

Coaches Report 2024

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. The championship again was an enormous success, and everyone seemed to have enjoyed themselves. The winter training weekend is in York in November, and I hope to see as many swimmers as possible at this weekend. Last year's York weekend was enjoyed by all who attended. It certainly brought out the competitiveness between the parents in the bowling. The swimmers seemed to be getting carried away in the spirit of the bowling competition too. A great night had by all who attended the evening activities!

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 support swimming as well as other sports including 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. Pauline Jordan-Caws as Team Manager will be attending the meetings as part of the UKDS Deaflympic Organising Committee on our behalf. I would like to thank Pauline for doing this.

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

November 2025 – 25th Summer Deaflympics – Tokyo – Confirmed

July 2026 – 3rd WDSC Short Course – Belarus – TBC

August 2026 – 1st European Deaf Youth Games – Germany - TBC

January 2027 – 7th WDSC Long Course – Australia – TBC

The European Championships did not go ahead as there were no countries able to host these championships.

As you can see our next major competition will be the Deaflympics in Tokyo next November. Last year I mentioned in my report about trying to bridge the gap between to older and younger swimmers to help the younger swimmers gain experience of Deaf Internationals and to help build their confidence accordingly, and this is still something I would like to see happen. I have recently released the Qualification times which have been issued by the ICSD for Tokyo, but UKDS also wish to have a part in the selection policy, so I am in discussion with them regarding this. This however is not the only requirement as there is a swimmer's code of conduct which is to allow the swimmers to show me their commitment to attending such a major event. I will update the club as and when I have more information and will be looking to stay in communication with the swimmers who are selected to compete.

I would finally like to thank the committee and volunteers in the club for all their hard work throughout the year and for all of you, the members, who we would not have a club without. A special mention must go to Dave Carrington for his support over the last year and to committee for all their work within the club too. I hope that we can all continue the hard work to keep this club in the successful position that we are in now for our Swimmers.

Congratulations to the club for winning the Swim England SE Club of the year and hopefully we will get good recognition at the Swim England National Club of the Year.

As always, if you feel you can assist in a role that helps the club please come forward as this will help secure Deaf Swimming for future generations of Deaflympians to come.

Thank you,

Martin Lee

(GB Deaf Swimming Head Coach)

