

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELENSBURGH AMATEUR SWIMMING CLUB

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD ON SATURDAY 18th AUGUST 2018
AT THE HELENSBURGH SAILING CLUB, HELENSBURGH

Present

Alex McEwan, Lee Humphries, Ruth Cumming, Karena Caskie, Sandra Gettings, Stephen Boulton, Elizabeth Brown, Peter Brown, Tanith Miller, Aileen Baird, Lesley Johnson, Lesley Parsons, Mandy McClenaghan, Stephen Trail, Lorna Kavanagh, Ailsa Stewart, Susan Hendry, Cameron Caskie, Roddy McEwan, Alison Sheen, Julie Cameron, Kieran Martin, Nicola McMahon, Claire Hennessey, Peter Hennessey, Lois Smith, Valerie Coutts, Lesley McGarry, Carla Barbour, James Cumming, James Miller, Tanith Miller, Simon Kershaw-Yates, Lizzie Kershaw-Yates, Stephen Brown, Tina Sartain.

Apologies

Gemma Peace, Jayne Forsyth plus honorary members Graham Craig, Mrs T Thomas, Jo Scott, Robert McGregor, Carol Walsh, Patricia Cook, Ros Bray.

Minutes of Last Meeting

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 2nd September 2017 at Helensburgh Sailing Club were proposed for acceptance by Lee Humphries and seconded by Karena Caskie.

President's Opening Remarks/Combined President and Secretary Report

Alex McEwan – It's nice to see so many people here. I'm Alex McEwan. I've only been President for a short time.

It's been a good year for our swimmers and the Head Coach will speak about that later.

Our club is small and it does rely on volunteers. I've found that volunteering has been a very positive experience. Unlike other clubs none of our coaches are paid and all the committee are volunteers. If you would like to get involved we are very welcoming and supportive. We are always open to new ways of working and would welcome any feedback. We actively encourage you to come along and get involved.

There have been a few challenges in the last year. The plans for the requested spectator seating at the new pool changed. We had to fight to get more seating for gala events. Unfortunately we didn't manage to achieve the changes we wanted but thank you to everyone who gave their opinions.

Acting on the club development plan from last year we entered the Scottish Club of the Year Awards. We didn't win but we got very positive feedback.

We've had a lull in membership so we would encourage all the children to be ambassadors for the club.

A few thoughts on swimming – being a small club has disadvantages but also has its advantages. Once a swimmer, always a swimmer. Swimming is a life skill. Being a strong swimmer will stay with you for life.

Thank you all for coming this evening.

Head Coach Report

We've had an amazing year. The standards of the squads have increased throughout the year which is why I've not had to move many swimmers between squads.

I'm in touch with the new swimming co-ordinator at the pool and hoping this will get new swimmers into the bronze development squad.

This year we've competed in 14 level 2 competitions and had hundreds of PBs. 24 children took part in the Mini League at Helensburgh and there were 24 PBs achieved.

The Argyll and Clyde Squad had 3 training weekends throughout the year and one residential weekend in Campbeltown. This year we've selected 8 swimmers for the squad. The first weekend training is 20th October in Helensburgh with a Head to Head Gala on 19th October. We hope to see many of you sign up.

At the suggestion of Robert Humphries we introduced the house competition. Dino Divers were the overall winners.

We held our first Water Polo session in February and we plan to introduce more water polo skills into training. We hope to have a parent/coach/swimmer water polo competition soon.

Last week we held the first aquathon in 15 years. We plan to hold more and perhaps introduce a biking stage if we can manage safety issues.

The achievements of the gold squad this year:

The Scottish Schools finals were held in January. 3 Helensburgh swimmers qualified for the finals – Roisin, Alex and Caitriona as a reserve. Roisin won the bronze medal in the backstroke.

11 swimmers swam in the West Districts. We've introduced a silver cap for those who went to the West Districts. Caitriona won 6 gold and 4 silver medals. Roisin won 7 gold and 4 silver medals. Louisa swam an amazing 800m freestyle and achieved a 30 second PB. The girls finished 7th of all the West District Clubs.

