

OWASC Chairs Statement 2022

I would like to start by welcoming all our new members and their families to Oxford and Witney Artistic Swimming Club. It is great to see so many athletes taking their 1st steps into the sport.

The fantastic courses and taster session put together by our coaches saw 18 new members join the club in 2021, 4 of these along with 2 longer standing swimmers sadly decided not to continue. The great news is the past year has seen the club grow by 14 bringing the total number of swimmers to 35.

I look forward to meeting those who I have not already at training sessions and competitions in the near future.

Looking back at the achievements from the last year which started as the previous 1 ended with competitions being held virtually, July saw 9 athletes represent OWASC at the Level X Artistic swimming games.

November saw our 1st face to face competition since March 2020 with the South East Regional Age Group Competition, 10 athletes attended, and it was great to get back to a normal competition.

Over the past year athletes have attended both virtual and face-to-face grade days, 19 athletes entered with 15 passes a big congratulation to

Gabriela for passing Grade 1 - Abi, Dara, Flora, Isabel, Megan, Isabella & Millie for passing Grade 2 – Isabel for passing Grade 3 – Olivia, Bethany, Eve & Freya for passing Grade 4

An extra special congratulations goes to Kata Grade 6 & Katherine Grade 6 silver; this is the highest grade available in Artistic swimming and is testament to their commitment and hard work over the years that they are the 1st swimmers in the South East Region to achieve this.

3 OWASC swimmers gained places on the South East Regional Squad for the coming year. Louise Fuller was appointed to the role of head coach for the SE regional squad, it is great to have her and the swimmers representing us and I know the experiences they will all gain, will be brought back and benefit the whole club.

All of this is a great achievement following the previous year's disruption.

It is not just our swimmers who have been busy, OWASC coaches and judges have officiated in virtual and face-2-face competitions and attended seminars. One of our experienced swimmers Katherine and one of our coaches Katie both took and passed their Level 1 Judges Qualification.

2021 saw OWASC hold an election for its 1st club captain voted for by the swimmers, congratulations to Katherine Stevenson on her election to this role.

Katherine has been with OWASC for many years and is a great role model for our club.

Looking forward to the year ahead I am excited at the prospect of more face-2-face competitions and the return of team routines. I know the swimmers are all looking forward this and I can't wait to see how the routines look.

Of course, none of this would be possible if it was not for the hard work of our coaches and the dedicated parents who support the club.

I would like to personally thank our coaches Kathryn, Louise, Steve, Mandy & Katie and our whole committee for the commitment and time they dedicate to our club without all of you none of this would be possible.

James Parker