how the squad would be selected, train and compete. The squad was formed to allow members to train together with the aim of entering the inaugural Regional Games taking place in Bristol in May. Selection to the Squad is also seen as a pathway into future National Squads (GB Senior, Junior & England Youth).

***“Six regions competed at Regional Games in June giving GB staff an opportunity to see the talent coming through the system.”***

South East Region results at the Regional Games were:

- **Figures 2nd.**
- **Land routine 5th.**
- **Speed relay event 2nd.**

##### ***Competitive Squad***

Our Competitive squad, made up of 15 athletes between 13-15 years, were selected to represent the Region at the Regional Games in June with six regions competing.

South East Region results at the Games were:

- **Figures 2nd overall.**  
(NB South East Region had the highest ranked “top 8” athletes out of all regions)
- **Land routine – 5th.**
- **Speed relay race 2nd.**
- **Overall – 3rd.**

***Di Hughes***  
***Artistic Swimming Manager***

## Development Group

The focus of the Development Group during the year has been around education, specifically with our very successful bursary schemes that supports clubs. As we return to what we look on as normal we have been focussing on whole sport opportunities to benefit our athletes, teachers, coaches and volunteers.

### Talent development

During the year we ran two development camps for the selected 12-year-olds from across the region that included 36 athletes from 24 different clubs.

### Para Swimming camps

Two training days were delivered with up to 16 athletes taking part in each camp.

### Open Water Camp

Details have been included in the Open Water report.

### Sport and Workforce Development

The region currently has 102 SwimMark clubs. This is a positive position as it represents a small increase on the total number of clubs over the year.

We were able to deliver a range of courses and workshops through the year as set out in the table below.

Name of course / workshop	Number of course delivered	Total of people attending
Team Manager 1	14	262
Team Manager 2	4	72
Team Manager Presenter Training course	-	5
Young Volunteers 2021-22	-	96
Young Volunteers 2022-23	Programme went live in October	Recruiting
Time to Listen Courses	5	44 Welfare Officers
Coach Development Programme South East continued to match fund this training with Swim England.		8 swimming coaches

### Regional Coaches' Forum

This group continues to meet 5/6 times per year online and has significant influence the structure of our swimmer development programmes and competitions.

**Alan Lewis**  
*Development Manager*

## Disability Swimming

It has taken a little time to get competitions going again following the lockdown they are beginning to be scheduled and our athletes are starting to travel.

On 25th September we were able to co-host a competition with the South West region. Twelve of our swimmers travelled to Bristol for the event.

At the Regional Summer and Winter Championships at High Wycombe, Crawley and Winchester, multi classification (MC) swimmers were welcomed onto the start lists.

Organised by Down Syndrome Swimming Great Britain the inaugural British Down Syndrome Swimming Championships took place in an action-packed weekend at the K2 in Crawley over the weekend of 19th & 20th November with plenty of swimmers from the south east taking part.

Athletes from across the region also competed at the British Para-Swimming Winter National meet at the Tollcross International Swimming Centre across Saturday 26th and Sunday 27th November. This prestige event provides valuable Winter competition opportunities for Para-Swimming athletes.

**Sue Barker**  
*Disability Swimming Manager*

## Diving

The South East diving development programme is ongoing and very successful. This is a proven programme which is again producing results to match. This is particularly the case with smaller clubs doing well at National events. Given where we have come from at the beginning of the year this is very satisfying and a testament to all the hard work by the divers, coaches and volunteers.

Although there has been a continuous improvement in numbers and participation in events we are still not yet back to pre-pandemic. With constraints being reported on all budgets, particularly facility hire fees, we are fortunate not to have experienced any real impact.

The success of the Commonwealth Games in the diving pool has had a positive impact on the number of new divers joining club learn to dive programmes.

There is still a shortage of tutors with only 3 or 4 available nationally to run Level 1 or Level 2 courses. Courses for officials are now nationally co-ordinated and making significant progress to provide material that is consistent and available to all. The on-line methodology seems to be working well with positive feedback from most candidates.

