



ROTHERHAM METRO AMATEUR SWIMMING CLUB

Affiliated to Yorkshire & North East Counties A.S.A.

Dear Swimmers and their families,

It gives me great pleasure to introduce myself as the newly elected chairman of Rotherham Metro Swimming Club. My connection to the club goes back almost 8 years with my eldest daughter being part of A squad so it is an honour to

take on this role. Before writing further, I would like to take this opportunity to formally thank my predecessor, Richard Jackson for his dedication and support during recent years, especially during these unprecedented past 18 months of the COVID-19 pandemic. The club has still achieved a lot in that time with online zoom calls, land training sessions on Facebook, sessions at other pools culminating in the successful Level X sessions in recent months.



We are now back swimming pretty much at the same times and frequency as we were before the first lockdown. I am sensing a real buzz around the club at the moment with enthusiasm seeming to be a record high and swimmers really enjoying their time back in the water. This enthusiasm is leading to some great results in recent competitions. We have seen personal bests from probably all the swimmers and long-standing club records again being broken. We have a record number of swimmers on the Swim England Talent Pathway with six swimmers on the National Development Programme and another one taking part in the National Event Camps, being the next level above. Swimmers are also using their swimming to support their studies at school with any using swimming to support the GCSE and A-Level PE qualifications. One swimmer has also been selected by Swim England to complete the Diploma in Sporting Excellence alongside their existing studies. Rotherham Metro really does seem to be the place to be at the moment!

As such, I want the rest of this year and beyond to build on this success already being seen despite only being back in the water for 6 months. At the time of writing, we already have at least 6 swimmers with qualification times for the Winter Nationals scheduled to be held at Ponds Forge in December which again I think is a record. The club has a great opportunity to add to this tally with the forthcoming NERs and coaches are providing great support to help achieve this. However, it is not just about our elite swimmers. The club is now looking to strengthen its foundations by increasing numbers in B, C and D squads. The pandemic has had a significant impact on numbers and our ability to recruit so there are ideas in place to support growth and provide opportunities at each level. Let's see what we can do to get more of our swimmers achieving Yorkshire times, our Yorkshire swimmers achieving NER times and our NER swimmers achieving National times.

Despite the continued uncertainty of the pandemic, our coaches and committee have some great ideas to continue to move this club forward. We have already secured some extra sessions in place for A2 squad and we are discussing options both in and out of the water to enhance what the club can offer. Myself, the coaches and the committee are always willing to hear new ideas, especially from our newer parents and we are always looking for our volunteers so please reach out to us. Thanks in advance for your continued support as you join me in making Rotherham Metro the best place for competitive swimming in South Yorkshire. I am looking forward to what the future brings.

Kindest regards

James (Jim) Fisher, Club Chairman