



CHAIRMANS REPORT 2024

It gives me great pleasure to once again be able to present you all with this years Chair's Report following what has been a good year for the GB Deaf Swimming Club.

Membership has slightly increased this year despite wishing fair well to one or two who have decided to move on to other things. As always we wish them well with all their future endeavours. It goes without saying that we will be looking to continue to grow the membership throughout 2025 and as always we ask you all for your help with this. Wherever, whenever and however possible, please promote our fantastic club.

Over the year I have been busy in meetings with UKDS, discussing club structure & governance. We have to show that our paperwork is in order and that we are continuing to provide the best possible environment for our swimmers and their families. This is also something we are required to do Annually as part of Swim England's "Stronger Affiliation" process, and we do this as part of our club affiliation to the South East Region. As part of this we have signed an agreement with UKDS to be classified as the Official Governing Body for Deaf Swimming in the UK and the only club that UKDS will recognise in this role. This work has helped bring further recognition to GBDSC as we were awarded the "Swim Club of the Year" in the South East Region and in addition to this we have been listed as a Finalist at the National Swim England Awards in the "Inclusive Impact" category. Of course I must thank Amy, Kris & Martin for their support and work within the club and also give a huge thank you to everyone who took the time to nominate & vote for us and provide such positive feedback. Our swimmers must also receive plaudits too for their performances over the year in and

around the pool. Each and every time they attend competition they unknowingly continue to promote the GBDSC.

Earlier in the Year we held our Annual Championships at Loughborough University, and once again we were privileged to watch our swimmers provide a fantastic standard of swimming. Equally enjoyable is watching their friendships as they continually support each other despite being in direct competition during the event. A huge Thank you to Kris Harvey for her role as Gala Coordinator, who's amazing organisation made the event run very smoothly, and of course thanks to all of you who gave up your time to make sure we had everything covered from Timekeepers to the Raffle & Medal Tables. Also, Thanks to the Officials who attended the event to provide their services as Referee's etc. Congratulations to all the winners on the day and lets hope for another great show next year.

In June we were once again well represented at the National Junior Para Swimming Championships in Coventry. Our young swimmers were fantastic both in and out of the water and I once again received superb feedback from the organisers of the event regarding their conduct and how organised they were through the marshalling process especially. There was a change to the structure of the day this year due to the good numbers which allowed for S15 Finals. This allowed them to really shine and highlight their abilities to all watching and they didn't disappoint with many comments on how accomplished they are in the water. We were also able to place 2 teams into the Relays where again they performed exceptionally. Well done to all that attended and lets continue to support this event as GBDSC.

I would like to take this opportunity to highlight some of our senior swimmers who are actively giving back to the sport of swimming and in some cases being recognised for this. Nathan Young continues to campaign for Deaf Athletes and for them to receive equal opportunities and funding alongside all other Athletes but equally important is his Coaching of young swimmers and sharing his knowledge and experience with them.

Nathan has been recognised for all this and is a finalist in the Wirral Life Awards, nominated for “Pride of Wirral”.

Ryan Carstairs is becoming a regular celebrity and face of GB Deaf Swimming also and continues to be recognised for his work. Alongside the GBDSC, Ryan has been nominated for individual recognition at the National Swim England Awards in the “Swim England Youth Champion of the Year” category.

Adam Shuttleworth is another who’s giving back to Swimming on the Isle of Man and has been recognised. Since qualifying as a Level 2 Swimming Teacher, Adam has been working to provide specialist swimming lessons for the Deaf and this led to him be nominated for the “Disability Sports Person of the Year” award on the Isle of Man.

Nathan Carrington is another who recently qualified as a Level 2 Swim Teacher and is now volunteering at his local club to Teach the younger generations. All of the above have completed their Lifeguarding courses too, and I am aware that this includes Abby White who is another name on the list of Deaf Swimmers looking to utilise their skills to good effect. Well done everyone and if any others are doing similar, please let me know so we can promote and showcase all of our swimmers’ talents.

That brings me up to date for 2024 and looking forward to 2025 it will hopefully be another exciting and successful year, which will be topped off with the Deaflympics in Tokyo. Martin as Headcoach & Pauline as Team manager are already taking part in organisation meetings for the event, and as we receive more news to share we will keep you all informed accordingly.

Thanks again to everyone for their hard work over the year and to all of you for attending this AGM. Enjoy the rest of your Autumn Training Weekend

Kind Regards

Dave Carrington

Chairman

GB Deaf Swimming Club