

# SASC Chair's Report 2022

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MARCH 29

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Stretford ASC  
Duncan Evanson – Club Chair



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# Chair's Report

April 2021 – March 2022

I started last year's report optimistic that our athletes would fully return to the pool (336000m<sup>2</sup> of water if I recall) not long after that meeting and I am delighted that we as a Club, delivered that opportunity for all our young people and importantly, everyone remained safe. It is a testament to all those athletes, coaches, volunteers, parents and carers that the full return to swimming has been such a joy and I could not be prouder of our Club that it continues to deliver benefits to all those taking part.

***"It has been great to be back with my friends at Stretford" [swimmer June 21]***

The collaborative support from Trafford Leisure has continued throughout this year. I anticipated a challenge with them concerning the rising energy costs impact pool hire or in worse case scenario, even access to the pool (will they keep all Trafford pools open?), the latest renegotiate deal is in line with the agreed increase and no mention has been made of a cost escalation. This is something to watch out for in the coming months, but with our sound financial position, I am optimistic the Club is an excellent position to mitigate any future cost impact.

***"thank you [to the Club] for open approach in supporting the centre with flexible sessions." [Trafford Leisure]***

Whilst the 12 months started with a disappointment of yet again a missed Easter trip to Rossall, unlike the previous year's cancellation, this was just a postponement and with the great support from many, including the venue itself, a summer camp was help last year, being a tremendous success. This year, in the next month, we are ready to get back "to normal" fully, with our first Easter swim camp since 2019 and I anticipate the

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continuing bonds of friendship between the team and stories of how much they enjoyed their time at camp.

It was also tremendous to see galas once again on our agenda, not least of course Club Champs 2021. Considering how training had been disrupted in the previous 20 months, it was fantastic to see the year end, with this key fixture, new volunteers on poolside, new club records and champions, new competitors and still the joyous celebration at the end of a mass pool entry. This, as well as hosting the Trafford Christmas Cracker and the earlier return to National Arena Swim League were real highlights for the swimming calendar.

It was also great that all water polo players were back in the pool and the new timetable structure having the additional benefit for preparing the older juniors in their transition to the senior set up.

From an operational point of view, massive thank you to all our Coaches, particularly Tom for the great work he puts in to organisation of the timetable (and of course his undoubted talent in coaching) and whilst mentioned in other reports, this is my opportunity to say thank you to Peter (Fookes) and Jared (Armstrong) for the wonderful sessions they have run over the years in water polo and swimming, as they move on from their assistant coach roles at the club.

### ***“...going to miss our coach”***

From a governance viewpoint and as reported last year, the amalgamation of the three district swimming and water polo associations eventually was completed. Since the starch of 2022, the BCM Association has replaced Bolton & District, Central Lancashire and Manchester & District associations for swimming. Unfortunately due to Swim England requirements on geographical distance, the Water Polo association could not be incorporated and although competitions would still be within scope, a new Association.

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There are challenges ahead, as always, particularly as the new association beds in, but Stretford ASC is in a sound financial position, has a growing membership with dedicated and drive athletes, an awesome coaching team and a core group of wonderful volunteer and committee members. We welcome all our new volunteers who have completed training to support us on poolside and in the water polo set up and hope that in the coming weeks more of you will support this great club going forward over the next 12 months and beyond.

This is my last Club AGM as Chair so I close this year, not with a long list of thank you messages, but a more open and general thank you to everybody connected with the Club. Every single member, volunteer and coach make this a truly wonderful Club and it because of this, my own fourteen year association with Stretford ASC have been undoubtedly a wonderful roller-coaster of emotions. From watching my own children make friendship groups, gain confidence in competing and sometimes crashing back down (but knowing they get the right support whatever the situation), seeing the joy on other people's faces as they attain a goal, developing new processes, having junior athletes move through the club to represent their country nationally (water polo) and into national representative squads (swimming) shows exactly how this Club develops individuals. After 134 years, the future truly remains bright for this Club and although I will still be around, noting a reminder here to invite me to the 150<sup>th</sup> birthday party in 2038.

Thank you all for continuing to support this Club.

Duncan  
SASC Chair