2017 – 2018 Chairpersons Report

This has been a busy season.

Good attendance by our swimmers has meant busy training sessions in the pool and it is always positive, I think, to see so many young people engaged in healthy physical activity, learning and refining their skills – skills that will certainly stay with them for life. It’s equally positive to see them develop friendships & overcome challenges. It’s great to see our swimmers, from the youngest to the oldest, coming out of a session happy, tired and relaxed. It’s been said “You’re only one swim away from a good mood” and when you see the smiles as children come to the table for their milk you can definitely believe that it’s true.

Many of our swimmers have put their training to good effect – testing themselves by participating in Internal Club Galas and Time Trials; swimming and supporting each other as part of the club team in The Aquasprint and PTL Leagues, as well as competing at Schools Galas, regionally and nationally. Some have also enjoyed Club Open galas, Swim Ulster Development and Qualifying Meets, Swim Ulster’s Swim Festival, an Open Disability Championship, Special Olympic events, Ulster Age Groups, Youth and Senior Championships, and National Irish Division 2 Championships. Their success – and more importantly, their willingness to try – at any of these different levels is a positive reflection of their dedication, and the dedication and commitment of their teachers and coaches, without whom none of it would be possible. I would like to thank all of the swimmers, and the entire coaching team, for everything that they bring to the club and that they put in to the sport.

One very excellent teacher of swimming is no longer with us, as everyone is aware, Gary Morris passed away earlier this year. There will never be another one like him, and we were blessed and honoured to know him. He will always be held in our highest regard.

I’d like to thank also every parent and carer who helps out in the club in any way – there are many tasks to be done to make the club run as it does – poolside rota, time-keeping, working on the computer at galas and time trials, organising teas, arranging the kit, website duties and giving time to be part of the committee and take on the numerous organisational tasks involved – you are all greatly appreciated.

A very special thank you to Joey and Niamh for all their work over the years running the computer and scoring system at the galas – they have given hours of dedication to this task and will be a big loss, but they felt it was time to retire gracefully, and none of us can argue with that! It’s fantastic though that a number of volunteers who have already been carrying out this role at the younger swimmers events are willing to keep this on across all the club, but please if anyone else would like to help out too, just make yourselves available to the team at galas.

A big thanks also to Gwen Stevenson who has moved on from her role as a coach with the club, she has given a lot of very genuine input to her time here.

Several of our committee members are stepping down this evening, and are not able to stand for re-election, so a massive thank you to Maxine, Joanne, Cecelia and Susan for their contributions over the year, or years. Each of them has brought a combination of knowledge and personality that will be greatly missed.

Finally, I’d just like to say, on behalf of the club, how much we appreciate the ongoing support of our sponsors – Tailored Image, Dungannon and Harry Elliot Construction, Cookstown who have been so generous in their contributions towards our club kit.

Angela Mylroi (Club Chairperson)