

My Ref:
Your Ref:
Date: Nov 2021

Salford Community Leisure Limited
Swimming Development Team
Fit City Broughton Pool
Great Cheetham Street West
Salford M7 2DN

Annual Report 2020-21

Dear Swimmers and Parents

It has been a truly awful time for swimming, sport in general and everyday life over the past 18 months where we have had to deal with and face the dreadful experience of a worldwide pandemic. Thankfully this has now dissipated to a large degree yet remains a constant concern for many people as we move forwards into new ways of living, working, appreciating life and enjoying our sport of competitive swimming.

The last report I made from 2018-19 was truly outstanding where our club boasted –

- 2 British National Champions – Max Adams & Joseph Stout – Finalists: Lauren Bradley Holt & Ella Blocksidge
- 4 English National Champions – Georgia Sheffield, Max Adams, Ewan Wilson and Ella Blocksidge - Further medals came from Josie Stevens [2 Bronzes in the 50 and 200 Backstroke] Ella Blocksidge [Silver in the 400 Freestyle and Bronze in the 200 Butterfly] and Ewan [Bronze in the 100 Butterfly]. There were also 17 Finalist positions from Adam Newell, Luke Adams, Isabelle Hartley, Alex Volkovoy, Joseph Stout, Hannah Camden, Eve Pendlebury and Lucy Dixon.
- 1 Open Water National Champion – Joseph Stout - Medallists: Ella Blocksidge – Bronze 2K 13 Years, Ewan Wilson – Bronze 5K 17/18 Years – Finalists - Lucy Dixon and Hannah McDonald were also 4th and 7th respectively in the 14 Years 3K event

With the advent of covid we have not had much competition or news to report upon until the recent Regional Championships, Bolton Meet and Regional Festival where the Club got off to a flying return to competition hauling in 27, 90 and 58 medals respectively. Lancashire swimmer of the year from 2018-19 was awarded to Joseph Stout for his double Gold success at the National Championships. Elsewhere more positivity for our swimmers came with selections to 2021-22 National talent programmes with an unprecedented 24 swimmers chosen -

National Development Camps – Phase 1 [Sean Mattison, Alice Volkovaya, Alissa Boslem, Katie Lee, Oli Bottomley, Emily Jackson-Smith, Britney Makangou, Grace Jackson, Gracie Louise-Potts, Cara Tohill, Janae Warmington, Luke Aitken, Devon Furneaux-Knight, Nicole Adeyeye and Sandra Czajka].

Regional Talent Programme - Amelie Blocksidge and Gabby McCullough.

Diploma in Sporting Excellence Programme – Georgia Sheffield, Joseph Stout

National Event Camps – Alex Volkovoy, Joseph Stout & Ella Blocksidge

Para Swimming Talent Pathway – Georgia Sheffield

National Junior Squad – Lauren Bradley-Holt



It was very sad to see many swimmers fail to return after the national lockdowns presented an array of new challenges. For some this resulted in huge mountains to climb in order to regain fitness and momentum. From a coaching angle it was very frustrating to see the athletes that we have worked with for many years; and who had progressed so far in the sport, suddenly struggle to adapt to returning to training. It is a great accolade to those who have pushed through the tough times with perseverance and determination. We realise how hard it has been for many of you – particularly the 13 – 15 years who have missed key development spurs that can be associated with progression.

On the return to pools the coaching challenge was immense and our efforts focussed upon a huge rebuilding programme of members, fitness, form, motivation and confidence. Because our numbers and finances have declined through lockdown, a restructure was necessary and the coaching has had to be modified in favour of team delivery as a pose to individual group coaches - hopefully as we rebuild, we can look towards employing another coach to complement our very successful programme. The restructure of the scheme and our efforts have been exceptionally rewarding evidenced by the immediate success achieved in competitions alongside the national programme selections.

We said a fond farewell to long-time Assistant coach - Adam Naylor - who had been a great asset to our scheme and club for many years helping numerous swimmers achieve their potential along with podium success at Counties, Regionals and Nationals. We wish Adam all the very best in his new challenge coaching RTW Monsen in Kent. We also lost Rowan Jarvis, who joined the Fire Service and was another talented coach who along with Adam had swam and coached in the club and scheme.

A big welcome to Daniel Austin who has joined the coaching team. Dan is another ex-COS Swimmer who achieved National finals and is making a positive impact within our scheme. Many thanks to Danielle Naylor who has been a rock supporting the post covid return and helping to get our swimmers back to form and fitness.



The backbone of success has always been a great coaching team supported by a great team of helpers and volunteers. Many thanks to all of you who have helped the club deliver the many exciting and important experiences for the swimmers. You offer a wealth of support which will be crucial moving forwards as we seek to return to the landscape of training camps, social events and home competitions.

A huge thanks to the Executive committee over the past few years, some have now moved on and we would profoundly thank them for their services – James Bradley, Ruth Bradley-Holt, Pauline Curley, Joanne Bleasdale, Claire Hoey, Sarah McMurdock, Julie Newell, Sara Hartley, Nicki Bottomley, Susan Lee, Richard Teasdale, Alison Flannery and chairman Gary Newell who help ensure that all our club activity can take place. Special mention to Julie and Gary Newell who have managed our home galas and are now helping develop the next wave of volunteers who will work towards restarting home galas.

We urgently require more parents to help out in essential volunteer roles of swimming officials, timekeepers, gala volunteers and team managers in particular. This usually involves attending a governing body course which generally lasts half a day. ***If you are not already involved please consider dedicating a small amount of your time so we can provide your children with the many different opportunities described.*** Speak to a member of the committee, group reps or the coaches for more information – your help is massively appreciated.



Once again thanks to SCL for providing the facilities, opportunities and environment that allow our swimmers to thrive and achieve the success that reflects so positively upon the City of Salford.

Good Luck to everyone for the new season.

Let's build upon this superb starting point.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Stout', on a light-colored background.

"...I could go on but, to be short, I don't pay for swimming - I pay for the opportunities that it provides my kids with to develop attributes that will serve them well throughout their lives and give them the opportunity to bless the lives of others. From what I have seen so far I think it is a great investment!"

[Swimming Parent]

**John Stout
Aquatic Development Manager
Head Coach – City of Salford Swimming Club**