

12th June 2020

Dear Members

On behalf of Swim England East Region, we wanted to send a message to our members across all our disciplines including swimming, disability swimming, diving, masters, open water, artistic swimming and water polo.

We know that it has been a huge challenge over recent months for you all, and we cannot truly convey how proud we are of you. For most of you, our sport is a huge part of your lives, so the time out of the water has meant a big change to normal life for you, with no training and the time with your swimming friends taken away. For many of you, there has been the added frustration that national and regional competitions have been cancelled. Many of our athletes had worked incredibly hard to qualify for these events and were really looking forward to competing at them, and we understand your disappointment that those opportunities have been lost for this year.

Many of you have found unique and imaginative ways of keeping fit and remaining in contact with friends in your club, and we have loved watching examples of your determination to stay active together via social media. On your behalf, we would also like to say a **big thank you** to the clubs, their coaching teams, the volunteers, the parents and everyone who has helped the athletes across the last few months, and to Swim England for their support over this difficult time. Everyone has had to overcome challenges and manage disappointments to get to where we are now, but our aquatics community has pulled together more than ever to support one another.

Hopefully, the end is in sight and we will be back in the water soon, and, although it may not be quite as we were used to before lockdown, it is a start. So, congratulations on all your achievements so far and we now urge you to look forward with the determination and positivity that makes our sport the great sport it is. As you set new goals, your parents, your coaches, your clubs and the region will be here to support you and we look forward to seeing you all again soon.

With best wishes to you all on behalf of Swim England East Region,

David J Metcalf
Regional President

Joan Wheeler
Regional Chairman