Here is my second report as Meet Secretary.

As usual the season started with our annual gala with Morpeth and as always it was a great day. This time it was the home gala and the kids looked like they had great fun. Once the swimming started, it was unfortunately a rather one-sided affair with Morpeth dominating in nearly all age groups. However, for some of our younger swimmers this was their first competition, they did themselves and the team proud. Well done.

Edinburgh and Midlothian Schools took place in October and this was a joint competition with schools from East Lothian and Borders. 11 and under swam one weekend and the following weekend the 12 and overs. The winners would normally go through to Scottish Schools Finals in January but this will not go ahead until 2024. Although we had quite a few Porty swimmers the results were never posted on Swim Scotland and only the schools got the results.

The 2022 club champs took place in December first time since covid they were in the same year. We had lots of swimmers participating and as usual we had parents helping on the day to make sure that we recorded times for all swimmers. Well done to Emily, Melanie, Skye, Caitlin, Emma, Connell, Alexander, Finlay, and Fergus who are our Club Champions. This year will see the full programme return to normal along with the club cups.

The annual prize-giving Ceilidh was held for the first time at the Bellfield Church in January, and we had a great turn-out of swimmers and parents / families. Lesley presented our trophies, along with gold, silver and bronze medals. It really is a great club evening and I hope that everyone enjoyed it.

Coverdale - for the newer and younger swimmers of our squads. Four teams are involved Portobello, Haddington, Tranent and Musselburgh. From the minute you arrive on poolside the noise and enthusiasm of the swimmers is fantastic. The first round as normal was a trip to Haddington where we had about 11 swimmers. The events are all time banded therefore if you swim too fast or even too slow no points are awarded. In round One we were fourth. Next round was at Portobello and we had about 14 swimmers, great swims and PBs all round but still in fourth position. 3rd round was at Musselburgh and with nearly the same amount of swimmers, we still came 4th on the night despite the PB’s. The final round was Tranent but held at Prestonpans due to pool closure. Well, who would have believed it, the only night I could not make, Anna and her team of 11 swimmers gained so many points we came SECOND. Well done to all the swimmers and coaches for all four events.

East Districts as usual dominate most of the swimming calendar for the swimmers from Top Squad. Andy will give an update in his report but mention needs to go to Harris Woodward making all four 100 finals.

We also ran a timekeeping course and had eight parents who can now time keep at competitions for our club. Just need them now to start their judging course as we only have two or three in our club (including me).

Mad March Meet – finally this was our own meet and usually swam over two days, however due to the number of swimmers we had to scale this back and all events were swam on one day for all age groups. The top club was Hearts with the trophy presented by Cath Fleming. We got a lot of feedback on how great the day was, especially the trophy given to the top girl and boy in each age group with their medals.

Lothian Leagues is the next round of competitions we entered. They are 3 days of competition split over a number of months. The morning session is for the eight to eleven year-olds and afternoon sessions for twelve and over with age based on the last day of the competition. We only had enough swimmers to enter one 10-11 girls’ team and one team for each of the 12-13 and 14 and over boys and girls. Due to limited responses we did not have many swimmers attend but those who did swim got pbs, but also some of the development kids swimming distances of 100 and 200s in their first competition.

Scottish National Age Groups (SNAGs) – A small team were entered as the qualifying times are very strict. Emma, Blair, Fergus and Harris. Well done to these swimmers

Haddington TSM – This is a full day event where the swimmers need to swim five events, 100IM, then 50 Breast, Back, fly and free. The position you finish in each event you gain points and the top 6 swimmers in each each group go forward to the final and swim a 200IM. We had three swimmers who made the finals Hanka, Daniel and Harry. Well done.

We still have several competitions coming up – the Musselburgh Summer Fun Meet, East District Summer Sizzler and the Scottish National Age Groups. Lots of swimmers entered and over the Summer there is also the Scottish and British meets which are invitational. Good luck to all swimmers for these events.

With the introduction of Team Unify we would like to get a couple more parents involved. Alistair Smith and I will be putting out a request soon.