

CGA Swimming TC Chairman's Report 2021-2022

This year feels like it went by in a whirlwind! But we made it, we had to continue to navigate running galas amongst constantly changing Covid regulations and restrictions. This season was much more successful due to many hands helping run and set up galas. A huge thank you to the other TC members and a special thank you to Michael Simpson who went above and beyond to help galas run.

I'm happy to report this season was much more profitable for CGA with regards to running galas and we were able to host many successfully run galas. We had around 10 galas available throughout the season and we made a profit on all of them. We made roughly a R260 000 profit. This was achieved by keeping costs as low as possible and we had some major help from venues who agreed to give us a very reasonable rate or even no rate at all.

The CGA TC is not solely focused on making profit, we used the past season to see what we can plan for the future seasons ahead, with this profit we can plan to implement better structures to help run galas, like the one we are currently using. We can also get more equipment which is needed. With a good income stream we can ensure that paying (venues/people) to run galas and gala entries is achieved. This alleviates pressure on the same people constantly doing it and CGA can better focus its time, effort and resources to running the province. We also in communications with the executive on how we can also use profits to help our elite level athletes throughout the season

This season going forward the TC will attempt to put more galas on throughout the season and make our galas unique and more appealing to the swimmers, coaches and parents. The TC will work closely with the executive to try find us more venues to race and ensure we have more long course racing throughout the season

Registered Swimmers:

This season CGA had plus minus 800 registered swimmers. And still the majority of our swimmers competing in Level 2. We are looking into new formats for galas to include more level 1galas as part of CGA's calendar and also putting together galas and training camps that have our high performers in mind. We need to encourage growth and improvement among our swimmers so we can have a healthy number of swimmers moving up the levels 3 and above. So, coaches let's get together, work together and help CGA once again become the strongest aquatics province in South Africa!

Officials:

Michael Simpson and Clint Neuhoff stepped up to help us get the officials sorted, this was no easy task this season as it involved triple checking everyone had permit numbers and filled in google forms and followed protocol! What a story! So, thank you guys! We really appreciate it. Thank you clubs and parents for volunteering your time to officiate at our galas.

Galas:

As already mentioned, there were many more galas on offer this season galas by CGA compared to the previous season. We still had various problems with venues, numbers, Covid restrictions etc. We are keen to move on and can happily say we have a gala calendar out with more galas scheduled and at new venues! So, we are getting there, but it's likely this calendar is constantly going to change and adapt as we go.

Ellis Park Pool is just not feasible to use at the moment unfortunately. But we are so excited and happy to announce that St Stithians College has agreed for us to use their venue going forward and to build a working relationship with CGA. The pool is busy being refurbished and set to Fina Specs as we speak, and there are more renovations to take place in the near future. A big thank you to Richard Little who helped set this up and sweet talk whoever he needed to.

I think it's a massive opportunity for CGA to have a safe venue that will remain well maintained and to be partnered with a school that cares about aquatics. We also have some more venue possibilities as we go through the season, thank you to those clubs and coaches who have been helping out with this and being the middle men. It is much appreciated because the more venues we have available the more options we have.

Coaches:

A huge thank you to the coaches who helped out and volunteered their time and effort this past season, it honestly made a massive difference and we can all see the more helping hands that come on board the more we can all achieve and strive for change within the province.

Also, coaches thank you for getting all your swimmers/officials/volunteers cleared for every gala and filling in all the necessary paperwork. I know we all don't enjoy admin! Thank you for setting up and following protocols on pool deck, galas and at your home venues and most of all I commend you all on supporting, caring, guiding and mentoring your swimmers throughout this incredibly difficult season. The testimony of that, is we are all still standing and we still have happy swimmers producing fast times.

Going forward the TC desperately needs more people to volunteer their time and expertise, so please at the next TC meeting put your hand up, even if it's just for something small, it all makes a difference. I still strongly believe that coaches uniting and supporting one another is the key to the future strength of CGA.

Lastly a huge thank you to all those coaches who scrambled to help other clubs/coaches and swimmers with pool space over lockdown periods, crazy restrictions and cold weather causing havoc! I can personally say, it saved my business and I am so deeply grateful! We should all be there for one another not only in times of crisis but in times when we just need advice and bouncing ideas off one another, let's start growing one another with knowledge and expertise!

Registration and compliance:

So far at the moment registrations are a bit slow in coming in, so coaches/clubs and swimmers please get your registrations done as soon as possible. Overall, with Covid regulations and protocol has actually helped last season ensuring everyone got registered and up to date. The IAP and CGA are working well together to continually streamline the system.

We also implemented more safe guarding checks for the current season, this has mostly been well received and we will continue to refine this procedure going forward. If anyone is struggling again, please contact me or the IAP so we can help you, we are not here to make it difficult, we want to help and it's all in our own best interests to be registered every season.

CGA swimming TC-looking to the future:

The hope is for this new season that the TC can set its self-up to be a robust and reliant TC. Basically, anyone can help on TC! But we as the coaches/clubs should be guiding swimming and developing the various programs to grow our sport and therefor our businesses.

I propose there should be someone heading up each Level of competition throughout CGA, for example: one person guiding Level 1 structure, another person Level 2 etc. All with helpers/volunteers to spread the load of work. Then all those people receive guidance from the HP Manager per say. This is just an idea and we have many more. But without the volunteers it really becomes impossible.

So please, this coming season let's change, let's step up and work together. It is not onerous and it will be so rewarding to see how this can help us all grow. The possibilities could be endless. But one thing can't continue and that is clubs/coaches/officials etc just moaning and complaining but giving no direct help or constructive advice and worse off, complaining and then when asked to elaborate to the relevant parties, then remain quiet. Those who are brave and step up will see how amazing things could be if we can all work together. The procedure is after the CGA AGM, TC can hold a TC meeting whereby members can volunteer to help out on different portfolios and roles.

Let's combine our minds, skills and talents to figure out a new plan forward to once again grow CGA into the strongest province!

In conclusion a big thank you to our clubs and coaches for your support this season and thank you to the CGA executive for your time, efforts and sacrifice. Lastly thank you to the other CGA TC committee members for all your help and support throughout the season

Sincerely

Kyle Mac Millan

07th July 2022