



Welwyn Garden Swimming Club

(Affiliated to Swim England East Region, Swim England Hertfordshire and R.L.S.S)

Minutes of Annual General Meeting
Monday, 4th March 2019

13 people attended.

The chairman, Derek Milton, reported the meeting open.

The meeting was chaired by Chairman Derek Milton. It was stated that the meeting was being held in accordance with the rules of the Welwyn Garden Swimming Club and it was confirmed that the number of people present exceeded the required quorum.

1. Apologies for absence

Bruce Burtenshaw

Kate Shaw

Rod Reeves

2. Approval of 2018 AGM minutes

The minutes were considered and unanimously accepted.

Proposed: Peter Jasko

Seconded: Audrey Archer

3. Matters arising from the 2018 AGM minutes

No matters arising from the AGM minutes.

4. Chairman's report – Derek Milton

At last year's AGM a committee of eleven was elected and, although Jo Grant, stepped down in October, we have ended the year with eleven, thanks to Carly Morris replacing Jo as the Membership Secretary in January this year. Peter Jasko has started covering the Fixtures Secretary tasks, previously also being handled by Jo.

You will see from the agenda that I am not standing for re-election, having been Chairman for 31 years. However, the other ten committee members are all standing for re-election and there is just one new nomination, Louise Eagles, so once again the club will start the year with a committee of eleven, one fewer than the maximum that can be elected tonight.



Colin Connelly continues to be one of our Welfare Officers, along with committee member Becky Bristow. Sarah Hennessey still deals with communications and Lisa Davis has agreed to continue production of newsletters with input coordinated by Kate Shaw.

Peter Jasko is still maintaining the website; Nhi Connolly and Jackie Hollingsworth are still running the swim shop.

The club secretary, Catriona Byres, still looks after SwimMark and meeting the requirements to renew accreditation has been particularly demanding this year. I am pleased to report our submission has been accepted by East Region but we are awaiting final approval.

Problems with the learner pool at Hatfield continued into this club year and unfortunately it seems the transition from Finesse Leisure to Greenwich Leisure, in May, has if anything worsened the management of the Hatfield pool. However, so far in 2019 the learner pool has been available. Fortunately throughout the year Monk's Walk and the pool in Birch Green have been at least useable.

The current membership is some 181, with 9 more swimming members than at this time a year ago. Of these 132 are category 1 swimmers, 8 are category 2 swimmers and the remainder are the category 3 people who support the club.

It surprised me to realise that when I gave my first Chairman's report, 30 years ago, the club had 284 members. Even then we often struggled to put out a team for some galas, so it is particularly impressive how well Scott has managed in his team manager role. Judging from the club survey in September, the swimming times achieved in galas and championships, and the team spirit at galas, Scott has also had a very beneficial impact as Head Coach and I am very pleased to announce that he will be continuing in that role.

The coach's report will cover competitive performance but I will mention teachers and officials.

In November, following a plea for more volunteers to support numerous club tasks, we had only one response, that being from Dan Pruett, who hopefully will become a regular on poolside as a teacher/coach and subsequently also as an official.

It has been good to see some of our older swimmers on poolside, working towards the Duke of Edinburgh award but we do need to get more parents involved as we are too dependent on a few dedicated teachers who have been helping for many years.

Renata Kusmierk-Peh and Paula Deane are both progressing towards J1 and we have a further 3 of our timekeepers who have expressed an interest in progressing to J1. Recently announced changes to the procedure for qualification are a complication that needs to be embraced. We held another timekeeper course in May, with seven people from the club, including two of our older swimmers. It is really important that the club gets more competent officials as, similar to the teacher situation, we are still very much dependant on a few people who have been supporting the club for a long time.

We again held a volunteer appreciation evening in July and a Peanuts Squad celebration at Hatfield in September. The presentation evening was held successfully in January but, as happened last year, it was a disappointment that some of swimmers did not make it to receive their awards. The presentation evening, as always, required a great deal of preparation, particularly by Catriona and Audrey, as well as support from other committee members at the event.

