



# **RUNNYMEDE SWIMMING CLUB**

## **Secretary Report AGM 2021**

I agreed to take over the role of Club Secretary from Steve Wisbey in the summer of 2020.

Easy I thought, no swimming, we are in the midst of a global pandemic that can't be too hard. Oh how wrong was I. However, one thing society has taught us over the last eighteen months is nothing is insurmountable. Despite the club being away from the pool for significant periods of both 2020 and early 2021 we have come out of the other side and are looking to thrive again.

With the use of technology the club was able to have regular meetings away from the usual venue of the club room. This ensured the administrative side of the club was able to function even if the swimmers couldn't access the pool. We needed to make sure when we were allowed back that we had a financially viable and safe environment to allow the swimmers to get back to the sport they love. All of this is not possible without the hours and hours the volunteers of the committee provide. They all do this for free whilst trying to balance their own home/work lives. Every member of the committee has contributed and helped and my thanks go to them all.

I am pleased to report that during lockdown the club was again awarded by the Swim England Leadership Group its Swim Mark Essential accreditation. This award by the Leadership Group recognised the hard work of all concerned in achieving Swim England's quality mark for clubs. It is essential as a club that we maintain the high level of standards set by the governing body.

I would also like to offer special thanks to both Steve and Julia Winnell who had announced they would be stepping away from their respective roles in the summer of 2020. Their decision to stay on beyond this period has allowed us to not only re-start swimming but already grow the number of members which has also seen us return to competitive swimming in the last month. We will be sad to see them leave when the time comes.

As we enter 2022, we are also entering discussions with the council in relation to the renewal of the lease for the club room. We are pleased to report discussions are going well and we hope to see an improvement in the décor.

There are many roles within a community club like Runnymede SC which has been running for nearly 40 years and too many people to thank individually. Without the committee, coaches, lifeguards and pool helpers, plus parents/ carers and swimmers we would not be able to offer the opportunity to young and old to participate in a sport they enjoy. I would like to thank you all.

We look forward to welcoming new members to all areas of the club in the coming year.

Neil Read

October 2021