Volunteers from Albatross Diving, based in Reading, have been particularly supportive of national events with members of their workforce team attending Senior Nationals, Junior Elites, National Age Groups and National Skills competitions. Elsewhere, two coaches have completed their L1 diving qualification.

Missing from the workforce development offer from Swim England is a Rigging Course. This needs to be specifically for diving as we require rigs over trampolines, dry boards and over boards in the pool. As best we can tell there is only one person qualified Nationally to take this course and they are based in Sheffield.

**Andy Hewat**  
**Diving Manager**

## Masters

Master's events continue to be very popular, with each event run by the Region reaching capacity before the closing date.



***Winners of the Regional Inter County Masters Championship. The team came second in the national rankings.***

In 2022 our competitions programme included:

### ***Long Course Championship in January***

- This is a **two-day event** and was again at capacity.
- **7** World Records, **8** European records, and **17** British records set.
- **51** Event Best Performances.

### ***1500m & 800m competition in March***

- This is a single-session event with a capacity of **48** swimmers which was reached in 4hrs.

### ***Short Course Championships in September***

- This event moved to the **K2 in 2021**.
- **1** World Record, **2** European Records, and **9** British Records.
- **55** Meet Best Performances.

### ***Club Relay Championships in September***

- Instigated as a **test event**.
- **126** teams.
- **3** British records set.
- **10** Event Best Performances.
- **18** Event Best Performances established.



The success of all these events is very closely linked to our policy to prioritise entries from swimmers in the region before allowing external entries. We have also received very positive feedback from swimmers and coaches alike for all events we have delivered.

In addition, the Masters' operational group, made up of representatives from each 'home county' with essential support from technical experts, continues to dedicate significant time to ensuring the smooth delivery of our events programme.

We held our first coaching forum in March with 8 coaches contributing.

**Glen Isaacs**  
**Masters Manager**

## Open Water

After a long break due to Covid, this year's event proved extremely difficult to organise. The Chichester venue had increased their charges dramatically and changed their layout requiring the additional purchase of changing facilities. We did not have confirmation of safety cover or the use of additional car park at Rolls Royce until 2 weeks before the event.

Our Championships eventually took place in almost perfect conditions on 16th July.

At the request of the coaches, we introduced a 1km Novice event to provide an opportunity to try out the discipline over a shorter distance. Despite a small take up we will continue to offer this event for 2023 and then monitor its efficacy because this distance is popular in other regions. We also increased the number of age groups in each event to encourage more entrants. More opportunities for Masters to compete were also added in 2022, but again, take up was disappointing.

Overall, 152 swimmers entered the Championships over 4 distances:

**5km, 3km, 2km and 1km Novice.**

Numbers had reduced significantly since the last Championships in 2019 and will need to be built up

again, but all regions experienced the same issue. There are a number of options available to us, but the difficulty is finding a venue that fits the National window and doesn't clash with events in other regions, as many of the volunteers travel between regions to deliver these competitions.

### Development

The annual open water development camp took place in June at the Excel LC and Shepperton lake with 36 athletes between 12yrs & 15yrs taking part.

England talent have requested that this camp forms part of a distance programme initiative in the 2022/2023 season and should incorporate a pool distance training day.

The camp was led by Head Coach Ian Keys (Wycombe SC) supported by 5 skills coaches and team managers. Much like for the regional competition, finding the ideal open water venue was challenging.

The camp always proves popular and once again we had positive feedback.

### Workforce development

The Open Water Officials Course had been rewritten by Swim England. We planned to deliver this in April to seven candidates, but circumstances meant that only one was able to attend. A reorganized course was scheduled for May, but Swim England were not able to meet our request. All 14 candidates were invited to attend our Championships to gain some experience and act as marshals etc. but unfortunately none were able to take up this opportunity.

**Carol Butler**  
**Open Water Manager**

## Strategy Group

This is the first opportunity that the Strategy Group has been able to report to the region and provide a summary of its work and objectives.

Throughout 2022 our emphasis has been on establishing the new working model; essentially operationalising the redefined Development Group and the Swimming Group. In addition, progressing the Regional Agreement and associated objectives.