At the AGM last year I think there was some concern that points raised at the meeting the previous year were not addressed so I would like to comment on the points raised after the close of the formal meeting last year.



1. The waiting list has been reviewed and some new members have started at Birch Green and at Hatfield. The number on the waiting list has gone down to some 27 and there has been a noticeable reduction in the number of very young members, which is a concern for the future. However, we still have some space for younger members, despite advertising at primary schools, so our advertising campaign is being continued and expanded.

2. Following his offer last year, Bruce has been engaged as a referee for our galas and Championships

3. The number of galas has remained similar to previous years and we have not managed to increase the engagement of the older swimmers. This is thus something the new committee may want to give further attention.

4. The club has purchased a Choking Charlie Manikin.

5. Cath Ellerd-Elliott became treasurer, covering more than you may imagine, at last year's AGM and succession planning has been on the committee meeting agenda for every committee meeting this year. This AGM will see a handover of the Chairman's role and the current focus is on the Secretary's position as Catriona has indicated she would like to step down. Catriona was co-opted onto the committee in April 2011 and elected as secretary at the 2012 AGM. At times over the years, she has picked up many tasks, including SwimMark, Workforce Coordination, Championships, presentation evenings and Time trials. Although Jane MacGillivray takes meeting minutes and Caroline Hughes has started to help with some of the tasks I anticipate the committee will conclude that ideally at least two more people will be found to take on all Catriona handles so well.

6. Progress on fun/social events has been disappointing but Louise Eagles, who is standing for the committee, has expressed an interest in picking up these aspects.

Let me remind you once again that although much of the running of the club is done by the committee, our head coach and the teachers, we are also very dependent on other supporters. As previously I thank all these people, and the swimmers, for their dedication to the club.

As you will realise this is the last time I will be presenting a chairman's report. I have been very fortunate during my time as chairman in always have an enthusiastic and friendly committee which has made my role manageable and most rewarding. I am now very happy to be passing the position of chairman on to Peter Jasko who, through his work on the committee, has clearly demonstrated he is eminently suited to the task. Although the membership has reduced over the years I believe the ethos and viability of the club has been maintained and I have every confidence this will continue to be the case for the foreseeable future. Subject to the vote later in this meeting I look forward to the role of President, a position previously held by Maurice Cain (1975 or earlier – 1978), Dennis Lewis (1978 – 1985), Isabel Last (1985 – 1988), Bert Goldstone (1988 – 1996) and most recently Chris Gibbins (1997 – 2018).

5. Treasurer's report – Cath Ellerd-Elliott

The accounts this year show we have made a loss of £769 with total income of £31,963 and expenditure of £32,732. Both income and costs have decreased slightly from 2017 (£340 and £595 respectively).

Membership (including Swim England fees collection) has increased by £1,561 as we increased fees and have an increased number of members.



Income from Club events has dropped by £2,042 and expenditure has dropped by £1,475. This was due to the additional income and costs relating to the London Aquatic Centre gala and income from sponsored swim in 2017 (cost included within Administration).

Pool hire costs increased by £1,821. This is due to accrued costs from 2017 (£1,326.50), hourly rate increase at Birch Green, more lifesaving pool time at Monks Walk.

This year the club has provided funding for the following training:

- 4 x NASTC (National Rescue Award)
- 0.5 x Level 1 training
- Strength and Conditioning
- Safeguarding

The club has paid for or contributed to the cost of the following:

- Storage unit for gala equipment
- Volunteer appreciation evening
- Presentation evening
- Head Coach fees
- Affiliation to Swim England and IOS (Coaches and helpers)
- Goldstone & Isabel Galas
- Paddles and Fins
- Choking Charlie (Lifesaving)

The accounts have been audited and signed off by Stuart Smith.

The treasurer's report was unanimously accepted

Proposed: Stuart Clewlow

Seconded: Peter Jasko

6. Club Coach report – Scott Clewlow

Since the last AGM I have seen a real improvement in most if not all of the club! Which is a great sign for the future!

