



Swim England

Hertfordshire



ANNUAL REPORT

2024

General

The annual report covers the calendar year 2024.

The county swimming championships and age-groups competition took place in January 2024. A team representing Swim England Hertfordshire competed at the National Inter-County Team Championships at Ponds Forge in October 2024. The county's artistic swimming clubs have continued to develop throughout 2024 and their athletes participate successfully in regional competitions and grading days. A development squad was also set up in 2024. Water polo competition was provided in the Hertfordshire & District Water Polo League and a successful junior water polo competition was again held this year, organised by the water polo section of Hitchin SC. The county's diving athletes competed at regional competitions, but there were no county championships in 2024. A county masters competition was held in 2024. A team from the county competed at the Swim England East Region Inter-County Masters Championships in October 2024. Open water championships were held within the regional championships.

With training and development being provided online when required, a specific county development weekend was not organised in 2024. Disability athletes had access to development through the regional training sessions. In line with Swim England's national pathway directives, swimming development camps took place in 2024.

As at 31st December 2024, there were 32 clubs in Hertfordshire. During the year Beaumont Diving Academy changed its name to Brocket (Hatfield) Diving Academy, and unfortunately at the end of the year Borehamwood Swimming Club closed.

Brocket (Hatfield) Diving Academy and Dacorum Diving deliver the discipline of diving. Aqualina (Stevenage), Dacorum and Potters Bar are the artistic swimming clubs, and artistic swimming is also delivered through Hatfield Swimming Club. The discipline of water polo is delivered by Watford Water Polo Club, and through the Hertford and Hitchin Swimming Clubs. There is one club specifically for masters swimmers – that is St Albans Masters. There is also the Hertfordshire Aquatics Club, which has been set up by the county in conjunction with the 50m pool project.

Committee and Management Board meetings have continued to be held online, because of the saving of room hire cost, and also the saving of time spent travelling to those meetings. Through Swim England and Swim England East Region, online theory training has been possible for volunteers and officials, and forums and development have also been available online.

The Management Board has met four times in the year. There were four vacancies on the Management Board following the Annual Council Meeting 2024. There is no doubt that the management of the county affairs would be better served with a full complement of Board members. At present the governance of the county lies in the hands of ten members of the Management Board – this is not ideal in any way. There are only four meetings (2 hours maximum), plus the Annual Council Meeting, and so the time-commitment is minimal. It would be SO helpful to have a full complement of members and be able to share the load and responsibilities. It is hoped that the vacancies will be filled at the Annual Council Meeting.

Unfortunately, the perception is that a wealth of experience is required. This is definitely not the case. What is required is people with positive ideas and a commitment to the development of swimming, in all its aspects, in the county. If the few people, who do bother to contribute, did not do so, then our athletes would have no competitions and development! The idea that other people know far more than you, should not be a factor in making a commitment. Knowledge and experience are built up by doing a job, and full support to a newcomer would most certainly be given by those who have the experience and knowledge. The time-commitment for a member of the Board or a committee is minimal over the year, and any role undertaken to help organise events need not be onerous timewise if the load can be spread.

The artistic swimming committee and the swimming committee have met online during the year. Minutes of the meetings which were held are available on the website. There has been no county disability committee this year, although Jackie Harvey continued as the disability manager, and competition and training is provided through the region, with the county having a link to the regional disability committee. There has been no water polo committee this year, and no water polo manager either. There has also been no diving committee or diving manager. The disciplines of water polo and diving in Hertfordshire, whilst having no county committee, are, however, well-engaged within regional groups.

Club and Coach Forums and Swimming Officials' Forums were held during the year.

With development and training available now online, and club support being available through the region and nationally, the Management Board decided that there was at present no real need for the Club Development Group. The Group has therefore been disbanded for the time being.

In line with the drive from Swim England to ensure that there is correct governance in place throughout its constituent organisations and associations, governance in the county was addressed. A group of Management Board members worked hard to ensure that Swim England Hertfordshire complied fully with the governance standards required by Swim England.