Both sub-groups have adopted new Terms of Reference; those for the Development Group have been posted on the regional website. The Development Group is now fully focused on coordinating support across all the region's aquatic disciplines. This is achieved through liaison with the Regional Club Development Officers (RCDO) who are able to drive the activities contained in the Regional Agreement.

### The Regional Agreement

The Regional Agreement is a consistent framework used across the country with the intention to guide delivery of our Regional Strategy in alignment with the strategy and objectives of Swim England.

The content for 2022 was developed and aligned towards the end of 2021 and focuses on the strategic pillars (Sport Development, Talent Development, Workforce Development and Club & Membership Development) across all relevant disciplines. The original intention was to conduct a quarterly review with Swim England, but this has not continued beyond Q1. Nevertheless, the Regional Manager and Regional Club Development Officers have continued to progress, guided by the Development Group.

Additionally, revised budgeting templates, geared towards the strategic pillars, have supported enhanced financial analysis. This will be further refined but, as an example, it is now possible to demonstrate spend/ investment in each area and by discipline if required. The table below is indicative of one possible retrospective analysis, providing information useful to support future planning. Further refinement could more actively attribute investment and budget applications to regional planning activities.

Strategic Pillar	Planned Total Budget % (rounded)	Forecast Year End % (Indicative only/tbc)	Comments
Sport Development	31	6.2	Income from competitions has exceeded expectations
Talent Development	36	16	
Workforce Development	32	22	
Club & Membership	1	0.3	Does not include associated staffing costs

**Sara Todd**  
Strategy lead

## Swimming

The recommendation of the Regional Strategy was to combine the leadership of Swimming Competitions and Swimming Development under a single leadership of Swimming Manager. The Regional Management Board (RMB) appointed me to the Swimming Manager role in May.

In line with the revised scope of the role I no longer convene meetings of the whole swimming group. Instead, as Swimming Manager, I have convened specific groups tasked to deliver specific activities, such as the 2022 Winter (Short Course) Championships, Swimming Development planning and Meet Licensing.

2022 was a year of recovery for the sport. Because of lockdowns in 2021, the overall standard of swimming in the region had dropped and several clubs were struggling financially. That did pose some challenges in organising competitions, because of difficulties in setting appropriate qualifying times.

Development activities were largely delivered by staff, competitions by volunteers.

In the year, we ran 2 major Swimming Championships:

- Long Course (Summer Championships) in April/May.
- Short Course (Winter Championships) in November.

These competitions are delivered within guidelines set by the Swim England Swimming Discipline Group, and we run competitions according to guidelines published by the Swim England National Licensing Committee.

### Summer Championships 2022 (Long Course)

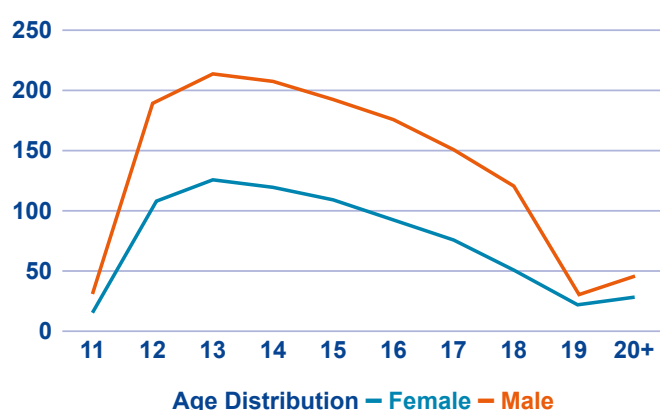
The competition took place over 3 weekends:

- 23rd/24th April at K2 Crawley (Age Group)
- 29th April – 2nd May at Wycombe (Youth)
- 7th/8th May at K2 Crawley (Age Group)

Due to illness I was unable to lead the event and a volunteer team of Brian Deval as Event Director, with support from Alan Thurlow, Mark Sadler, Kristie Jarrett, Natalie Ford and the Coaches Panel stepped in to deliver a successful competition.

