

Hackney Aquatics AGM 2020 - Chair's report

2019/20 has been a very difficult year for all involved with Hackney Aquatics. I would like to start this evening with some of the positives both in and out of the pool.

In the pool

- Yet again we have had higher participation, more finalists and more medalists at Counties.
- Higher participation, more finalists and more medalists at London SC Regionals.
- Multiple qualifiers at Winter SC Nationals.
- Our Arena League team having gained promotion to the London Premier Division made the A final and came in a very creditable 6th.
- I would like to thank our superb coaching team who made all the above possible.

Out of the Pool

- 2020 has been the year of the volunteer. Our volunteers have gone above and beyond this year to make sure that our swimmers are able to swim. I would like to record a special thank you to Frauke and all the Covid Liaison Officers without whom we would not be able to swim.
- I would like to record a special vote of thanks to our Recruitment panel of parents, Rick, Hester, Jen & Isabella, who worked hard on Zoom through lockdown to secure our new senior coaching team of David, Edmund & Tony.
- 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 2019/20 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. Ruth Girardet (Membership Secretary), Katie Clough (Welfare) Elena Buchberger (Fund Raising).
- A special vote of thanks also goes out to Katie Foulger at GLL who worked throughout lockdown and was, and still remains, incredibly supportive of HAC helping us get back in the water.
- HAC continue to receive support from Hackney Council, in particular Ian Holland and Ladi Ajayi both have shown great support during lockdown.
- I would also like to thank GLL and in particular Clissold Centre Manager, Keith Griffiths without whom we would not be able to operate. Keith 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. This job has become even more difficult since the re-opening of Clissold Leisure Centre.

In the community

- HAC believe that swimming should be available to everyone regardless of their socio-economic background.
- We have 50+ swimmers that receive significant concessions to their monthly subscriptions and many more that we were able to help with meet entry fees.
- Our concession fund is now fully self 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 Frauke Westgate who coordinates our officials and to Jen Dickson who made meets possible. I'd also like to thank Erol Baduna who bravely stepped in to help coordinate our last Development Meet.

- HAC have more qualified officials than we have ever had which makes running our own meets so much easier and enables us to support other clubs run their meets.
- HAC also run a 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.
- Last season we had 10 youngsters volunteering their time plus an additional 3 who gained coaching qualifications and are now Junior Coaches at HAC.
- I would like to record a vote of thanks to all our young volunteers who give generously of their time and in doing so make a huge difference to our youngest swimmers.

Finance

Please see the accounts supplied

- It is very difficult to draw any conclusions from the accounts when our season was interrupted by Covid 6 months in. Claudia and Jo will give you a more detailed break down of the figures in their report.
- I would like to say a huge thanks to everyone who generously supported the club during lockdown. Without your support we would not have been able to continue to operate.
- Your generosity means that we will be able to continue providing you with top class coaching through until the end of 2020 without an increase to the current fee structure.
- As I said in my email two weeks ago, the reality is that swimming has become more expensive due to the number of swimmers we are allowed to have in each lane, an increase in life guarding costs and increased lane hire charges.

- There will inevitably need to be fee increases in the new year if we are to survive.

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 when we are allowed to do so.
- Become a Time Keeper, a Judge, a Starter or a Referee. Speak to Frauke Westgate 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.
- If you enjoy fundraising or have sponsorship ideas then please speak to our Fund Raising Officer.
- 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.
- We do what we do for the benefit of our swimmers.

Chair: Chris Ogden

Treasurer: Jo Phillimore / Claudia Lipsey

Secretary: Christina Brooke-Cowden

Membership: Stephen Roberts / Sandra Earle

Competitions: Erol Baduna

Volunteers: Frauke Westgate / Hester Hettinga

Welfare: Nicci Lea

Sponsorship (including Petchey): Vacant

Workforce: Charlotte Tiffany

SwimMark: Claire Butler Brown

Masters: Bridget Atherton

Waterpolo: James Reddick

The agenda for the evening will be as follows:

- 1.Approval of the 2019 AGM Minutes
- 2.Chair / Head Coach Reports
- 3.Accounts for 2019/20
- 4.Committee Appointments
- 5.A.O.B.