



CHELMSFORD CITY SWIMMING CLUB LTD REPORT TO ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 24th MAY 2018

Overview

2017-2018 has been another year of competitive success for all sections of the Club. We have continued to build on the strong foundations I inherited, setting us up for greater success in the future. The Club's management and administration have been strengthened with new directors appointed during the year and new volunteers stepping into important roles, improving the way we run the club day to day. We have seen significant growth in the membership in our Intro & Academy sections in particular. We are looking forward to the new pool in Chelmsford being completed so we can add members in sections currently constrained due to pool time availability.

The overhaul of the Riverside facilities is long overdue with the new pool giving Chelmsford a fantastic addition to a thriving City. From a Club perspective it should mean we have a venue we can call home, allowing us to host our own competitions and if membership growth permits deliver more pool time to our sections. We continue to work with the Chelmsford Council team to ensure we will get what we need when the pool hopefully opens in 2019.

Chelmsford is increasingly unique within Essex, and probably wider afield in continuing to thrive as a multi-disciplinary Club. The Executive Officers of the Club and the respective lead coaches of the sections have worked hard to ensure that all sections of the Club have their needs met as far as our limited resources allow and to work as "one Club". This year this meant the release of £10,000 in reserves to invest across the sections.

However not everything went as well as it could during the year. Our quality and timeliness issues with Swimzi delivering the Club kit we expected lasted most of 2017. It appears we have finally got this resolved but it has been an unhappy situation and Lynn Collins in particular deserves special mention for the time and energy she put into this to get it fixed going forward.

Competitive success

In Water Polo under Dean Walker

Our Water Polo at Chelmsford continues to flourish. We now compete in all age groups from U12 through to senior men and this year we re-entered a team into the British Water Polo League. The Club had 6 Chelmsford players represented the U16 East Region team that won Division 1 of the Inter Regionals. Dan A, Rob G and Ciara N all are in the U17 GB training squad with Dan now having played twice for England. Dan P played for GB junior Men in the European qualifiers and competed in the World student games in China. He was also part of the GB senior men's team that won the EU Nations cup in May. Lastly Dean was recognised as the East Region coach of the year in 2017.

In Synchro under Laura Neary

This year as a section we have grown in numbers and are more inclusive than ever with William and Finley leading the way for boys' participation. We achieved gold medals for our under 12, 13-15 and 15-18 teams at East Region in October. We have 3 new grade 3s (the highest we have achieved in the new scheme), 2 new grade 2s and many grade 1s. Fiona Palmer passed the level one judge course and Lena & Marloes attended an aquatic helpers course. We also attended the first ever Combo Cup with 3 teams coming 15th at Under 12 & 8th in both the 13-15 & 15-18 categories.



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Masters under Sean Eveleigh

We now have over 50 members in our Masters section, with the oldest swimmer being Terry Ashwell who is 79 years old and still swims twice a week. 20+ of the members regularly compete and in the last year we had 2 swimmers compete at the World Masters championships in Budapest. We had 13 swimmers compete at Nationals, bringing home 1 silver and 3 bronze medals. And we also had 12 swimmers compete in the Essex Masters championships with Chelmsford finishing the third best club.

Competitive Swimming under Sean Eveleigh

A very good year competitively for the club, highlighting the progress we continue to make. As a Club we finished 3rd in this year's Essex Championships up from 6th last year and 4th in 2016. The Club had a return to British Nationals podium success with Abbie winning silver in the girls 15yrs 400 Free. Abbie also gained medals at the English Nationals including a gold for the 200 Backstroke. We were also very successful at the Regional Championships in 2017 with 5 gold medals going to Erin (also top girl in her age group) and one Gold to Abbie. The club finished 12th overall.

The National Arena League proved very competitive with Chelmsford just missing out on promotion again, ending up 3rd. We continue to do very well at the Mini League and the Junior Arena League. The academy has moved forward very successfully both in terms of numbers and quality of coaching. Our ex-Academy boys in particular doing very well, winning both a gold and a silver for the 9/10yrs relays at the Essex Champs.

Unfortunately, our assistant Head Coach Richard Mills left us during the year. We have started the search for his replacement so that we can continue to develop our junior talent.

Wider Club developments

Out of the water there have been a number of developments that have strengthened the Club.

Four new Directors joined the Board during the year allowing us to be more proactive on topics such as fundraising. The Club converted to a charity during the year and we intend to utilise that under Mike Low our Fundraising Director to allow us to continue to invest and develop. The Club has been successful in passing the health check under the Swim England Swim Mark quality mark for well-run Clubs.

There has been a significant increase in getting more of our coaches further developed and qualified. Our Workforce Director Alison Cowie has been very pro-active and we need to continue to invest to get ahead of the requirements a new pool will bring.

As ever the Club is dependent on the time, goodwill and expertise of volunteers. Those who have volunteered in any way deserve thanks from all of our members. It has truly amazed me how much time and energy some people put into the Club. We should be very glad and thankful that they do.

Mark Price – Chair