

## Coaches Report

I hope this report finds all the swimmers and their families keeping safe and well. With most pools open, I hope all the swimmers are back in their normal training and competition routines again.

Well, that is another year passed since my last report. In March we were able to all meet up and have our British Championships for the first time in a few years at Loughborough. I think this was a successful weekend and everyone seems to have enjoyed themselves. The York training weekend is arranged now, and I hope to see as many swimmers as possible at this weekend.

Dave and I have been at various meetings this year with UK Deaf Sports to discuss various things including what they can do to help swimming as well as other sports. As everyone knows, the Deaflympics were to be held in May 2022 in Brazil. After multiple discussions with UKDS, they decided that there were too many unaddressed issues with the organisation of the games and that it was not in the best interest of the athletes to attend. They decided that Great Britain would not be sending a team to the games. This was obviously hugely disappointing to athletes who had training the last 4 years for this event. This was the first time in the long history of Deaflympics that GB has not sent a swimming team to the Games. ☹️

As a lot of our older swimmers have retired we have a very young group of swimmers who will need to step up a gear and take the places of the older elite swimmers.

The competitions opportunities over the next few years are as follows.

August 2023 – 6<sup>th</sup> WDSC Long Course – Argentina – Confirmed

August 2024 – 2<sup>nd</sup> WDSC Short course – Japan – TBC

November 2025 – 25<sup>th</sup> Summer Deaflympics – Tokyo – Confirmed

July 2026 – 3<sup>rd</sup> WDSC Short Course – Belarus – TBC

January 2027 – 7<sup>th</sup> WDSC Long Course – Australia – TBC

This list does not include the European Championships as the EDSO have not updated the diary over the last year.

As you can see this consist of a lot of competitions being held further away meaning more expensive trips for swimmers.

Up until now we have operated a policy whereby we set a selection criterion for an A and B qualifying time. For people who do not know the selection criteria it is normally set at the 3<sup>rd</sup> place time at the World Championship or Deaflympics plus 10% and the B time is 8<sup>th</sup> place in the final. The A time is what we call the selection time and the B is the consideration time depending on the swimmers selected. As this is a selection for swimming for Great Britain the swimmers are selected based on this criteria and unlike local swimming clubs where they can chose what competitions they want to enter.

We now have an outlet where we can obtain official GBDSC merchandise. I hope that everyone will have a look and purchase the merchandise they want. Myself, Dave and Nathan Carrington

“modelled” the gear at the championships and look forward to everyone having some merchandise and getting a few good photographs for our website and any team photographs for publicity events.

I would finally like to thank the committee and volunteers in the club for all their hard work throughout this year. A special mention has to go to Dave Carrington for his support and attending UKDS meetings with myself, and also to committee members for all their work in keeping the club going. I hope that we will continue the hard work to keep this club in the successful position we are in at the moment for our Swimmers. As you know we have several members stepping down from their roles but really need to find new members to replace them. Please volunteer if you can assist in any role in the running of the club as this will help secure Deaf swimming for the future generations of Deaflympians to enjoy.

Thank you,

*Martin Lee*

**(GB Deaf Swimming Head Coach)**



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