Chairmans Report 2026

The Club seems to be in a stronger position with a healthy membership. So far this year we are over 100 members in February, and we had about 120 last year. The second sessions on both Monday and Thursday have a lot more swimmers, which bodes well for the future. Unfortunately, we have now lost access to the small pool, which has been replaced with a solitary lane from 6pm until 7pm.

Financially the Club is in a very healthy positions as we have now built up a buffer to allowing us to run two years without bringing in any more funds. This was something that a previous Treasurer, John Higginbottom, said we needed to do.

Last October we held our biennial sponsored swim event, in which we raised over £3000. This meant we could donate £1000 to both our charities, who were Pendleside Hospice and Macmillan Cancer Support.

The Club trip to Outdoor Elements last June was well attended and all who attended had a fantastic time. For this year we will be looking into a new venue, which will offer something different.

The Club Championships was well attended with every event having at least two swimmers, except the boys Learners Length, which only had a solitary swimmer. There were no new records, with the last being set in 2018. I still think it is time for records to be broken this year. Fingers crossed.

The Sprint Gala was held at the beginning of December and the numbers were healthy, especially with several parents having a go.

The Presentation was held this year, as we could not have the weekend in December that we thought we had booked. We tried to move it forward a week, but the trophies would not have been ready. So reluctantly, we decided to hold it in January. The weather was kind as it was a pleasant night and was very well attended. Everything ran smoothly and all the trophy winners were there to collect their trophies.

For the last Club session of 2025, we hired the large inflatable again, and it still proved to be very popular with all the children big and small.

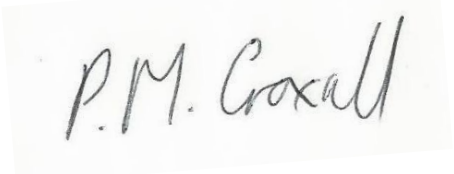
The Local Towns galas were held between ourselves, Great Harwood and Accrington. We managed to win 2 and lose 2, with lots of personal bests from our swimmers. Congratulations to all who represented the Club.

We sent 9 swimmers to Blackpool in May for the Blackpool Rocks Meet, but failed to have our entries accepted for the Blackpool Lights Meet in November. This year we will be sending 16 swimmers to Harrogate at the end of March. This is fantastic, as so many young swimmers want to participate in these competitions.

Last July we held a Swim Clinic with Rohan Smith, who is in the Performance 1 - Elite group at City of Sheffield Swim Squad. We had 25 attending, hopefully quite a few will have been inspired by this event. The Clinic was arranged between Mark Turner and Rohan's dad Steve, who was a former member of our Club.

The Cherry Wilkinson Memorial Age Group Galas in June and January were very well attended with lots of swimmers, both boys and girls, doing all four strokes, which meant quite a few swimmers for the Most Improved Swimmer Awards.

We are helping out with the Schools Galas this year, but have still to acquire sufficient volunteers. Last year we had seven volunteers helping with timekeeping and running the gala.



Philip Croxall
Chairman
Colne ASC
3rd March 2026