

Chairman's Report – 2019

How time flies when you're having fun!

It only seems like yesterday that I was telling those present at last year's AGM how honoured I was to be asked to be considered as Chair and how struck I was by the camaraderie within the club. This report follows only 10 months on as we have, of course, brought forward this AGM in line with the Club's new Constitution and change of year end, approved at last year's meeting.

The start of the year saw the club achieving Swim Mark accreditation – a deserved reward for all the hard work put in by Sarah Coleman and the rest of the Committee the year before.

The Wiltshire County Championships in January saw no less than 22 swimmers from the Club compete – a wonderful achievement for them personally and for our Club.

Success in the pool has continued to new levels with the Club competing for the first time in its 46 year history, in Division 1 of the Wiltshire Summer League. That camaraderie I refer to, was no better illustrated than by our swimmers at **that** Gala in Trowbridge on the 15 June that stirred emotions so high, that I felt the need to do something I have never done before – post on Facebook. With the final round approaching later this month, the Club is currently sitting in the top half of the division.

Three of our swimmers qualified for the South West Regional Championships this year, and one even competed in the Welsh National Championships! As Tone would say, *"not bad for our small club"*.

Not only can the Club feel very proud of such individual achievements but it can also feel very proud of boasting one of the strongest Masters Teams in the area with two of its members breaking County records this year.

This success does not happen overnight. It requires commitment, dedication and hard work – not just from the swimmers themselves but also from our coaching team and it is here that I now turn my attention.

There has been a concerted focus this year on the coaching delivered to our swimmers. Underlying this is the club's objective of providing a structured development pathway to enable all swimmers to reach their full potential.

I am particularly grateful to each and every one of our volunteer coaches who have helped our swimmers, at all levels, develop throughout the year. Whilst we all see the time that they commit poolside, what is not visible is the huge amount of time that they all commit away from the pool, attending meetings, attending training courses and developing training plans.

I offer special thanks to Carolyn Nicholls. Carolyn has completed her Swim England Level 1 Teaching course, her Swim England Assistant Swimming Coach course and is currently working hard towards her Swim England Swimming Coach badge. Carolyn has been an ever increasing presence on poolside and a lot of our swimmers are benefitting from the knowledge that she has.

Another success this year has been the introduction of land training for the squad members. The strength and conditioning training provided by Richard Nicholls is playing a vital role in the development of our young athletes.

Very soon, swimmers can expect to see the results of all the hard work that the coaches have put in behind the scenes. A new structure of lesson content has been prepared by Tone and Carolyn which will be followed by the coaches.

In addition, lookout for new session names and a structured plan of goals, based on technique and ability, for the swimmers to reach and demonstrate consistently, before moving up in lanes within a session and before moving between session groups.

The objective behind these plans is really twofold. Firstly, to develop more structured and tailored training plans for sessions and, perhaps, even individual swimmers (in time) and, secondly, to make the Club's development pathway clearer for swimmers and parents alike.

Looking forward, I am excited to announce that we hope, in the not too distant future, to obtain the Club's first ever licence to hold Level 4 Open Meets, and possibly even, install electronic timing/touch pads.

Plans are also at an advanced stage for us to introduce Team Unify which should be a more efficient and versatile way of managing the Club and interacting with its members.

Without wishing to step on the Treasurer's toes, the Club remains in a stable position, financially. We are, however, heavily dependent upon members' fees and, of course, fundraising. It is, therefore, disappointing

to report that we have a significant number of members whom have not, as yet, changed their payment details to reflect the price increase in session fees that took place earlier this year. I would urge those that are yet to do so, to please do so.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the Committee for their individual efforts this year. Collectively, they enable Tone and the rest of his team to deliver the best possible coaching.

I offer special thanks to Sarah Coleman for the huge amount of work she has done for the benefit of this Club not just this year but in many previous years, and without whom, this year would have been an even steeper learning curve for me.

I would like to thank the parents, without who, most of our swimmers could not attend training sessions, galas and Open Meets. Many of you also kindly volunteer and help with Club activities outside of Committee roles. Your time and efforts are recognised and appreciated.

Lastly, but by no means least of all, I would like to thank all of our member swimmers. It is your dedication, commitment, enthusiasm and your camaraderie that drives everything that I, the Committee and other volunteers do.

I wish all members and their families a very successful year ahead, both in and out of the pool.

10 September 2019

Jeff Williams

Chairman

Warminster Amateur Swimming Club