



# Annual Report 2019/20

# Introduction

Those of you who are familiar with our Annual Reports will notice that this report has a very different format to those published in previous years. At the time of writing this report, our staff and volunteers are dealing with the impact of the Covid 19 Pandemic, and we therefore feel that it is more important that they use their time supporting our clubs and members, to protect our sport for the future. In addition, the Region uses its website and social media to publish information about successes, achievements and events, throughout the year and for this reason, the Management Board agreed that to publish a report that replicates this information was not good use of resources.

This Annual Report, which covers the period April 2019 to March 2020, includes a report from the Chairman, Joan Wheeler, a Financial Report from the Finance Manager, Keith Belton and concludes with a message from the President, David Metcalf.

There will be an opportunity to discuss the Annual Report, and the work of the Management Board and its committees, at our Annual Council Meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2020.

## Chairman's Report

Over the past year, the Management Board, supported by its staff and committees, has continued to lead the organisation to best meet the needs of its clubs and members. We have again sought to prioritise our resources, both in terms of capacity and budget, on providing support to clubs, running high quality regional competitions, and developing our athletes, coaches and volunteers.

From April 2019 to March 2020 the Management Board, which includes elected members, specialist members and representatives of the six counties, met on five occasions. The Board monitored the annual plan, set in March, and ensured that this was carried out by the relevant committees and our staff, in accordance with the allocated budgets. During the year the Board has agreed to co-opt two additional specialist Board Members to address gaps in skills and experience.

The Management Board has agreed to recommend to the Annual Council Meeting that the financial year be changed. Our current financial year, which runs from 1<sup>ST</sup> April to 31<sup>ST</sup> March is incompatible with the membership year and this, together with income and expenditure from events straddling two financial years, causes accounting issues. Subject to the agreement of the membership, from January 2021 we plan to change the financial year to follow the calendar year. The Management Board has also agreed that, in common with Swim England and many of its regions, Swim England East Region should become an incorporated body. A working group has been set up to progress this project and final proposals will come to the Annual Council Meeting in September.

Our committees, supported by our small but dedicated team of paid staff, have worked hard over the past year to ensure that Swim England East Region is an efficient and effective

organisation that is focussed on the needs of its clubs and members. For those who would like more information on the work of the region, minutes of Board and Committee meetings can be found on our website.

For the first eleven months of the year, we delivered a range of development opportunities for athletes, coaches and volunteers and have achieved many successes both in and out of the pool. All was going well, we had agreed our plans for the next year, and then the Covid 19 Pandemic hit the UK, forcing the closure of pools and the lockdown of the sport. As I write this report, we are still uncertain when pools will re-open, when our members will be able to get back to the water, and what the sport will look like when pools do re-open. We have had to adapt our plans to support clubs and members, make changes to the way we deliver courses and meetings, and take action to reduce our spending to protect the organisation for the future.

None of us could have foreseen the challenges that we have faced since March, and there have been many low points since the restrictions were introduced. There have, however, been many positives that have come out of this pandemic, particularly the leadership shown by Swim England, the willingness of everyone to pull together in the face of adversity and then, of course, there is Zoom! I have also been amazed and heartened by the innovative ways clubs have continued to engage with their members, not only through on-line land training, but also quizzes, cake bakes and just general banter, and it is that spirit that makes swimming the great sport it is.

On behalf of the Management Board, this year more than ever, I thank our many volunteers who support aquatics at a national, regional, county and club level. I hope that everyone will be back in the pool soon and that it won't be long before we can return to some kind of normality. I would also like to thank our staff for their hard work throughout the year, and for their dedication to the sport, and wish Amy Bryant, who has moved on after five successful years with East Region, the best of luck in her new role with England Athletics.

Joan Wheeler  
Chairman  
June 2020

# Finance Report

The figures below are our current view of what we will be submitting to the Independent Examiner. The full set of accounts will be published separately once they have been seen by the Independent Examiner.

	<b>2019/20</b>	<b>2018/19</b>
Income	278,679.69	323,298.31
Expenditure	358,208.96	352,383.50
<b>Surplus (Deficit)</b>	<b>(79,529.27)</b>	<b>(29,085.19)</b>

Fixed Assets	8,894.58	10,279.31
Current Assets	283,358.86	361,330.26
Current Liabilities	1,076.64	903.50
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>291,176.80</b>	<b>370,706.07</b>

Included within the Current Assets is £14,558.48 of prepayments. These are amounts paid for goods or services not yet delivered. The amount is made up of a deposit on an order of medals and a combination of a deposit on a pool booking and refunds for the pool bookings as a result of cancelled events. Since the accounts were drawn up additional amounts of over £900 in respect of deposits for subsequently cancelled events have been identified and we are confident that we will receive refunds.