Last year in the Herts Major League (HML), we were in division 3, in round 3 we finished 5th on the night, but was only 3 points off 3rd place. This was a great performance from our swimmers as we had many swimmers swimming up age groups, as we were lacking swimmers in certain age groups. We also had 6 DQ's which would have comfortably put us in 3rd place. This left us 4th/5 overall in the league.



In the Peanuts we had to unfortunately struggled to field a full squad, lacking swimmers in certain age groups. We rarely got enough to swim a relay of the correct age, without having to swim-up younger swimmers – something we have actively been recruiting to rectify the issue. However those who did swim did well, with many PB's and fastest times swam per race – age specific. We struggled to be competitive with a depleted squad, thus we came 6th/8, 6th/8, and 6th/8 in round 1, 2 and 3 respectively, leaving us 12th/16 place overall in the league standings.

In the Goldstone gala, we entered 2 teams (Team Honey and Team Bee), which was great to provide the opportunity to compete on behalf of WGSC to many more swimmers! We were very competitive in the Gala. It was close and competitive for most teams. Unfortunately We were 3rd , despite being 2nd most of the way through!

In May, we also ran a timekeeper course to get more people qualified, even having older swimmers attend alongside parents.

We were invited to the Letchworth outdoor gala. We had a better attendance than previous year, those who swam did well and enjoyed the 50m experience. We came a respectful 4th/6, which is good as it is long course and strong opposition!

Unfortunately the London Aquatic Centre Gala (Olympic Gala), has been postponed until further notice. This is a real shame as it was a fantastic event and one swimmers & parents alike looked forward to each year.

After the summer break, fantastic hard training, we had the Isabel gala, which we once again entered 2 teams. Great swims, and competitive racing by all swimmers, coming 2nd behind Hertford who ran away with it.

All this perceived improvement in performance was making me excited for the Club championships, hoping for them to be really competitive and seeing if/how many club records could be broken! With some swimmers at their oldest age in their category, and in good shape, I was quietly confident many records would be broken. There was still a handful of 7 new records! Rose Kushmierek-Peh U12 Back, Tom Watkins Achieved U14 Fly, Kyle Russouw U14 Back, Bailey Newington U16 Breast, James Hardy U16 Free, IM (2003 record) & 220y (1994 record – the oldest record we had). Participation number were up in most age groups, which is good to see but I would still like the whole club to take part.

Coming back from Christmas break, the HML was restructured, meaning we were 'promoted' to division 2 (increased distances), and removal of Div 3. In r1 (Div 2), I was unsure how we would compete at the increased distances. I was pleasantly surprised, Resulted in coming 3rd/5 overall by 1 point (after compliance issue)! Still a strong performance from our swimmers, with many PB's.

We struggled to fulfil a squad in round 2, not helped by the fact the gala is positioned at the end of half term. 80 Swimmers were asked to swim, and managed to get a squad of 26. With no open boys, and lacking in most of the other boy age groups. Despite this there was many swimmers swimming up age groups and did so without any moans. Great team spirit was shown throughout the night too. Unsurprisingly we came 6th on the night.



I am very happy that we managed to get a Breaststroke Masterclass session sorted, with help from Jack Donoghue (Hatfield Coach) & Louise Fiddes (Hatfield & international Swimmer, former WGSC swimmer). They ran an hour theory and 1.5 hour pool session on Wednesday, which was very well attended (probably over subscribed). Generally it was well received, however as this is the first time they have either ran one of these, there are some points for improvement and feedback to them, to make the experience even better.

We were invited back to Stevenage development meet, on a rescheduled date this year. Unfortunately we had a low turn out of only 3 swimmers attending, which is a shame as its such a good event and a good level for WGSC to showcase their talented young swimmers. Tom Pruett entered 3 races and came away with 3 silvers, William Kadir-buxton entered 2 races and got a silver medal and 4th place, Amelia Hepworth-Morris entered 3 races and was placed 8/15, 8/15, 12/18. The main this from my point of view is that all swimmers enjoyed the event and all achieved personal bests!

Additionally included in the Stevenage Development meet, there was a time keeper (TK) and Judging course, which we managed to get one parents, Dan Pruett, to attend and qualify as a TK, plus passed part 1 of the J1 course.

