

Nominated statements

Andrew Barns (re-election to board)

Andrew has been on the board for 3 years and has been responsible for the continued compliance and registration of the Swim Mark. Andrew also manages the clubs risk assessments and registers of the assessments. Being part of the board, he has supported the changes and development of the swimmer's pathways as well as the development of the paraswimmers and their progression to the England pathway. He supports the disability section as a helper and volunteer coach and is also one of the Covid 19 poolside support team. If re elected Andrew will continue to manage the club's application to retain our Swim Mark status and has been keep up to date on the changes to the Swim Mark requirements that have changed this year. He will also continue to support the club with risk assessments and the changes involved with Covid requirements challenges. Andrew's back ground and years with the club enable him to provide the board with complimented and extensive experience to ensure a balanced and respectful decision process is maintained and challenged.

Ankit Koomar (Treasurer position)

Qualified as a chartered accountant with the Institute of Chartered Accountants of England and Wales in September 2013. He undertook his training with PricewaterhouseCoopers and has worked in industry since 2014. He is now the Head of Commercial Finance at Landmark Limited - a £100m turnover business based in Central London. Ankit is experienced in the fields of financial and management reporting, taxation and cashflow.

Linkedin profile: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/ankit-koomar-5a83b742/>

Paul Johnson

Employment – Civil Servant

Role – Head of Marine Control and Compliance English Channel

Skills:

- Staff leadership and management – HR/Welfare/Development/Recruitment
- Communication – Media trained (TV/radio/newspaper)
- Decision making based on fact and evidence
- Ability to see bigger picture
- Budget management

Swimming involvement:

- Family member swimming at MSM for past 8 years
- Family member - Treasurer for past four years
- Official timekeeper
- Covid helper
- Good understanding of mechanics of club

Mid Sussex Marlins provides an excellent opportunity for swimmers of all ages and abilities to reach their goals and excel. With the sound base of coaches, teachers and volunteers that are already in place and a relatively stable financial position, I believe there is significant potential for the club in the future. Once swimming resumes, Marlins will need to rebuild and consider opportunities to develop and expand on the incredible success of the past. If my skills and experience are of use to the club, I volunteer myself for a position on the Board.

Kevin Symonds

Hello, I live in Hailsham, East Sussex. Our daughter, Izzy, swims in P2 and has been at the Club for nearly 2 years. I am a keen volunteer and am happy to give my time to help the Club in any way I can. I have previously given my time as an official, both at MSM and previously at Hailsham Swimming Club.

I have previous experience of serving on a working committee. I served for a year on the Hailsham SC committee, and was voted as vice-chairman before we decided to move Izzy to MSM. I fulfilled a role as a member/Club liaison officer, and worked closely with the Club coaching staff as a link between themselves and the committee – something which I firmly believe is key to moving the Club forward. I also assisted the Welfare Officer with swimmer disciplinary issues.

I have twenty-plus years in the leisure industry, and currently am employed as Area Facilities Manager for Freedom Leisure. I specialise in the operation and maintenance of swimming pools.

Professionally, I like to get things done. I am an informed decision maker, and I always look to take the right action to move things forward, and to instigate continued improvement and development. I believe that there is usually a better way of doing things.

My aims for the Club are to ensure that it is operated in a smooth, effective and profitable manner, to ensure longevity and stability, and to protect the continued employment of those that make a living from the Club.

My ambition for the Club is simple. I want the Club to be ambitious, leaders, and the envy of every other Club. I want swimmers and parents to want to be a part of the Club. I want to give the coaching staff the opportunity to achieve their professional goals. And finally, I want the Club to be in a position whereby it can give every swimmer, at every level, the chance and opportunity to achieve their own ambitions, whatever they may be

Suzy Parvin

Hello, my name is Suzy Parvin. I am enthusiastic and have a wide knowledge of many various facets of the club. My family and I have been with the club for more than ten years and I have always been an avid (if sometimes loud) supporter of our swimmers. As a volunteer, I have had the experience of working in the kit shop, being poolside, refreshing the officials and whipping children to their posts. During this time I have also become a Team Manager working alongside the coaches at competitive meets and thoroughly enjoy being the voice/compare to many competitive, disability and teaching groups home galas. In addition, I am a Marlin's Saturday swim teacher which enables me to join my love of teaching with the love of seeing children's swimming skills develop and ultimately the roots of the club flourish and grow.

I applied to the board because I would like to work with the club to promote the worth of each area, to recognise their varying needs and to make the club the community that it has been known for, and needs to return to, after such a difficult and unknown time.

Graeme Edward

I've had an association with the club since late 2011 when my son joined the teaching groups. As he progressed through the grades and started competing, I started volunteering with the club's poolside events team helping with the timing and recording activity, also going on to do this at County events (usually Crawley, sometimes Horsham). I also expanded the results recording activity to help the teaching groups manage their galas and results. I've continued to do this to the current day, notably with the Level X events that we were able to run.

I also have an interest in Masters swimming. I swim twice per week with the club in coached sessions for recreation and fitness. I've also helped with the Sussex Masters Champs for timing and recording.

Marlins is proudly a successful and high achieving club and one and I would like to give further support for it to continue to be so. The timing and recording activities bring me close to the club's membership and results management systems and, amongst the general duties required of being a club director, I would be interested in taking a lead on ensuring these systems are developed to serve the business of the club and the success of our swimmers.

Gavin O'Mally – Richardson

Hello and allow me to introduce myself. My application to join the Board may be unusual in the fact that I am not a 'swimmer' and I don't have any children at the club; I am however, I feel, an important cog in the progress of our swimmers as your Land Training Coach.

My first experience with the club was one summer when the Water Polo team hired me for some Land Training (LT) sessions. They liked what I did with them and from that I was introduced to Steve and my position progressed. Subsequently, I have been delivering Strength & Conditioning (S&C) sessions to the club as a freelancer ever since.

It has been a fantastic privilege to see how our swimmers have progressed and my work has reinforced the pivotal role that LT plays in our athletes development. I am 100% confident that the hard work out of the pool has played a part in the Marlins competitive success over the last four years.

I am very keen to see that the Marlins continue with this success and to build upon the many other facets that make the club what it is. I am also keen to explore how we can expand LT across the club, working closely with Steve and the team, to allow all members to be able to access S&C. I also have a long term plan to create a hub of excellence to provide our competitive swimmers with access to a dedicated physical space to enhance our S&C program.

This last year has thrown some phenomenal challenges at sport, swimming included. However, it has also created some fantastic opportunities. Sports clubs have had to adapt to the current conditions and some have achieved this better than others. I believe that my natural problem solving skills would be of benefit to the club during these changing times and moving forward.

One thing that has always stuck out for me is the broadness of what the club has to offer swimmers and the swimming community. However, I was concerned to hear that the Club's membership had dropped from 1000 to 750 members during the pandemic. Whilst I could understand that due to family/personal finances some swimmers may have to rescind their membership, this really is a worrying position. It believe that the Marlins would benefit from a dedicated membership secretary with a more assertive approach to member contact and retention.

I have many ideas and energy to bring to the board which I feel could only benefit the club during the current situation and beyond so on that basis I hope to be welcomed aboard so that I can work with likeminded people to ensure the clubs future.

For reference I currently have a composite career which involves running my own business, 'Bodyblast Fitness', along with working as a freelance producer on television adverts and other media projects. In the past I have worked in printing, sales, project management and hospitality; it's fair to say that I enjoy new challenges and variation. I also provide care for my wife following complications during spinal surgery in 2019 as well as helping bring up my two children.

Many thanks.

Gavin