

## **WDSSC Chairs Statement for AGM 2021**

It seems a long time ago now we sat together for our last AGM, little did we know at the time what the next year would hold, normally I would have the privilege of celebrating the success and achievements of our athletes in competitions and grade days over the last 12 months.

Unfortunately, due to Covid-19 and the closure of pools it was not possible for these to proceed.

However, despite the challenges we have faced club athletes have adapted well and embraced virtual training sessions held via zoom when we have been unable to train in the pool. WDSSC has managed to hold a minimum of 1 water session per week on 17 out of the 18 weeks indoor swimming has been allowed to take place since the start of Lockdown 1. This has been down to a large input of work behind the scenes from the Covid working party and I would like to take the opportunity to thank them for all of their hard work and commitment.

Club athletes have attended numerous GB seminars on - Sculling, Flexibility, Feet & Ankle Extension, general workouts, preparation for trials. We were also lucky enough to be able to provide the opportunity for all club athletes to attend a special zoom training session hosted by current GB squad members Laura Turbeville & Daisy Gunn.

December saw our annual quiz hosted by Louise move to zoom and great fun was had by all who attended and January a virtual gala giving swimmers the chance to show off the skills they have been practising in the online training sessions.

Steve judged at the recent inaugural X-Games for artistic swimming where 3 club athletes represented the club brilliantly with Kata Soros finishing 8<sup>th</sup> in the junior category, Katherine Stevenson 10<sup>th</sup> in the senior category & Olivia Eaves 23<sup>rd</sup> in the youth category, we are immensely proud of their achievements in what was a very competitive competition.

The coaches have also been busy attending GB/Swim England Seminars on: Covid 19 Lead Role, Sculling techniques, Advanced sculling techniques, Periodisation, Flexibility, Knee & Ankle extension, Injury prevention, GB Trials preparation, Stroke's seminars and Team manager forum.

WDSSC Coaches have also held two coaches' forums where topics were presented and discussed.

Club members and parents have attended a range of courses including - online safeguarding courses, Team manager training and one parent has successfully completed their Level 1 Coaches Theory Module.

The club has recently undergone their full Swim Mark revalidation & is awaiting regional and nation approval, a huge thank you to Mandy for all the work involved in this.

Lockdown 1 saw the athletes, film short videos for a brilliant pass the hat compilation, thank you Emma Rothery for organising and editing this it was great fun.

Sadly, since the last AGM WDSSC has said goodbye to 14 swimming members but has welcomed 2 new members from Henley when their club unfortunately closed.

Hopefully the next year will see an easing of restrictions as covid dwindles and vaccinations increase, allowing for greater pool time.

**James Parker (Chair)**