

## Coaches Report

I hope this report finds all the swimmers and their families keeping safe and well.

Well, that is another year passed since my last report. In April we had our British Championships at Loughborough. I am sure we have had higher numbers in previous years but 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. Last year's York training weekend was a good success and even fun for the parents with our bowling evening!

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 and working with Swim England on raising awareness of Deaf Swimming. I have been attending meetings with UKDS as part of an advisory panel which are looking at selecting officials for various meets and in depth discussions with other governing bodies from various Deaf Sports. The next main event that UK Deaf Sports are looking to get funding for is the Deaflympics in 2025.

Nathan Young and Lucy Jordan-Caws attended the World Championships in Argentina. Both swam well and the standard from other countries were high. On this subject I would like to thank Pauline Jordan-Caws for travelling with Nathan and Lucy and carrying out the role of Team Manager and also for helping organise the travelling arrangements.

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

April 2024 – 12<sup>th</sup> European Swimming Championships – Turkey - TBC

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

The European Championships is supposed to be in Turkey but have had no confirmation, and I am also very aware as time goes on, that there is not a lot of time to fundraise for this event should it go ahead.

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

As we have a lot of young swimmers in the club now and fewer older swimmers, I am looking to try and open up the selection criteria more to help bridge the gap between the older and younger swimmers by getting them experience by attending some International competitions on the build up to the Deaflympics and beyond.

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. 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)**

