

Chairs AGM Report – 2014/5

Thank you to anybody and everybody that has given up your time in the last 12 months to help run the Club. As you know, volunteers run the Club, so anyone that feels able to help with a task, no matter how small is very welcome. Be that informally just making sure high spirits don't get out of hand in the changing rooms or wanting to join the Committee.

On the topic of the Committee, you'll see from the AGM paperwork that it's a familiar set of names that have come forward for 2015/6. It's inevitable that people want to step back and hand over after a period of time, so it's really important we nurture new interest – I encourage anybody that is interested to come and talk to any of the existing Exec or Committee. We need people to 'learn' how the Club runs, we want people so all parts of the club are represented, and we need people who can take the Club forward in the coming years.

As in prior years, Ken Bailey will report separately on activity in the Masters section of the Club, which is managed separately and run's it's own finances. In the next year Ken and I would like to do a little more to tidy up our overall Governance, but this work is only really seeking formalise a successful formula that other Clubs are now seeking to replicate.

I am pleased that as of 2014 Year End, we have removed the balance sheet deficit that the Club has carried since 2011 and now have a small surplus. The Club needs a little Balance Sheet strength as contingency against the unknown, but also to provide for a little flexibility in running day-to-day operations. The margins for profit and loss do remain slim. Alistair's report will provide more details on the clubs finances.

That said, I do believe Fees at their current level are competitive against the offer from other clubs in the area, and I maintain that on a cost/hour basis represent fantastic value for money.

Last year I reported on the forthcoming retendering process of the Operating Contracts for Teddington Pool & Fitness Centre and Pool on the Park in Richmond. This is a process that is still on going. We have increased our level of engagement with LBRuT and local council members, and although we have had verbal

assurances that our access to these pools is 'safe', the outcome is not clear. We have a meeting with key members of the Council on 15th June.

Perennially, securing long-term access to pools (local, 25m, deep enough for a turn etc.) is the main strategic risk to the Club and pool time continues to be our main operational constraint. We managed to rather uncomfortably absorb the loss of the Wednesday session at St Catherine's and in the medium term LEH School is readying to refurbish its own pool.

We are trying to get some kind of roof/cover on the agenda for the outdoor pool at Richmond as part of the retender process – but for the Club to drive this forward we would need expert input and near full time lobbying (e.g. the building is listed, the sunny day-trippers are quite vocal and so on) and probably the ability to come to the table with substantial capital. So without some kind of step change increase in pool capacity I foresee us needing to juggle squads and schedule in the medium term.

When it comes to the actual swimming I'll let you look at Ed's report to see what happened in the pool and at the various Gala's, other than to congratulate those who have been selected to represent England this year. No small achievement when you consider the number participating in the sport up and down the country.

The alert amongst you will know we have advertised externally for a full-time assistant Head Coach to work along side Ed and our existing team. With various comings and goings in the Coaching team, we feel the need to strengthen our coaching team to allow us to continue to work on getting the right balance of experience and ratios of coach/swimmer across all squads. We also need to improve our ability to meet competing demands on time.

For example; the ASA's new competition schedule and qualification process means Teddington swimmers are likely to be competing in Sheffield throughout two whole weeks. Week to week, the time we pay for is also very tightly budgeted; the cumulative cost of poolside time, planning sessions, gala attendance, pool opening and so on, quickly stresses our budget. Ed also has commitments with the Maximum Performance (MP) business which operates outside of the Club, and where Ed and I

both know we have to work harder to ensure we plan ahead to enable the Club and MP run smoothly side-by-side.

The Exec, Committee and Coaching team work hard to try and run the best Squad sessions we can across the whole Club – there's the odd bump – and we always looking for improvements, but it's also important that we allow the coaches to get on with their task without too much scrutiny. If you have comments or observations please feed these back to me, one of the exec or the committee.

Thank you once again to everyone that has helped this year – I'll be at the BBQ if you have any questions or if you are interested to find out more about getting involved. I'm sure it will be a better night than the Foo Fighters at Wembley...