I would like to thank all the teaching & coaching staff that help me on a weekly basis to make the running of session as smooth as possible and help deliver the vision and progress of swimming to our club. It has been pleasing to see a vast amount of older swimmers helping poolside doing DoFE, teaching/coaching the younger swimmers! We have had at least 8 over the past year, and hope to maintain or grow this emerging interest in older swimmers giving back to the club.

We have many opportunities ahead of us such as; the rest of the HML, Open meets, goldstone gala, Peanuts, Letchworth outdoor gala, plus I hope to offer out any other opportunities that arise.

All training has been monitored, and recorded for the last year and a half, to make sure training loads are as expected and to achieve best performances in competition. The training structures are sent out to all the teaching/coaching staff regularly and from review of the club survey we have agreed to enlighten the parent & swimmers of the training plan from month to month also.

I hope I have been able to express how proud I am of the swimmers and what the club has achieved, and hope to further the opportunities to the swimmers in the future. If they keep up the good work in training and keep progressing as they have done then I see the club keep getting better and better and more 'competitive' while still maintaining our club ethos. Every swimmer to become the best they can be!

7. Life Saving Report – Stuart Clewlow and John London

Our intention to provide an NPLQ course has not been an easy road and we have had much support from the committee Herts RLSS and others but are still struggling to get all the ducks in a row. Many of those who showed initial interest never turned up for preliminary sessions and others lost enthusiasm when we were unable to get the pool time last summer to complete the course. Lauren



Chambers then became unavailable and is not able to help at this time so we are seeking alternative solutions.

Once again, we are invited to The Rickmansworth Sailing Club. They will have their Open Day on Sunday 19th May 2019 and have invited Herts RLSS Members / Clubs to provide Lifesaving Demonstrations / CPR etc. This was a lovely hot day last year and there was lots of opportunity for water-based activities available to all.

The date for Open Water Assessment and activities is Saturday 29th June 2019 10.00am Open Water – Rickmansworth Sailing Club this was also a lovely hot day and the representatives from WGSC had a wonderful few hours in and around the lake.

Saturday 13th July 2019 17.00 – 19.00 Rookie Fun Competition, The Pool House, Kimpton Bottom, Herts, AL5 5EA all who attend seem to have a good time.

We would expect to be in Frinton the early part of September as we usually are to experience the sea with the currents, colder water and winds to content with. Potters Bar and Enfield clubs are usually well represented and bring their rescue power boats and paddle boards with them for all to experience.

Accommodating younger swimmers for the early part of the session has seen our numbers grow and allowing older swimmers to come for all or part of the session to fit in with other commitments has proved fruitful.

Our Rookies have largely achieved their Bronze awards and are working toward their Silver awards with new arrivals joining at different times we juggle our plans to accommodate everyone.

The survive and save lifesavers have largely achieved their Bronze Medallion and Lifesupport.

We will need to renew some of the older throw bags and ropes in the near future and manikins are starting to age but are probably OK for another 12 months but we need to ensure we have the right equipment available for the 2020 celebrations that will be upon us very quickly, especially if unprepared.

Anyone who would like to try CPR and see AEDs in use is welcome to come to any session on a Thursday evening, but a little forewarning is required to ensure we have the necessary equipment that week.

We would rather see anyone who would like to be involved come when they can than not see them at all!

Winners of our 2018 lifesaving awards were.

Rookie Imogen Davis

Junior Johnathan Shindo.

Senior Rhiannon Boswood.



8. Subscriptions 2019/2020 – Cath Ellerd-Elliott

The committee have looked at the membership fees for the coming year and have decided to increase the membership amount due in April by £5 per swimmer.

We have budgeted for expenses increasing by 8.8% and plan to use some of the clubs savings to cover the deficit.

