

DIVING REPORT SOUTHAMPTON DIVING ACADEMY 2024.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY by Chair Karl Barr.

Overall, another positive year for SDA; member numbers slightly up, and we remain on a stable financial footing despite the significant fiscal challenges we are all contending with. In many ways 2022/23 has been pivotal where events have highlighted areas for improvement within our systems and processes. Our relationship with our operator partner, Active Nation has come under significant strain primarily due maintenance issues of ageing facilities and their unclear plans regarding the future of the dive programme. SDA is being supported by Aquatics GB to clarify the situation and to draft a Service Level Agreement which when agreed will provide a level of accountability on both sides. 2023/24 is therefore shaping up to be an important year for SDA as we negotiate the changes in Active Nation's leadership and look to formalise our relationship going forward.

OBJECTIVES SUMMARY

The past few years have had their challenges and we have generally managed these well; 2023 has been no different. We can measure our performance by reviewing our club objectives set out in our constitution. For those not familiar, these are:

- To support Club members in their efforts to achieve excellence and competitive success in the sport of diving.
- To support the development of diving as a sport and its practice in the region for the benefit of its members. • To promote public interest and participation in the sport of diving.
- To contribute to the development and success of the sport of diving nationally and internationally within the framework of British Diving.

Our relationship with Active Nation is key to delivering these objectives as they provide the provide coaches, facilities and training programme which is to be of the quality and extent needed to support the club's diving members. All this is funded in part by the monthly direct debits together with additional sessions such as Club Plus, SEEDS Camps etc:

It's fair to say that for "club objectives" it has been business as usual; we have performed well. For example, many people continue to give up their time to support club members to help them be the best they can be in our sport. We have continued to provide opportunities to develop the sport in our region by supporting events like SEEDS Camps together with our established home competitions.

SWIMMARK:

It recognises high standards of governance, sustainability, and effectiveness. Through this SDA must demonstrate that athlete pathways, the physical environment, quality coaching practices and support services are all in place for athletes to reach the pinnacle of their sport of diving. Once achieved, the accreditation lasts for two years but we are audited annually. The next health check audit will be in May this year with the full-blown audit following in 2025. Whilst it does create a great deal of work for the committee, it is important to be able to demonstrate a high level of compliance as should be the case for a club of SDA's standing in the sport.

VOLUNTEERS:

Roles associated with SDA are all entirely voluntary. This year we have had a few moments where we struggled to find enough volunteers to run or attend certain events. To avoid these situations, we will always encourage parent members to join the volunteer teams and sign up for the various courses well in advance of competitions so that we know in advance that we will have enough volunteers available. There are several roles, some of which are more time consuming than others but all great fun. Full training is provided by SDA for each role, including Team Management qualifications, minibus driving courses, Dive Recorded training and event marshalling amongst others. There is something for everyone but please be aware that to volunteer you must be in possession of the relevant training certificate as well as being a paid-up volunteer SDA/Swim England member. The fee for this has remained unchanged for several years at £6 so if you would like to discuss options, please just speak to me or any other committee members and we will be happy to support and set you on your way.

DIVER'S SUCCESS (Some may be diving under other club names but remain SDA Life Members):

European Juniors 2023 (Rijeka, Croatia)

Tilly Brown Girls A/B Synchro Gold Leon Baker 3m Synchro Bronze Robbie Lee Boys A Platform Silver

British Elite Junior Diving Championships 2023 (Plymouth)

Leon Baker Boys A 1m Silver Boys 14-18 3m Synchro Silver

Tilly Brown Girls A 1m Gold Girls A 3m Gold Girls 14-18 3m Synchro Gold

Imogen Poole Girls C 3m Silver Girls C Platform Bronze Robbie Lee Boys A Platform Gold

Bryn James Boys A Platform Silver

British Diving Championships 2023 (Sheffield)

Maya Kutty Women's 3m Synchro Silver

Tilly Brown Women's 3m Synchro Bronze

British National Diving Cup (Edinburgh)

Robbie Lee Men's Platform Bronze

Maya Kutty Women's 3m Synchro Bronze

European Diving Championships 2023 (Rzeszow, Poland)

Robbie Lee Men's 10m Platform Silver

COMPETITIONS:

Once again, our volunteers have pulled together to provide first class diving events this year, including Southampton Invitational, Gavin Brown "Love to Dive" and our Pete Waterfield event. During the events I make a point of speaking to TM's and Chaperones from other teams and without question the feedback is always positive. Teams enjoy coming to Southampton for several reasons and our exceptional organisation is one of them. So special thanks to Hannah Poole who has managed the process of staging these events from the early stages of organisation right through to clearing up after the final session. Of course, we cannot stage events like these without our army of volunteers so thank you to all of you who have put yourselves forward, but it all starts again soon. There is an ideal opportunity for new parents to become involved in marshalling, sheet sorting and so on. Many parents are unable to physically attend these events but can monitor scores for many of our competitions remotely via Dive Recorder. For this we must thank Simon Tearle who has once again carried out his Dive Recorder duties flawlessly. We also have a welcome new addition to the Dive Recorder team with Kevin Ellis shadowing Simon to ease the burden, but more volunteers would be welcomed if there is anyone else out there who would like to help.

WORKFORCE:

The workforce team has once again been led by Clare Brown. Almost every aspect of what goes on in the club runs through Clare, so workforce is very much the central hub of our organisation where DBS, safeguarding and training certificates are logged to comply with our safeguarding and SwimMark obligations. This also extends to our coaching staff including those undergoing training, they all need to be appropriately certified, and it is our workforce team's task to keep on top of this throughout the year. To ensure that we are doing what we should be doing, all of this must be demonstrated to Swim England as part of the annual SwimMark audit. So, a big thank you to Clare and her team for everything they have done this year to keep us on track.

FURTHER THANKS:

To all of those working on the Committee for their dedication and commitment. To extend thanks to Lindsey and her core team of coaches, including Matt, Brandon, Mollie, and Nick for their dedication and support to our divers during this year. It is also great to see the potential crop of future coaches putting themselves forward to coach our younger members, assist in sessions and take their initial coaching exams. To Maxwell Bradbury-Knight, Jan Osbourne, and their Active Nation teams for all their support during our home competitions. To those working in the Dive Office or Facilities Management. To all those who have stepped forward as TM's, chaperones, mini-bus drivers, marshals, sheet sorters, dive recorder clerks, drinks runners, clearer uppers, desk-manners, squad administration, parents etc.

Now **finally** we must pay tribute to our inspirational leader, **Lindsey Fraser** who has been at the helm since the club started in its current format in 2000. Whilst I'm sure we will continue to see Lindsey around The Quays; it will soon be very much on her terms and whenever she has the capacity. I'm sure that once Lindsey has settled into her new and hopefully more relaxed life she will continue to be very much in demand. It is my hope that Lindsey will be acknowledged by SDA as our new Club President this AGM, a role which Lindsey is tailor made for. Whilst Lindsey is already a Life Member of SDA, this role will keep her actively tied with the club. If we are fortunate, perhaps attending home competitions, presenting trophies, mentoring young coaches, and continuing to inspire young athletes with the benefit of her considerable coaching skills and all-round knowledge of our sport in general. After all we'd be foolish let her go that easily! Thank you, Lindsey, for all you have done and may you have a long, healthy, and happy retirement!