



**Leander Amateur Swimming Club**

***Trustee Annual Report 2023-2024***

Charity Registration Number: 102327



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## Organisation Overview and Purpose

Leander Amateur Swimming Club (ASC) is a charity registered with the Charities Commission in Northern Ireland. The Club is affiliated to the regional and national governing bodies Swim Ulster and Swim Ireland and is led by a voluntary committee (the Trustees). Having formed in 1964, Leander ASC has a strong history in developing top level competition swimmers and providing a great environment for swimmers to progress at all levels from Fundamentals through to Masters.

In setting our objectives and planning our activity for the year the Trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's guidance on public benefit. This is to ensure that the activities have helped to achieve the charity's purposes and provide a benefit to our beneficiaries namely the members of Leander ASC, the majority of which are people living in the Greater Belfast area.

Leander ASC's vision is 'to develop people so that they can enjoy swimming competently and achieve their potential as club members, coaches and competitors'.

### Club Objectives:

- to promote swimming in the community and coach people to swim competently.
- to support all members to achieve their goals and potential within aquatic sport.
- to develop and encourage physical and mental health, self-esteem, confidence and camaraderie through club activities.
- to provide a safe and positive environment for members by safeguarding the reputation and sustainability of the Club through the implementation of appropriate and proportionate governance and management standards.
- to promote the work of the Club, both internally and externally through a range of communication channels.

The trustees are appointed on an annual basis at the Annual General Meeting.

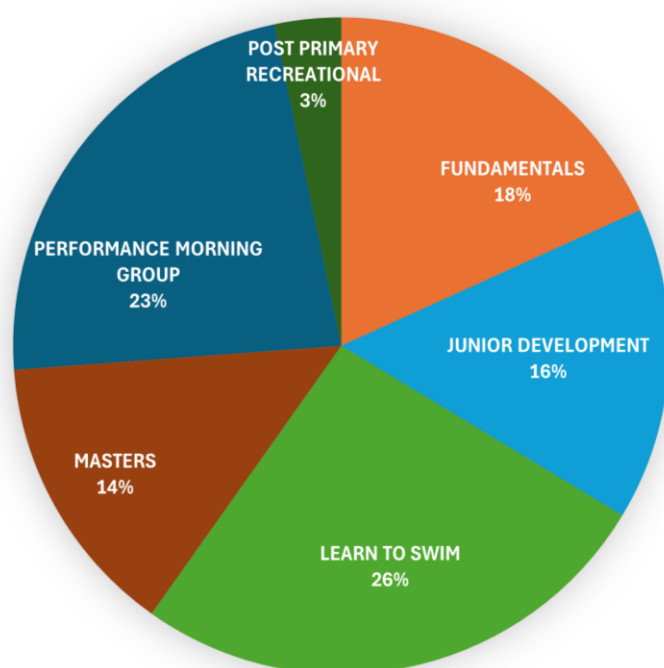
Trustees 2023-2024	
Paula Cunningham	Mark Harvey
Helen Lunny	Joanne Kennedy (appointed June 2024)
Gary Johnstone	Damian Cranney (appointed June 2024)
Kathryn Wylie	
Frank Stevens (stood down Sept 2024)	
Briege Johnstone	
Claire Savage	



## Leander ASC Activities 2023-2024

During this season Leander ASC celebrated its 60th year since its formation in 1964 and we were delighted to report continued success in meeting our club objectives. Our Coaching Team delivered high quality training and lessons to our wide range of groups - operating out of 5 pools across Belfast, seven days a week and often delivering more than one session a day. Membership increased again slightly during this season, and we took the opportunity to deliver further public benefit by reaching out to former members and the wider community to reflect upon the rich history of the club and celebrate the value it has brought to many individuals for over 60 years.

### Membership at the end of 23-24 season:



**214 swimmers**

- 48% Female
- 52% Male

Age Group	%
5 to 11	57.5%
12 to 16	21%
Over 16	21.5%

Highlights of the year included:

- Active club participation and strong performance in the regional Aquasprints and Provincial Town Leagues, increasing swimmers' skills, confidence, and teambuilding. This is particularly important for younger swimmers entering competitive swimming.
- An increased percentage of our membership moved into performance training and competition.
- An increased 'Masters' membership at both performance and recreational level, encouraging adults back into sport and competition.
- Participation and success for individual swimmers at regional and national competitions with medals, titles and records achieved throughout the year, including at the Ulster Short Course and Long Course Championships, and



the Celtic Masters. This included having 4 swimmers qualify for the 2024 Irish Open and Olympic trials, and 25 swimmers qualify for the 2024 National Championships.

- 10 swimmers were awarded GLL and Belfast City Council sponsorship which recognises them as 'talented athletes' and supports their sporting journeys. 1 swimmer also competed as member of the Ulster Regional Squad during 2023/24.
- Club volunteers continued to uptake and complete coaching/teaching qualifications supported financially by the club in recognition of their volunteering and commitment to developing others in the sport.
- The club hosted a 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary event which provided an opportunity for all who have been involved in the club over these years (many now in their older years) to reconnect and celebrate their significant contributions to sport and the friendships made.

### Financial Commentary

The Club accounts and Independent Examiner's Report are submitted alongside this report.

Both income and expenditure were at an increased level compared to the previous years. Higher income reflected increased membership, however higher costs against income (including increases in pool hire, subsidised anniversary events) resulted in the club utilising some reserves to avoid passing on all costs to our membership.

The club was also successful during the reporting period to secure a grant from Belfast City Council 'Support for Sport', sponsorship from a local business and a donation from a former swimmer to help swimmer costs where support is needed.

We were also pleased to be able to maintain majority of member fees at the same level going into 2024/2025, with a very minimal increase in learn to swim fees.

Operating reserves were held at end of season in line with best practice.

### Declaration

In preparing this report the Trustees of Leander ASC have had due regard for the guidance on public benefit from the Northern Ireland Charity Commission and other documentation produced by the Commission and are of the view that the Club is operating in full compliance with its duties as a charity.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees:

**Paula Cunningham**  
Leander ASC Chairperson