The National Age Group Championships were in April. Caitriona and Alex both won silver medals.

Caitriona and Alex both qualified for the Scottish Open Meet and the Scottish Summer Meet. Caitriona moved to 25th in Scotland in 50m freestyle and qualified for the British Open Championships.

Roisin again qualified for the District Regional Programme and Caitriona has also been selected for the first time.

We need a significant change in approach. We need parents to encourage their children to compete in galas, the Mini League and Head to Head galas being a start. We also need parents to volunteer to be timekeepers. We currently rely on Tanith and Alison as judges whose children have left the club. The next timekeeper course is 14th September.

We currently have 11 coaches including 2 former swimmers, Jake and Robert. Robert has surprised everyone at how well he has coached the younger swimmers! Charlotte, Alex, Eva and Jasmine have all assisted the coaches poolside throughout the year. This year Ailsa will no longer be with us but I am delighted to welcome Stephen and also Charlotte who has just completed her Level 1 course.

Treasurers Report

Lee Humphries shared copies of the Treasurer's Report and Financial Statements and confirmed that last year there was a small loss of £100. It is important to understand where money comes from and where it is spent. Money in comes mainly from subscriptions. The largest outgoing is the cost of pool hire which is approximately £12,000/year. We also have to pay subscriptions to Scottish Swimming and we have to pay to train new coaches. Lee stressed the point that nobody in the club gets paid. Enrolment is down – this year we have about 55 swimmers whereas last year there were about 70 swimmers. However, the club is still very strong financially.

Proposed Changes to the Constitution

Lee put forward one proposed change to BL3.1: the financial year currently runs from June 1st to May 31st, however, this does not allow enough time for the accounts to be independently audited and signed off to enable the AGM to be held in June. The proposal is therefore to move the financial year back one month with the last day being 30th April. It would mean an 11 month financial year for one year only but nothing else will be impacted. Lee asked members to vote on the proposed change. The majority were in agreement so the motion was carried.

Matters Arising or Outstanding From Previous Minutes

No matters were brought up from the previous minutes.

Proposed Changes to By-laws

There were no requests so no action required.

Election of Committee Members

New members and officials were proposed by Ruth Cumming and seconded by Elizabeth Brown

- **President:** Ryan Kerr resigned. Alex McEwan was elected.
- **Vice President:** Alex McEwan resigned. Gemma Peace was elected.
- **Secretary:** Ruth Cumming resigned. Nicola McMahan was elected.
- **Treasurer:** Lee Humphries remains as Treasurer but it was noted that he plans to step down later in the year and we will be looking for someone to take on this role.
- **Membership Secretary:** Elizabeth Brown will continue in the position
- **External Gala Convenor:** Ruth Cumming will continue in the position
- **Internal Gala Convenor:** Mandy McClenaghan will continue in the position
- **Child Protection Officer:** Alison Sheen resigned. Sandra Gettings was elected.
- **Training Co-Ordinator:** Tanith Miller will continue in the position.
- **Social Co-Ordinator:** Gemma Peace resigned. There were no volunteers so the position remains vacant.
- **Fundraising Co-Ordinator:** The position was already vacant and there have been no volunteers so it remains vacant.
- **Website Co-Ordinator:** Peter Brown will continue in the position.
- **Publicity Officer:** Lesley Johnson will continue in the position.
- **Trophy Convenor:** Aileen Baird will continue in the position.
- **Kit Convenor:** Stephen Boulton will continue in the position.
- **Head Coach:** Karena Caskie will continue in the position.

Appointment of Independent Examiner

Lee Humphries advised that Ian Docherty had agreed to continue next year.

Election of Captains

Mini Boys Captain – Fergus McEwan

Mini Girls Captain – Alice Cumming

Boys Club Captain – Alexander Johnson

Girls Club Captain – Charlotte Caskie

Any Other Competent Business

There were no further questions from the floor. Alex McEwan thanked everyone for coming.
The meeting adjourned at 7.30pm.

Proposed by

Seconded by.....

Date.....