

# city of manchester aquatics swim team

## CoMAST Annual General Meeting 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024

### Chair's Report

2023 finally saw the completion of the Manchester Aquatic Renovations, and the ability for CoMAST to return to hosting our own Meets once more. The inability to host our meets for almost 17 months has had a major impact especially following a certain pandemic. We finally got back off the blocks with a test meet for a national event in June 23.

Our Meet Director Sophie took a change of direction in Autumn of last year, taking up the much-needed role of Communications Officer. Following requesting of interest, and an interview process the Committee were delighted to offer the role of Meet Director to Tom Dawson. Tom has been a swimmer at CoMAST and has gained experience at previous meets in our timing suite, and in the set-up required. He has volunteered at counties and regional meets, and recent whilst studying at Liverpool John Moore's University has been on the university Swim Team committee & involved in the University BUCs series. Tom worked with Sophie at the Regional Qualifier in September as shadow director and ran our Snow'pen Meet in December as Meet Director. We look forward to the many ideas Tom has for developing our CoMAST Meets.

2023 has seen success for swimmers at national and international levels, which I am sure our Head Coach Mark will elaborate on in his report.

In 2024 we are looking to retain our SwimMark accreditation from Swim England, which we gained in 2022 and is revalidated every two years. SwimMark is Swim England's quality standard for all clubs. It recognises high standards of governance, sustainability and effectiveness. The accreditation awards a club for creating the best possible swimming experience for all whilst raising the quality of aquatics provision across all areas.

CoMAST relationship with Manchester City Council remains strong, which brings in turn benefits for all our swimmers, in free pool time for training, free pool time for meets thus increasing our capacity for income, as well access to range of expertise. We continue to work with the City to ensure that we have a system that enables an environment to thrive that drives performance and enables community approach to swimming whatever your circumstances.

There has been a noticeable increase in complaints regarding the behaviour and attitudes of swimmers to each other. We are always aware of the changing nature of teenagedom, and a close environment that a swimming team can promote is not always conducive to good relations. However, poor behaviour or attitude is not something we as a club will allow to fester. Where necessary we have dealt swiftly and provided appropriate responses.

With a new renovated environment, and hopefully moving back shortly to a full programme of training for all squads, once the renovations downstairs are completed, it was felt by the Committee that the time was appropriate for a Whole System Review. This will include a review of all documents, policies and processes as well as talking to coaches, volunteers and committee members. We will also be surveying members and parents for views of what we do well, and perhaps where we can improve. We will also facilitate swimmer forums for swimmers to also air their views.

I mention earlier that Sophie has taken a change of direction, after several years of Meet Direction, especially through the difficulties that was Covid, working with Swim England to ensure our nations elite swimmers got the opportunity to swim. Sophie is now working hard to ensure that we have a fabulous cohort of Squad Reps to enable and improve both communication & the way in which kit is received. If you feel you can help with the squad rep role, give Sophie an email or catch her at the MAC. We are also in need of volunteers for our meets. Now we are back up and running we need to be at speed very quickly. If you can offer a session, a day or a whole event please speak to me as I will be directing the volunteers at meets. There are many roles for volunteers at meets, giving out medals, posting results about the building, working with our catering team ensuring officials and volunteers are fed and

watered, marshalling... etc., Please let me know and I can discuss what would suit you most.

Matt Blake our Workforce Co-ordinator is stepping down. Matt has given several years both as volunteer and as Committee Member to CoMAST and we thank him for his work here in CoMAST and wish him Good Luck in future ventures.

This means we will have a committee vacancy for Workforce Co-ordinator. If you have any questions about the role or feel you would be a good fit, please contact me directly. Depending on response we can arrange a one-item agenda EGM to vote in a new position.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank each of our committee members without whom this club would not run. Mike Hilton is our Treasurer and has been responsible for ensuring we are still here following covid, where other clubs have struggled, to Sophie not only for the many, many hours that go into arranging our meets, but for sourcing her replacement and ensuring a safe handover, whilst taking on her new role. Siobhan Sullivan is our very able Secretary and also acts as catering manager at our meets, keeping us all on track in many ways. We have welcomed Tom to our small band and will be very happy to welcome anyone who feels they can assist in our workforce role.

We are looking forward to 2024 and the new and exciting developments that may come our way!