**Lincoln Vulcans Swimming Club**

**AGM 2023 – Chair’s Report**

Twelve months have flown by and here we are back at the next Vulcan’s AGM.

We have seen some change over the last 12 months; however, I am pleased to say that things are now beginning to settle down for the Club as we see the benefits of some hard work and attention to detail throughout.

Pauline has been with us for just over a year now but has only officially been Head Coach since May 2023. In this time, she has brought discipline to our approach and through the new Club Development Plan, and working through the coaches, we have successfully launched a new squad structure based on swim times, which makes it clearer for swimmers and parents to understand and to see how they progress through the Club. Thank you to everyone involved in this work and to the swimmers and parents for getting behind it – the proof that it is working is through the times the swimmers are now achieving and we look forward to the Lincolnshire County Championship in 2024.

I would also like to thank the ‘Learn To Swim Team’, under the guidance of Ollie Greenwood, which is the foundation of the Club and continues to bring through swimmers who not only learn a vital life skill, but also are interested in competitive swimming too. This is a critical part of the Club’s structure and is often the first experience that swimmers and parents have of the Club and where we excel at being inclusive in our approach.

Equally, as swimmers move out of their most competitive period of their swimming life, but still like rise to the challenge as Masters swimmers, I would like to thank Pete Manley for his encouragement and support of this squad and which I have witnessed at first hand that they still have that racing instinct in them and represent the Club to a high level. Well done all of you and long may it continue.

While the Club’s finances are still healthy, funding continues to be a concern as pool hire charges go up (an increase of approximately £25k this year) and unfortunately Club fees have had to rise to compensate for this. My grateful thanks to Cheryl, who continues to work tirelessly behind the scenes to keep the costs to a minimum and ‘shuffle’ things around to make best use of local pools and times for the Club’s benefit and organises everything else including all of our Club and Open meets.

I would also like to give my thanks to Tanya and Paula who stepped in to establish a new fundraising team this year, across the Club, to help raise vital funds for specific items to support the swimmers’ development.

In order to run swim meets the Club needs dedicated volunteers and officials who put in a lot of time and effort to be trained and also to set up and run them. Thanks to everyone over the year that has generously offered their time on regular occasions to support the Club.

Being the Club’s officials co-ordinator, as well as being the Chair, I would especially like to thank Jo Highfield and Ann Oldham without who we couldn’t run our meets, or train our volunteer officials. If the Club is to continue to run galas in the future, then we need more parents to step forward and help out, so please get in touch.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone on the Club’s Committee for the support they have given me in my first year as Chair. It’s been an enjoyable year, but a steep learning curve for me. However, with their strength and guidance, we look forward to a successful 2024 in what will be the 50th Anniversary of the Club.

Thank you

James Marshall

**Lincoln Vulcan’s Swimming Club Chair**