

**Chair Report**  
**City of Ely ASC AGM**  
**October 2025**

Having started in this role in May 2025, I would very much like to thank the committee for their support during my first few months. It is very much a team effort and we all support each other. I would also like to thank our outgoing Chair, Steve Kendall and it's lovely that he still is part of the club, supporting the coaching team on poolside from time to time.

We had a very busy summer as we hosted our first meet at the Hive pool - a round of the JFL with three visiting teams.. The pool team at the Hive were really supportive and the event was a great success - one which I hope we can repeat. We are down on the 2026 schedule to host again which is exciting.

Before the summer, we also had our Summer Presentation Evening and Party which was very well attended and great fun for all. The addition of a BBQ this year was really great.

Going into September, we had a very busy programme of meets and it is my hope that we can change the dates of our summer break next year so that we are more prepared for the Autumn programme. Even getting back to training in the last week of August would help swimmers in the early stages of the season. Our swimming through September has been really positive with lots of success for swimmers at all levels, including our Masters.

As the club has continued to grow, we have trained new team managers, JL1s and time keepers to help with our programme of open meets and home club championships. This added involvement from our parents team has really helped us share the workload, as we are all busy people! We now have a really good group of volunteers and I'm always proud to see them out and supporting at meets. The City of Ely ASC is always well represented and I thank you all for that.

My role has not been without its challenges. We would still like more pool time, as most clubs do, and we continue to work with the pool management and Gergely Kokas (Chair of Cambs Swimming) towards this goal. We have been offered an extra hour after current training so the exec committee can meet with Tom to see how it is best to use this time. We would ideally like some pool time to introduce 'grey' squad again - a beginners squad to give stroke technique and stamina before coming into the yellow squad, as many triallists are not quite yet ready for the demands of swimming all strokes and over 25m.

Our Welfare Officer Helen, has also been very busy over the last few months and her input has been invaluable to myself and the coaches in helping to diffuse some swimmer issues and spread positive messages across all squads. We will continue to work closely to ensure the safety and happiness of our swimmers and Helen's knowledge and skills in this are a real asset to our club.

I had the pleasure of attending the recent Swim England Chair and Welfare Conference. This was a great event where we are able to hear about different club experiences and share good practice. This kind of networking and communication with other local clubs provides us all with ideas to further enhance our own practice.

It is a pleasure to be involved in such a vibrant club and seeing the success on all levels, from our yellow squad swimmers coming to their first ever meets, right up to our older swimmers achieving on Regional and National levels, and even Internationally in some cases, is so inspiring for us all. I look forward to continuing to work with you all to create a happy and safe environment for our swimmers to thrive in.

Emma Beardmore  
Chair  
October 2025