

## **Chairperson's Report 2024/2025**

### **South Ayrshire Swim Team (SAST)**

It is hard to believe that a whole year has passed since our last AGM. The 2024/2025 season has flown by, driven by what has been another busy, exciting, and successful year for SAST. I am delighted to report that the club continues to thrive, maintaining a healthy membership with 238 swimmers across all squads.

The season began with a fantastic opportunity for our senior swimmers—a training camp in Spain. This intensive start laid the groundwork for the performances we saw throughout the year. One of the early highlights came in November when Eilidh Robertson and Charlotte Hardy reached the finals at the Scottish Swimming National Short Course Championships, setting the tone for a season of impressive results.

Throughout the year, I have witnessed consistent medal hauls by SAST swimmers at meet after meet. At the Scottish National Age Group Championships (SNAGS) in April, our team of 30 swimmers reaffirmed SAST's position as a top-tier club, finishing 9th overall. Our swimmers brought home 9 medals and achieved 44 top ten finishes.

In the National League, our B team finished 6th in the C Final, while our A team secured 7th place in the A Final—excellent outcomes reflecting the depth and development across our squads. The Mini League team also performed with great determination, finishing 5th in the A final. Thank you to Pieroni's for their sponsorship of the Mini League team.

The Scottish Summer Meet was very successful with 16 medals and 42 other top ten finishes.

We were proud to have six swimmers qualify for the British Championships. Eilidh Robertson and Benji Jeffries qualified individually, and the boys' 14–16yrs 200m Freestyle Relay Team—Jasper Broome, Kyle Harper, Sam Currie, and Hamish Maxwell—earned their place as well.

Congratulations to Eilidh R and Hamish M for being selected and swimming for the Scotland West Team in Sheffield in October. Congratulations are also due to Rachel and Christian, who were selected to attend the Great Britain Deaf Swimming Camp in November.

Our para squad continues to shine brightly. Congratulations to Emma and Cerys for making the Aquatics GB Winter Para Meet in Birmingham. Furthermore, Emma, Rachel, and Christian proudly represented the Scottish Swimming team at the British Junior Para Swimming Championships in Coventry in June. Another major step for the club this year has been the successful integration of the para squad. I'd like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Mike Boles for his tireless effort and leadership in making this transition seamless. Mike's contributions have been widely recognised, with his selection as part of the Scottish Swimming Coaching Team for the British Junior Para Swimming Championships in June and the National Games in July. His achievements were further celebrated as he received the Lifetime Achievement Award at the South Ayrshire Sports Awards 2024—an honour richly deserved.

Special thanks go to our incredible coaching team led by Brian and Byron, who all continue to develop and support our swimmers at all levels with passion and professionalism.

Thank you to the club captains Benji and Eilidh, who were ably supported by their vice captains Emma and Lewis. On the social front, SAST has seen some memorable events. The season kicked off with our annual Awards Night, which was superbly hosted by our club captains. It was great to see everyone dressed up and celebrating in such style. In May, we hosted our first SAST Quiz Night, a fun and successful fundraising event made possible thanks to the efforts of Fiona Vignon, Carolyn Adams, Louise Littlejohn, and Andy Harper.

Our swimming meets and events have run smoothly throughout the year thanks to the dedication of our volunteers. We are incredibly grateful to everyone who gives their time. Special thanks go to the STO team overseen by George McLeod for the smooth running of events. Congratulations to Sheena Currie for becoming a referee. We do need more hands—so I encourage all parents and guardians to consider how they might help—as a timekeeper, marshal, committee member, or even just lending a hand occasionally. Your involvement truly makes a difference.

Financially, the club has remained balanced. We continue to work closely with South Ayrshire Council to ensure the club remains sustainable and accessible, particularly in the face of rising operational costs. These ongoing negotiations are vital in helping us provide opportunities to as wide an audience as possible.

This year, we will have the honour of adding to the club family of life members, and you can rest assured that the accolade will have been well-earned and universally approved. But you'll have to attend the AGM to find out more!

Finally, while the year has been overwhelmingly positive, we have faced some challenges. These have been handled with integrity and diligence by the SAST Executive Committee, and Clare Baird (Welfare Protection Officer), whose support has been invaluable. Let this serve as a reminder to us all—swimmers, coaches, volunteers, and parents alike—to treat each other with respect and empathy at all times.

As we close another successful chapter in SAST's story, I want to thank each, and every person involved in making this club what it is. Together, we look forward to another year of growth, achievement, and community.

Colin Haddow  
Chairperson, South Ayrshire Swim Team  
AGM 2025