Sadly, during the year two past presidents of our county passed away.
Rosemary Nodder and Janet Gardiner

Greg Coe became the Swim England Hertfordshire President in March 2024.

Ian Mackenzie has continued as one of the Directors of Swim England East Region and has also taken on the role of Interim Regional Chairman as no-one else could be found. During 2024 Sheila Mackenzie joined the Swim England East Region Board as a Director.

Craig Hunter continues making a very significant contribution to our sport on the international stage.

Swim England Hertfordshire has a county representative on the Swim England East Region Leadership Groups for disability, masters and open water, whilst artistic swimming, water polo and diving Leadership Groups are open to representatives for all the clubs of those respective disciplines.

Clubs in the county continued to benefit from the supportive work of the regional staff, and online forums have been provided for club and county volunteers. Training for officials, coaches and team managers has been available online. The Swim England Hertfordshire website and various social media channels continue to be used by the county to engage with the membership.

As we move to through the rest of 2025, please consider carefully whether you could contribute by giving a small amount of your time to your county, either on the discipline committees or on the Management Board.

Hertfordshire Aquatics - the 50m pool project

During 2024 the core project team continued to meet.

Progress was slow in the last 12 months, with a lot of work focussing on working out what the college actually wanted from the project. During the year there was a significant change of emphasis from them which caused us to do some rethinking of the project, and it was decided in the end not to continue with the Oaklands site.

There was still the need to find financial backers for the project, but a re-think about the actual structure of the build could now mean that the cost is substantially less than was initially estimated.

Several other sites have been considered since the move away from Oaklands, and at the beginning of 2025 there is good news of a potential site.

The team will endeavour to keep the county updated with our developments, so please keep it in your minds. This literally is a once in a lifetime opportunity for us to take control of our own facility to serve our membership.

SwimMark and Club Affiliation

All clubs are required to have SwimMark or Club Affiliation accreditation. The accreditation is regarded by Swim England as the mark of a well-run club with systems in place for the support and benefit of its members, especially its athletes.

A review of the SwimMark accreditation was announced at the end of 2024. SwimMark accreditation was paused while the review takes place. Clubs will retain their SwimMark status pending the review and on renewal will only have to complete the Club Affiliation part of the whole renewal.

The following clubs were SwimMark accredited as at 31st December 2024:-

Aqualina (Stevenage) Artistic SC	Brocket (Hatfield) Diving Academy
Berkhamsted SC	Bishops Stortford SC
Borehamwood SC	Cheshunt SC
City of St. Albans ASC	Dacorum Diving Club
Harpenden SC	Hatfield SC
Hemel Hempstead SC	Hertford SC
Hitchin SC	Hoddesdon SC
Letchworth ASC	Potters Bar SC
Royston SC	Stevenage SC
Tring ASC	Verulam ASC
Ware SC	Watford SC
Watford Water Polo Club	Welwyn Garden SC

There is no doubt that the governance and succession planning of the club benefit from the accreditation, and this then benefits the athletes.

The following clubs had Club Affiliation at December 2024:-

Borough of Broxbourne Swim Squad	Broxbourne SC
Bushey ASC	Dacorum Artistic SC
Hertfordshire Aquatics Club	Kings Langley SC
Potters Bar Artistic SC	Rickmansworth SC
St Albans Masters SC	

Awards

Roy Rogers Memorial Trophy

The trophy is awarded to the person, team or club who has made a significant contribution to the sport of swimming.

No nominations were received for this award this year.

The President's Plate

The trophy is awarded, at the sole discretion of the President, for conspicuous service to Swim England Hertfordshire .

At the Annual Council Meeting in March 2024, the President's Plate was awarded to Sheila Mackenzie (Hoddesdon SC), County Secretary.

The Wilkinson Sword

The sword is awarded annually for achievement in the sport of swimming.

There were no recommendations for the award this year.

Finance Officer's report

For the year ended 31st December 2024

The latest set of accounts for the county are being distributed separately prior to the Annual Council Meeting. These accounts have been approved by the Management Board, and will be sent to the Independent Examiner for his confirmation.