A previously agreed proposal to split the regional “Youth Championships” into 2 halves was dropped because of the lingering effect of COVID and availability of volunteers and officials. This was the first competition since COVID where we admitted a limited number of spectators.

The number and age distribution of swimmers was as follows:



Age	Female	Male
11	16	25
12	104	180
13	123	205
14	117	204
15	105	86
16	92	79
17	67	75
18	46	58
19	24	27
20+	32	41
<b>Total</b>	<b>726</b>	<b>680</b>

Outside of competitions two issues dominated time:

1. New guidelines for the depths of pools for all form of swimming which were introduced without consultation, and which would have caused several clubs in the region significant problems. Those guidelines were withdrawn and have not yet been brought forward in a modified form.
2. The Region Licensing Panel (correctly) recommended that two meets in March be downgraded in rankings because the number and qualification of officials did not meet the published criteria for meets. This was reversed by Swim England, without consulting the region. The cause of the problems was related to the COVID pandemic and subsequently, several decisions were agreed with Swim England.

### Regional Development camps

We have run two development camps for selected 36 12-year-olds from across the region representing 24 different clubs. Both took place at ACS School, Cobham in September, and October.

### Other comments

For many years we have noted in this report the lack of quality facilities in the South East.

However, a new 8-lane 50m pool came at Winchester came on stream in 2021 that provides us with:

- **8** lanes LC or SC
- **Wide** pool surrounds
- A **large sports hall** with direct access to the pool
- A **high-speed internet connection** (sufficient to support Live Streaming)
- **Sufficient parking** within a short walk.

We were fortunate to be able to use this pool in our competition planning and hopefully will have access to it for many years.

**Mike Lambert**  
*Swimming Manager*

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## Water Polo

The focus for 2022 was to build a stronger and qualified workforce. That would support the development of the sport and ensure that club had structured continuity.

We have been able to arrange multiple coaching courses and all clubs should now have, or will soon have, a qualified coach on poolside for all sessions. Several clubs still have unqualified coaches' coaching, but this should continue to improve as more courses are delivered.

During the year we successfully delivered:

- Swim England Assistant Water Polo Coach course
- Swim England Water Polo Coach course
- Table Officials course
- Club Level Referees courses
- Regional Level Referees courses

The South East is not unique but there remains a great shortage of volunteers willing to step forward and fill empty positions. This includes official's secretary and competition organiser. Without these positions being filled no further officials' course or South East Water Polo competitions can be organised.

***The South East is not unique but there remains a great shortage of volunteers willing to step forward and fill empty positions.***

Water Polo Regional training has continued with limited official guidance's from Swim England on what is expected. It's become clear Swim England don't know what regional training is taking place across the county but there is an expectation that they will roll out a new, national programme for the England training squad. What the impact of this will be on our regional training is unknown.

### Significant South East Region team results in 2022

- **Champions** Girls Water Polo under 14 (2009 & younger) Inter-Regional Championships
- **7th** Under 16 Boys Inter Regional Championships 2022
- **3rd** Under 18 Boys Inter Regional Championships 2022
- **5th** Under 18 Girls Inter Regional Championships 2022

**Ben McDonald**  
*Water Polo Manager*

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# Roll of Honour

## Artistic swimming

<i>Name</i>	<i>Club</i>	<i>Event</i>
<i>Senior GB Squad</i>		
Daisy Gunn Laura Turberville Isobel Blinkhorn	Reading Royals ASC	Competed at both the Senior Worlds & Senior Europeans setting new highs for the team events in the first season of the new programme
<i>Junior GB Squad</i>		
Eleanor Blinkhorn	Reading Royals ASC	Competed in the technical duet at both the Junior Worlds & Junior Europeans.
Beatrice Crass	Reading Royals ASC	
Eleanor Blinkhorn	Reading Royals ASC	Competed in the mixed technical duet and mixed free duet at both the Junior Worlds & Junior Europeans and won medals at both events.
Beatrice Crass Rebecca Saunders Madeleine Brown Charlie Razzell Elena Smith – Fernandez Cara Zeidler	Reading Royals ASC	Competed or trained with the squad in the team events at Junior Europeans.
<i>England Youth Squad</i>		
Florence Blinkhorn Lily Halasi	Reading Royals ASC	Competed in the free duets event in Croatia, Youth Worlds & Youth Europeans.
Lily Halasi	Reading Royals ASC	Competed in the free solo event in Croatia, Youth Worlds & Youth Europeans.
Florence Blinkhorn Lily Halasi Francesca Pringle Eva Narewska	East Region	Competed in the team events in Croatia & Youth Europeans.

