

Hackney Aquatics AGM 2022 - Chair's report

2021/22 has been a strong year for Hackney Aquatics Club (HAC) both in and out of the pool.

Below are some of our in pool highlights from the 2021/22 season, David's report will go into in more detail.

In the pool

- After two seasons of little or no action in the pool, it was great to see our swimmers back at Counties, Regionals and Nationals as well as all the regular meets throughout the season.
- Our M11 and Arena League teams performed admirably in their respective leagues.
- The London Roar Academy goes from strength to strength with swimmers from HAC, Chelsea & Westminster, Greenwich and Anaconda meeting weekly at LAC to swim together. This season we had 53 swimmers across the 4 clubs at National Champs.
- Our swimming numbers have stabilised after enduring a difficult time through the pandemic and I am confident that we will go from strength to strength next season.
- I would like to thank our superb coaching team who have, as they do every season, gone above and beyond in creating a safe and inclusive environment in which our children and peers can grow and develop as swimmers either competitively or socially.
- I would like to minute my thanks to David and Tony, our full time coaches, and to Madison who, in her A'level year, stepped up and became an invaluable member of the coaching team.
- They were ably supported by Dhaval, Kai, Samir, Lara and Ronni.

Club administration

The last 12 months have been hugely challenging trying to manage the increased pool costs across all 4 pools that we use and I have no doubt that costs will continue to rise this coming season. We will need to work hard and be smart to avoid further increases in squad fees.

- Our committee has never been fuller or more diverse. We have been able to share the increased work load across a broader range of committee members. As with any volunteer led organisation we are always on the look out for more people who are willing to take an active role.
- I would like to record a special vote of thanks to all our committee members who served during the 2021/22 season.
- I would also like to record a special vote of thanks to the following Committee Members who are stepping down after having served the club tirelessly for many years. Hester Hettinga (secretary), Jo Phillimore and Claudia Lipsey (treasurers), Nicci Lea (welfare), Claire Butler-Brown (swim mark)
- The committee has, this season, reintroduced the yearly administration charge for all swimmers enabling us to help pay for some of the increased admin work that running a successful swimming club requires.
- HAC continue to receive support from Hackney Council, in particular Ian Holland and Ladi Ajayi.
- I would also like to thank GLL and in particular Clissold Centre Manager, Martin Young, without whom we would not be able to operate. Martin has the unenviable job of balancing our pool needs with those of the rest of the general public and his continued support of HAC cannot be underestimated.

In the community

- HAC believe that swimming should be available to everyone regardless of their socio-economic background.
- We have many swimmers who receive significant concessions to their monthly subscriptions and many more that we help with meet entry fees as they start to compete.
- Our concession fund is funded through running Club Championships, 2 x Development Galas, fund raising days, sponsorship deals and generous individual donations.
- Running our own Galas is vitally important to the financial health of the club and would not be possible without an army of volunteers. I would like to record a special thank you to Jerome Lessard who coordinates our officials and to Nicola Taylor who makes meets possible.
- I would like to record a special thanks to all our qualified time keepers, judges, starters and future referees. You represent our club with pride at external meets and we could not run our own meets without you.
- HAC are also resurrecting our very successful Young Volunteer Program that trains our teenage swimmers to become coaches. The program not only gives our young adults the opportunity to give something back but also enables them to earn money at the club and beyond.
- I would like to record a vote of thanks to all our volunteers young and old who give generously of their time and in doing so make a huge difference to all our swimmers.

Plans for the coming season

- As you may know, there are to be many changes on the committee this season.
- We will have a new Chair for the first time in 5 years, a new Secretary, new Treasurers and a new Welfare Officer.
- I would like to minute my thanks to those who have seen fit to step up and take on these very important roles and would like to reassure them and all our members that Jo, Claudia, Hester, Nicci and I are always there to help and support.
- For those of you that have not heard, David will be moving on at the end of the year to take up a senior coaching role at Wycombe & District SC. Wycombe are one of the very top swimming clubs in the country and although we are sad to see David go, we understand that this is a great career move and we wish him well.
- The committee have appointed a recruitment sub committee and they will keep you informed as the recruitment process progresses.

Conclusion

HAC is a community sports club that relies on a dedicated team of volunteers. There are countless ways in which you, the parents, can make a difference. Here are some of the ways you can help to make a difference.

- Join the committee, we still have vacant roles.
- Help run our galas, Nicola is stepping up to the committee so we need a new Gala Maker.
- Become a Time Keeper, a Judge, a Starter or a Referee. Speak to Jerome Lessard about how this works. If your children are competing a meets, keeping busy will stop you going mad.
- Join the Tech Team that run the starting and timing equipment at our Galas. Speak to Dhaval or Chris Ogden.
- If you enjoy fundraising or have sponsorship ideas then please speak to Hester.
- Bake a cake or donate a prize to the raffle.
- I would like to propose a huge vote of thanks to every single volunteer at the club. Whether you're baking a cake or volunteering 20 hours of your time a week, we could not do what we do without you.
- I would like to propose a special vote of thanks to a couple of people who along with their children have been heavily involved with HAC for many years. Ruth Girardet and Frauke Westgate who's children Marie and Lena are moving on from swimming.
- We do what we do for the benefit of our swimmers.

The agenda for the evening will be as follows:

1. Approval of the 2021 AGM Minutes
2. Chair / Head Coach Reports
3. Accounts for 2021/22
4. Committee Appointments
5. A.O.B.