Swim England made changes to the timetable for clubs to renew memberships for 2018. The impact of this was to effectively move Affiliation Fee income between financial years. The 2017/8 accounts had a note giving a revised deficit so that a meaningful comparison with the previous year could be made. The pattern of payments for 2018/9 was the same as 2017/8 so a comparison of the figures, without adjustment, was valid. In this financial year the pattern changed significantly.

In the table below the Management Income, which includes Affiliation Fees, is restated assuming the Affiliation Fee received in a financial year is that for the calendar year ending in the financial year.

<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>2019/20</b>	<b>2018/19</b>	<b>2017/18</b>
Management Income in Accounts	85,798.17	137,705.15	140,424.67
Surplus (Deficit) in Accounts	(£79,529.27)	(£29,085.19)	(£13,433.59)
Adjusted Management Income	111,072.17	109,975.15	125,839.67
Adjusted Surplus (Deficit)	(£54,255.27)	(£56,815.19)	(£28,018.59)

In addition to the impact of the timing of receipt of Affiliation Income the cancellation of the Long Course Swimming Championships is the other main reason for the reduction in overall income. There was some reduction in pool hire costs through the cancellation but the main part of the costs of the Championships would have fallen in the 2020/21 financial year.

Keith Belton  
Finance Manager

June 2020

# President's Report

It was an honour and pleasure for me to become the Swim England East Region President in September 2019, taking over the presidential chain from Chris Vinter. Chris and Alison were marvellous ambassadors for the Region, representing East Region at a huge range of events across the country, and I would like to thank Chris for all he did in the previous year as Regional President.

This is my second time as Regional President and, as we have attended regional and county events, my wife Gerry and I have made many new friends and renewed many old acquaintances as we attended events, across the region and nationally. It has been great to see the dedication, enthusiasm and hard work of our swimmers, divers, water polo players, artistic swimmers, coaches and the many volunteers during my visits. We have always been made most welcome and I would like to thank everyone concerned, and would particularly like to thank Ian Mackenzie (Swim England President) and the County Presidents for their kind invitations, and help during the year.

Many congratulations to the athletes who have competed at International, Regional and National events over the past year, and to the dedication and professionalism of coaches and support staff. None of this would be possible without the continued support and commitment of parents, family and friends, who spend hours each week transporting athletes to and from training sessions and sit for hours in balconies during the competitions. I have also had the pleasure of sending letters of congratulations to our many East Region athletes who have broken world, national and regional records.

Below is a short summary of the events I have attended in each month.

## September

- Regional Masters Championships at Newmarket, where I presented medals to athletes and a Regional Silver Pin to Sharon Perry who was retiring as the Regional Masters' Manager.

## October

- A visit to the Region (Diving) Club Championships in Southend, where it was great to be part of the busy but friendly atmosphere on pool deck
- Swim England County Team Championships (Swimming) in Sheffield
- Swim England Masters Championships in Sheffield presenting medals to winners and athletes breaking GB, European and World records, on behalf of the Swim England President Ian Mackenzie, who was unable to be there.

## November

- Region Short Course Winter Championships (Swimming) at Basildon
- Swim England National Awards - Congratulations to Regional volunteers who received awards and nominations at the event held at the University of Birmingham. This was a great setting and atmosphere hosted by former GB swimmer, Steve Parry.

## December

- Swim England Short Course Winter Championships (Swimming) in Sheffield.
- Regional Water Polo Grand Prix at Chelmsford

### **January**

- Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire, Norfolk and Suffolk County Swimming Championships

### **February**

- Essex and Cambridgeshire County Swimming Championships
- Regional Synchronised Swimming Age Group Championships at Stevenage

Then in March, Covid 19 Pandemic hit the UK, forcing the closure of pools and the lockdown of our sport. The cancellation of so many events has been heart-breaking for athletes, coaches and volunteers but 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. As our athletes set new goals, their parents, coaches, clubs, volunteers and the region will be here to support them and we look forward to seeing our members again soon.

In closing, I would like to give my thanks and appreciation to the many volunteers who give their time freely to make events happen. Volunteers are the life blood of our sport, and without you and your colleagues, we would not be able to organise and run events within our clubs, counties and the Region.

David Metcalf  
Regional President  
June 2020