## Diving

<b>Name</b>	<b>Club</b>	<b>Event</b>
<b>Lauren Saunders</b>	Albertross DC	GB Junior Elite silver medallist on 1m and 3m springboards in Group B girls.
<b>Hernan Mosqueda-Jolly</b>	Albertross DC	National Age Group gold medallist on 1m and 3m springboards in Group A boys.
<b>Harry Healey</b>		National Age Group gold medallist on platform in Group A boys.
<b>Molly Lefever</b>	Albertross DC	National Age Group silver medallist on platform Group A girls.
<b>Maya Peché</b>	Albertross DC	National Age Group silver medallist on 3m springboard and bronze medallist on platform in Group A girls.
<b>Lyra Guise Tucker</b>	Star Diving	Competed in all three individual National Age Group events – 1m, 3m and platform – plus 3m synchro, and medalled in them all. She teamed up with Lucy Parker of Luton Diving Club for the A/B Girls 3m synchro, taking silver on 193.44. Lyra went on to claim silver on 3m, bronze on platform, and another silver on 1m.

## Swimming

<b>Name</b>	<b>Club</b>	<b>Event</b>
<b>Commonwealth Games – Team England</b>		
<b>Adam Barrett</b>	Wycombe District	Finalist 50m Butterfly
<b>Katie Crowhurst</b>	Wycombe District	Gold – Para Triathlon
<b>European Junior Championships in Bucharest</b>		
<b>Eva Okaro</b>	Sevenoaks	
<b>Darcy Revitt</b>	Guildford City	
<b>Lucy Fox</b>	Wycombe District	
<b>Sophie King</b>	Woking	
<b>Ella Dyson</b>	Wycombe District	Open Water



<b>Name</b>	<b>Club</b>	<b>Event</b>
<i>European Youth Olympic festival</i>		
<b>Maisie Brown</b>	Rushmoor	
<i>European Junior Championships in Bucharest</i>		
<b>Eva Okaro</b>	Sevenoaks	
<b>Darcy Revitt</b>	Guildford City	
<b>Lucy Fox</b>	Wycombe District	
<b>Sophie King</b>	Woking	
<i>LEN open water Championships</i>		
<b>Ella Dyson</b>	Wycombe District	
<i>European Senior Open Water Championships</i>		
<b>Ella Dyson</b>	Wycombe District	
<b>Maddie Emmment</b>	Guildford City	
<i>European Youth Olympic festival</i>		
<b>Maisie Brown</b>	Rushmoor Royals	

## Swimmers who are MEMBERS of Clubs in the Region

### Commonwealth Games

- **Kieran Bird** (Wycombe District) Team Wales
- **James McFadden** (Wycombe District) Team England – 200 IM Finalist
- **Tom Dean** (Maidenhead) – Medallist
- **Alicia Wilson** (Guildford City) – Finalist

### European Championships

- **Kieran Bird** (Wycombe District) Gold medallist
- **Tom Dean** (Maidenhead) – Gold medallist

## Regional and National Award Winners



**Above:**  
**Ryan Sawyer (Beacon SC), Youth Champion**

**Below:**  
**David Greenaway**  
**(Fareham Nomads SC),**  
**Technical Official of the Year**



**Above:**  
**Ranjoo Tomblin (Rushmoor Artistic SC),**  
**Breakthrough Athlete of the Year**



**Above:**  
**Worthing**  
**Swimming Club,**  
**Water Polo Section**



**Left:**  
**Nathan Jegou**  
**(Tigers SC Jersey),**  
**Coach of the Year**

**Andy Hewat**  
**(Star Diving**  
**Club), received**  
**the Volunteer of**  
**the Year Award**



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