The fees for 2019/20 will be as follows:

Number Swimmers in family	Fee After 15 th April or using Go Cardless	Full Payment Before 15 th April	Increase	% Increase
1	£ 280	£ 275	£ 5	1.9%
2	£ 515	£ 505	£ 10	2.0%
3	£ 560	£ 550	£ 15	2.8%
4	£ 605	£ 595	£ 20	3.5%
5	£ 645	£ 635	£ 25	4.1%
6	£ 685	£ 675	£ 30	4.7%
Lifesaving only	£ 140.0	£ 137.50	£ 2.50	1.9%

The subscriptions were unanimously accepted.

9. Election of Committee for 2019/2020

The following members were nominated in accordance with Rule 15.5. Voting is not necessary as the number of nominations does not exceed the number of vacancies and they are thus declared to be elected as members of the committee.

Executive Officers:

Chairman – Peter Jasko

Secretary – Catriona Byres

Treasurer – Cath Ellerd -Elliott

Elected members (maximum 9)

Audrey Archer

Rebecca Bristow



Carly Morris

Louise Eagles

Jane MacGillivray

Kathryn Shaw

Caroline Hughes

Nadine Green

Election of Club President: Derek Milton

Derek Milton was declared club president

Derek Milton thanked everyone for their attendance at the meeting which was reported closed at 20.45pm.



Appendix 1

Matters arising at the AGM

The following issues were raised during the AGM

With Regard to the Treasurers Report

1. Audrey Archer Queried whether the expenses for the club included awards and trophies

Cath-Ellerd-Elliott: Confirmed that it did

2. *Peter Jasko* – Queried whether the cost of the Choking Charlie was paid in the one year

Cath-Ellerd-Elliott: Confirmed that it was

3. *Stuart Clewlow* Queried the projected increase in expenses and what was the expected loss in income for next year

Cath-Ellerd-Elliott Responded that we expected expenses to increase 8.8%, (based on expected small increases in pool hire, and increases in teacher and training events). The projected deficit for next year was a 2% increase, meaning that the total deficit for next year was expected to be £914.

4. *Ren Kusmierrek- Peh*: Queried that given a potential increased cost for pool hire, whether there were any planned improvements to the facilities at MonksWalk or any of the other pools.

Cath Ellerd Elliott : Responded that it was out of our control and very unlikely given that Birch Green last year and Hitchin pools had had improvements in the previous year.

With Regard to the Coaches Report

1. *Stuart Clewlow* Queried whether we knew why some of the older swimmers did not want to swim in galas and whether we should send them a questionnaire to understand this more.

Scott Clewlow Responded saying it was common also across other clubs and was a mix of other commitments getting in the way (school work/social life/jobs) as well as a bit of a reluctance. It was noted that Swim Club manager asks swimmers to give a reason why they are unable to swim, so this information is already captured.

2. *Ren Kusmierrek- Peh* – Acknowledged and how much it was appreciated to swim times on Swim club manager so quickly after an event and thanked Cath/the committee for this.

With Regard to the Life Saving Report

Peter Jasko Queried what sort of equipment the Life Savers would need next year as referenced in the report.

Stuart Clewlow Responded that potentially needed throw bags, but needed to confirm what type and how many. They may also be some new equipment needed for the centenary event but until there was more clarification of the event itself, this was unknown. It was briefly discussed that the equipment for this event could be borrowed/hired and/or funded by the WGC Centenary Committee or if the event took place during Drowning Prevention Week, the Herts RLSS or Potters Bar club may



be able to come with some equipment.

Derek confirmed that any issues raised would be noted and discussed after the meeting or at the next committee meeting. Peter Jasko agreed to field any questions people wanted to after the AGM meeting.

Appendix 2

Discussion of AOB outside of AGM

1. *Ren Kusmierrek- Peh* Queried whether there were plans for more newsletters

Peter Jasko: – Responded that indeed there were and that this year we had more resource to ensure this was the case (Lisa to edit/produce, Kate to co-ordinate content).

2. *Catriona Byres* – Gave a huge acknowledgement and thank you to Derek Milton for his admirable 31 years as chairman. This achievement was a real testament of his commitment to the club and everyone was looking forward to his continued involvement with the club. There will be an official thank you and presentation to Derek at the Volunteers Appreciation evening later in the year.