

# Dunmore East Swim Club

## Secretary's Report

**Annual General Meeting – 7:00 p.m. at The Haven, Dunmore East  
Monday, 24th November 2025**

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### Welcome

Good evening everyone, as Secretary, it is my pleasure to present an overview of the Club's activities and progress over the past year.

It has been another year of growth, achievement, and community spirit. The Club has continued to strengthen its foundations, increase its visibility, and deepen its sense of camaraderie among members and within the wider community.

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### Membership

As of the end of October, the Club had **92 paid-up members**, reflecting steady engagement and enthusiasm among both long-standing and new swimmers. This figure is made up of 29 members in the over-65 age group and 63 from 18 to 64.

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### Members' Time

Our **Saturday morning Members' Time Swim** remains the heart of the Club — our most popular and enduring event. The rota system introduced last year continues to work smoothly, ensuring that swimmers are always welcomed back to shore with hot drinks and treats.

Hosts play a vital role each week, not only providing refreshments but also assessing conditions to ensure member safety. Swims have occasionally been relocated or cancelled when weather dictated, reminding us that safety always comes first.

Lifeguard cover was again provided by the Club from **June through September**, reinforcing our commitment to safe swimming for all.

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### Events

The Club has enjoyed another vibrant and varied calendar of events:

- **Christmas Breakfast (2024):** A festive and well-attended gathering at the Strand, with around 60 members celebrating together.
  - **International Women's Day (March):** A joyful beach cook-up at Lawlor's, led by David O'Halloran and the Scouts.
  - **Swim Clinic (May):** Led by **Éabha Cox**, attended by 10 members who benefited from individual video analysis and expert feedback.
  - **Season Opening (24th May):** Catered by **Ruth Whyte**, complete with non-alcoholic bubbly to toast our swimmers' first sea dip of the season.
  - **Summer Activities:** Highlights included a successful **SWALK** organised by Bill Murphy and a **SWIKE** in the Comeraghs, led by **Oonagh Collins**.
  - **End-of-Summer Barbecue:** Another memorable evening at the Strand, attended by around 70 members — the perfect close to the summer season.
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## Swim Skills

The Club continues to promote skill development and confidence in the water:

- **Winter Pool Classes:** Held in Newtown Pool under the instruction of **Ruth Whyte**. Ruth is commended on her work with the Beginner and Improver swimmers. Her dedication to the group was evident throughout the winter and culminated in the "Swim to the buoy" event in June. Many members attribute their enthusiasm for sea swimming to Ruth!
  - **Men's Programme:** Our first-ever Men's Programme, subsidised by **Waterford Sports Partnership**, ran in two blocks during July and August, led by **Neal Byrne** with assistance from **Cian**.
  - **Sanctuary Swimmers:** The Club proudly supported this initiative again, providing refreshments and a warm welcome to participants after each session.
  - **Current Pool Classes:** Continuing in Newtown Pool under **Neal Byrne**, maintaining strong attendance and enthusiasm.
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## Club Operations

Behind the scenes, the Committee has worked tirelessly to support the Club's development and operations:

- The arrival of our very own **storage container ("Clubhouse")** — fully funded through a **Sports Capital Grant** from the Department of Sport — has been a major milestone. It now safely stores equipment and even served as a cosy refreshment hub during wet weather!
  - The launch of **Club merchandise** — including branded swim hats, beanies, keep-cups, and dryrobes — has been a huge success, with strong sales prompting a second batch of cups.
  - Our **Lifeguard team** now proudly wear distinctive, Club-branded cags, making them easily identifiable and promoting professionalism at all sessions.
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## Funding

Membership fees remain our primary source of income, supplemented this year by a number of generous grants. Full financial details will be presented by David in the Treasurer's Report.

We gratefully acknowledge the following funding received in 2025:

- €762 – *Supporting Waterford (Waterford County Council)*
- €550 – *Waterford Sports Partnership (Men's Programme)*
- €600 – *Waterford County Council / Department of Community and Rural Affairs*
- €1,000 – *HSE/Lottery Fund*
- €6,480 – *Department of Sport, Sports Capital Grant*

These grants have been instrumental in supporting our development and ensuring the Club's long-term sustainability.

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## Social Media and Communications

Our online presence continues to play a central role in keeping the Club community connected.

The **Club website** serves as the main hub for information, social media links, and merchandise sales. Special thanks go to **Tomáš Hofírek**, whose ongoing work ensures that our digital presence remains up to date, informative, and engaging.

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## Conclusion

As we reflect on another successful year, it's clear that the Dunmore East Swim Club continues to thrive thanks to the dedication and enthusiasm of its members, volunteers, and committee.

From early morning swims to summer adventures, from training clinics to social gatherings, every event has reflected the spirit of friendship and shared passion that defines our Club.

Looking ahead to 2026, we aim to build on this momentum — expanding our membership, developing new initiatives, and continuing to promote safe, inclusive, and joyful swimming for all.

Thank you to everyone who contributed time, energy, and goodwill throughout the year. The Dunmore East Swim Club is truly a community effort, and its success belongs to every one of you.