



Swim England

Hertfordshire



**ANNUAL REPORT**

**2025**

## General

The annual report covers the calendar year 2025.

The county swimming championships and age-groups competition took place in January 2025. A team representing Swim England Hertfordshire competed at the National Inter-County Team Championships at Ponds Forge in October 2025. The county's artistic swimming clubs have continued to develop throughout 2025, and their athletes participate successfully in regional competitions and grading days. 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 2025. A county Masters competition was held in 2025. A team from the county won the Swim England East Region Inter-County Masters Championships in November 2025. 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 2025. 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 2025.

As at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025, there were 32 clubs in Hertfordshire.

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 2025. 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 eleven 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 I 2024 to disband the Club Development Group.

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 in 2024. A group of Management Board members continues to work hard to ensure that Swim England Hertfordshire complied fully with the governance standards required by Swim England.

Mark Horrod became the Swim England Hertfordshire President in March 2025.

Ian Mackenzie and Sheila Mackenzie have continued as Directors of Swim England East Region.

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 2026, 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 2025 the core project team continued to meet.

Several new potential sites were identified during the year, but unfortunately none of them came to fruition. The main stumbling block, as always, being financial. Land-owners are interested but as there is no source of money for the project, they lose interest.

There has been a move away from a traditional brick build and the project team is now looking at the viability of alternative more innovative build structures. This would give a focus on function instead of vanity. The team have been trying hard to identify new sites and also working out how to fund the build. Towards the end of the year members of the project team identified a potential funding option. This is currently being worked on with a view to presenting it as an option to all parties.

We remain committed to this project as we still firmly believe this is the only way we will see a 50m pool complex in Hertfordshire.

During the year, Hertfordshire Aquatics SC ran three successful open meets raising funds for the project. We are grateful to everyone who supported the meets and we will be running them again in 2026.

## **SwimMark and Club Affiliation**

In previous years all clubs were 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.

In October 2024 the SwimMark accreditation was paused while a review took place. Clubs retained their SwimMark status pending the review but going forward for renewal only completed Club Affiliation.

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 status as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025: -

Aqualina (Stevenage) Artistic SC	Berkhamsted SC
Bishops Stortford SC	Borough of Broxbourne Swim Squad
Brocket (Hatfield) Diving Academy	Broxbourne SC
Bushey ASC	Cheshunt SC
City of St. Albans ASC	Dacorum Artistic SC
Dacorum Diving Club	Harpenden SC
Hatfield SC	Hemel Hempstead SC
Hertford SC	Hertfordshire Aquatics Club
Hitchin SC	Hoddesdon SC
Kings Langley SC	Letchworth ASC
Potters Bar SC	Potters Bar Artistic SC
Rickmansworth SC	Royston SC
St Albans Masters	Stevenage SC
Tring ASC	Verulam ASC
Ware SC	Watford SC
Watford Water Polo Club	Welwyn Garden 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.

At the Annual Council Meeting in March 2025, the Roy Rogers Memorial Trophy was awarded to Graham Spratt (Cheshunt SC).

### ***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 2025, the President's Plate was awarded to Nicola Rix (Ware SC).

### ***The Wilkinson Sword***

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

This year the Wilkinson Sword was awarded jointly to Louise Fiddes (Hatfield SC) and Grace Harvey (Hoddesdon SC), both of whom represented Great Britain and became Paralympic Champions in Paris in 2024.

## **Finance Officer's report**

### **For the year ended 31st December 2025**

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

#### **Membership Income**

Membership income for paying members increased by £514, a rise of 2.6% compared to 2024.

Membership fees remain unchanged at:

- **Club Train membership:** £3.00
- **Club Compete membership:** £3.50

Any memberships taken out between October and December are charged at 50% of the full fee. Fees are collected by Swim England and remitted to the county.

#### **Membership numbers and fees received are as follows:**

<b>Category</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
Club Train members	2,946	2,741
Club Compete members	3,071	3,135
<b>Total "in-pool" membership</b>	<b>6,017</b>	<b>5,876</b>
<b>Fees received (£)</b>	<b>19,711</b>	<b>19,197</b>

Membership numbers in 2025 show a modest increase overall, driven by growth in Club Train members, partially offset by a slight decrease in Club Compete members.

**Club Support membership** (for volunteers) incurs no fee to the county. At the end of 2025, the number of Club Support members was 1,570 (2024 – 1,801).

#### **County Championships and Aquatics Activities**

The county championships generated a healthy surplus this year. Overall, Aquatics activities produced a surplus of £4,995, compared with a deficit of £3,533 in 2024.

The equipment hire system was revamped in 2024, resulting in higher charges in 2025. The system is working well, and these increased fees are expected to continue into 2026.

#### **Overall Financial Position**

The county achieved an overall surplus of **£17,472**, a significant improvement on previous years.

Looking ahead to 2026, membership levels and income are expected to remain at least at the 2025 level. Early figures for the 2026 county championships indicate another surplus, providing a strong basis for the county to report an overall surplus again next year.

**Simon Lever FCA**  
**March 2026**

## **President's addendum**

I am sitting here thinking what I can write about as I approach the end of my year as Swim England Hertfordshire President.

When I received the email asking if I would like to take on the role, it took me by surprise as I did not think I was in the running. I had a chat with my wife and asked for her advice, as I have never done anything like this in the past. She said it was an honour, as not every person involved with the county gets asked, so I agreed to it. It was an honour indeed.

Over the past year I have not attended as many events as I would have liked to, and it proved even more difficult in December as my wife had major surgery and I took time away to look after her. This affected time spent on poolside at the Swim England Hertfordshire County Swimming Championships in January 2026, where I could not do any early starts.

I could not attend the National Inter-Counties event in 2025, as my younger brother was 60 on the same day and we had a family event.

I did attend various water polo events where I learnt a lot about the sport, especially the fouling that goes on!

I also attended an artistic event where I struggled to get my head round the scoring system and the involvement of VAR, with the routines being reviewed on tablets by technical officials. I struggled with the scoring - it reminded me of the judges on Strictly Come Dancing.

At some of the events I did attend, I met the Swim England President and his wife, and also the East Region President and her husband.

It was nice to present medals at various events and then being asked for a photo. Not many had heard of Comic Con where payment is taken for photos and loads of money changes hands.

I have enjoyed visiting various clubs to present the County Swimming Championships Age-Group salvers to the swimmers. The only thing I found disappointing was that while some clubs were helpful in trying to arrange a time for presentation, some were not. I know that they want to arrange times around their pool time, but they must remember that a President may be in full-time employment, and trying to work around their work is not always easy. We do not get paid, unlike some of the coaches. I am still trying to arrange visits to clubs to present the salvers, but this is proving hard as so many clubs are asking for Fridays.

I know the chain of office is being passed down to a worthy person who does a stack of work for the county. I wish her well and hope that she enjoys the role.

**Mark Horrod.**  
**Swim England Hertfordshire County President 2025-26**

## **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 2026**



Swim England

Hertfordshire

[www.swimherts.org](http://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**