A note from the Chairman...

We would like to extend a warm welcome to swimmers, coaches and supporters to the Ponds Forge International Sports Centre for our return to competitive swimming as we host our first Gala since January 2020. We have received a tremendous response from Clubs we consider old friends and new Clubs we hope will become new friends going forward.

After the most challenging period in living memory for swimmers, coaches and parents we are delighted to invite you to participate in this one day gala.

We would like everyone to feel comfortable during this event and if you would prefer to wear face covering and sit socially distanced please do so, Ponds Forge has plenty of seating to allow all spectators spread out and allow a comfortable distance between each seated person. There are a few one way rules we all need to follow to avoid coming face to face with persons while travelling around the facilities but given where we have come from these are relatively minor consideration and should reassure all participants we are still being watchful for opportunities to transfer the virus.

As we are all aware without the effort of a huge number of volunteers and officials we would not be able to run an event like this. Please accept my thanks, on behalf of Rotherham Metro Amateur Swimming Club, for the help you are providing this weekend to either officiate or work behind the scenes. Without you this event could not take place and your assistance is greatly appreciated.

This weekend’s competition follows the recent successful Tokyo Olympic and Para Olympics Games in we are sure the recent success the athletes from the United Kingdom have enjoyed at both Games will inspire today’s children to future triumphs.

On a personal note this will be my last event as Rotherham Metro Chairman and I would like to say a few words to celebrate the last 12 years I have been associated with this great Club.

Rotherham Metro Swimming Club is an inclusive club that provides a safe environment for children to swim and become the best athlete they can be , to improve their physical and mental well belling and allow them to make a wide circle of friends.

Our Club has over 150 swimmers and we see the role of our Committee to facilitate the best conditions for swimmers and coaches to allow all of our members to get the most they can from swimming. All swimmers develop at different rates because all swimmers are individuals but our coaches are excellent at developing each of the athletes if the swimmers in turn show the application and dedication needed to realise their potential.

Throughout my involvement with Metro I have made many good friends within this Club and in the wider swimming family some of which are no longer with us and I will cherish many memories and will miss the day to day involvement but as my daughter Abigail moves to her next challenge swimming with University of Birmingham it is time for a new custodian to take the Club forward.

Rotherham Metro Swimming Club has been around for generations since 1976 and it is our role to ensure the club is still here for countless more generations of swimmers to come, as our Club tries to foster a love of swimming and exercise that will stay with the children throughout their lives.

As a parent of three girls who have all swum with the Metro I am fully aware how nervous children can be as they approached race time and we had a saying to try to calm their nerves “this is easy, you just in jump in splash around as fast as you can and climb out”………

I hope you have a great day and your swimmers enjoy the “splashing”…

All the very best.

Richard Jackson

Chairman

Rotherham Metro ASC