Membership income for paying members increased by £250 (1.3%).

Membership fees are charged at £3.00 for Club Train membership and £3.50 for Club Compete membership. These figures did not change during the year. Any memberships taken out between October and December each year are charged at 50% of the full membership fee. The fees are collected by Swim England and remitted to the county.

A breakdown of the numbers is as follows:

	2024	2023
Club Train members	2,741	2,853
Club Compete members	3,135	2,971
Total "in pool" membership	5,876	5,824
Fees received	£19,197	£18,947

Membership numbers for 2024 are marginally up on those for 2023 and the increase in membership fees is a result of more club compete members than for 2023.

Club Support membership is for volunteers and there is no membership fee to the county for them. The number of Club Support members at the end of 2024 was 1801 (2023 – 1,608).

During the year there was investment in the equipment owned by the County. £12,482 was spent purchasing backstroke ledges and £2,572 was spent adding to the AOE equipment. An air conditioning unit was purchased for £617.

The county championships made a surplus this year although overall Aquatics activities made a deficit of £3,533 (2023 – deficit £11,778)

The system for hiring out equipment has undergone a revamp and this has meant that charges for hiring equipment has increased. There should be a further increase in 2025.

Due to the increase in the equipment more storage space was needed and a further storage unit has been rented to provide the necessary space.

Overall there was a surplus for the year which is welcome

For 2025 the level of membership and income is expected to be at least the same as for 2024. Initial figures for the 2025 county championships shows a surplus again and this is a good basis for the County to again show an overall surplus for the year.

Simon Lever FCA
March 2025

President's addendum

I have been very honoured to represent Hertfordshire as President for 2024/25. What a great year it has been for swimming and other aquatic events!

I attended the Open Water Championships in Norwich and it was a great day. Presenting the swimmers with medals they didn't know they had achieved was a pleasure. To see the surprise and delight on their faces made the whole day worthwhile.

I haven't been able to attend as many events as I would have liked, but two of the best and most memorable events were the Special Olympics held at Westminster Lodge and the Regional Para Championships in Newmarket. To watch these athletes achieve such great swims and times was just great to watch, and the excitement and joy on their faces when I presented medals to them was so great to see.

The most recent event was the County Swimming Championships. I wasn't sure how I would feel not being in my officiating mode – what would I do with myself all the time? Well, I shouldn't have worried – it was great to see what goes on 'behind the scenes' and to actually be able to watch the swimming, speak to coaches, team managers and the swimmers and to generally enjoy the days! Presenting medals to the swimmers whilst wearing the Chain of Office made it more special to them – a little bit different to getting the usual gala medals. Now I'm in the middle of visiting the 17 clubs whose swimmers have come in the top eight in the County in their age-groups. I know it takes two or three weeks to get round to them all, but I think this is a better way of presenting them rather than at a big presentation evening. By getting the full swim squads together and presenting the silver salvers to the top achievers shows the other swimmers just what they can achieve from all the training they do. It gives them something to aim for over the next year. Also, the swimmers receiving the awards feel special that the President has made a special effort to come and make the presentation. Parents also feel that it is a special event. Lots of photos get taken for the special memories!

So as I prepare to hand over the Presidency, I feel honoured and privileged to have been chosen to represent the County over the last year. I have thoroughly enjoyed my year!

Greg Coe
Swim England Hertfordshire President 2024-2025

Appreciation

The county could not function successfully if it were not for the many volunteers who give their time freely to support our athletes. As always, the support of volunteers working in their clubs and/or working on county committees, is greatly appreciated.

Finally, sincere thanks to all the officers, Board members and others elected to the various committees, who have given their time and expertise, and have made great efforts to continue to ensure that support and initiatives are in place, for the ultimate benefit of our athletes.

For, and on behalf, of the Swim England Hertfordshire Management Board

Sheila Mackenzie

Secretary

March 2025



www.swimherts.org

Keep up to date with what your county is doing

Forums Club, Coaches and Officials

Committees Artistic Swimming
and

Swimming, including Masters and Open Water

Events: Courses: Contacts: Galas: Competitions