

Runnymede AGM 2021 – Disability Officer's Report

Covid has had its impact on SwimAbility particularly with the retirement of Naomi as head coach who started SwimAbility back with Maria over 15 years ago. She has been so instrumental in the swimming club she will be sorely missed, but good news is she is still in the background advising us all and attending all the galas she can. It was also great news to see Kieran Neary, Naomi's first SwimAbility swimmer, complete his first London Marathon. He has achieved remarkable things in all he puts his mind to, all because Naomi spent time and developed his swimming, his concentration and tenacity to keep going.

Further good news is Chris Pagan has qualified as level 2 teacher, level 1 coach, and level 3 PT instructor. Throughout lock down he did a weekly zoom workout session with Naomi and several swimmers - which kept them in shape. He is now supporting Andy with the sessions.

At the end of 2020 and the start of 2021, we had to start swimming at Appleton and Sweyne school due to restrictions in numbers at Runnymede pool. A number of these sessions were sponsored by Tick Tack Football club, and I want to thank them for their support.

We also received from Jack Petchey £200 of funding which we managed to put towards swimming equipment for SwimAbility including Mono Fins, special pull floats and forearm fins.

We did lose several swimmers during this transition with numbers falling from c.23 to 15 which is always disappointing. Swim England did sponsor the club to promote SwimAbility, and so far, we have had 4 swimmers - 2 have joined SwimAbility, 1 joined the Swim School and we have another trial in the next couple of weeks.

We are currently working with Swim England National Para Swimming pathway team.

The plan going forward is to significantly increase the number of swimmers, increase the size of the coaching staff in-line with more swim time and become a bigger SwimAbility club.

I want to say thank you to Lorraine Ryan and Andy for all the help they give, and to say a big thankyou to Naomi - without her I do not think we would have a SwimAbility club.

If you have any questions or would like to know more or would like to be involved with disability swimming, please do get in touch.

Russell Pagan

Disability Officer