

Presidents Report 2026

I would like to thank Somerset ASA for giving me the opportunity to serve as President and to see first-hand the wonderful work being carried out across the county. It has been a privilege to meet so many dedicated people and experience the positive spirit that exists within our aquatic community.

I have been able to attend events to see the Intercounty Water Polo, a Race Night at Midsomer Norton attended by their Mayor, the Development meet, the Team County Championships in Sheffield (amazing!), the IM and Relay Competition, the John Bolton Long Distance event, the Christmas Gala and AGM at Team Bath Artistic Swimming Club, the County Championships, and the Regional Youth Championships at Hengrove. I am sorry that I was unable to attend the Masters event.

One of the highlights of the year has been presenting medals to swimmers and seeing the pride, excitement, and enjoyment from achievement on their faces. It has been wonderful to celebrate the hard work and dedication of athletes across all disciplines.

I would like to thank all the swimmers, parents, volunteers, and officials who made me feel so welcome. I enjoyed hearing about their experiences and seeing the enthusiasm, commitment, and encouragement shown across all aquatic sports.

In my club volunteer role, I attended the Regional Para Swimming Training Day in Bath. It has been particularly encouraging to see the growing participation, visibility, and inclusivity of para swimming at every level, from development meets through to national representation from our Somerset swimmers.

You have an amazing team within Somerset ASA and its wider supporters and thank you for guiding me in this role. The amount of work that happens behind the scenes — whether organising competitions, officiating, or delivering the County Development Programme — is truly remarkable.

I would also like to thank the parents at Team Bath AS for the lifts to and from venues, especially Liam Willcox, Head of Swimming, for the early pick-ups from my house and ensuring that I got home. And of course, thank you to my husband, Chris, who has continued to make sure I get everywhere I need to be, and patiently waits for hours until I am finished.

I have really enjoyed this experience, and I hope that Lynne will have a wonderful year as the incoming President.

Thank you.

Karen Bowen

May 2026