

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELENSBURGH AMATEUR SWIMMING CLUB

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Held on the 13th of September 2019
in the Commodore Hotel, Helensburgh

Present

Alex McEwan, Lee Humphries, Elizabeth Brown, Peter Brown, Aileen Baird, Nicola McMahon, Claire Hennessey, Lesley McGarry, Lizzie Kershaw-Yates, Stephen Brown, William Higgins, Ros Bray, Fiona Balfour, Susan Webster, Sue Macartney, Gemma Peace.

Apologies

Karena Caskie plus honorary members Jimmy Young, Graham Craig, Margaret Thomas, Stuart Sanderson, Robert McGregor, Carol Walsh, Patricia Cook.

Minutes of Last Meeting

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 18th August 2018 at Helensburgh Sailing Club were proposed for acceptance by Alex McEwan and seconded by Nicola McMahon.

President's Opening Remarks/Combined President and Secretary Report

Alex McEwan thanked everyone for coming along and giving up their Friday evening.

Last year one of the primary focuses of the club was the Waterfront Project and although most of our requests were not met the basic requirements have been met, we will have a 6 lane, 25 meter pool.

HASC is the oldest sporting club in Helensburgh and we should be proud of this fact. However, we are continuing to reduce in member numbers over the past couple of years. Although this is no cause for panic we need to take action now and try and increase numbers by promoting the club.

Alex thanked all the coaches for the support and all volunteers, there are no paid positions within the club.

There is only one remaining vacancy on the committee which is training co-ordinator. This person will work closely with the Child Wellbeing & Protection Officer.

Finally, the club needs to get on top of fundraising and explore opportunities such as the Heritage Funds.

Head Coach Report

Unfortunately Karen Caskie, Head Coach was not available for the AGM and so one of the other coaches, Stephen Brown agreed to step in and provide an update on the current coaching position.

The dynamics of the coaching team has changed considerably since the last AGM.

Karena Caskie has been on the level 3 coaching course and will complete this over the following weekend.

Stephen Brown has completed his level 1 coaching course and time and work commitments permitting will complete the level 2 course shortly.

Caroline Drew and Jeanette Lorum provide valuable land training across all the teams and there help is greatly appreciated. They have added an athletic focus and the coaching appears to be in a good place.

Thanks to Lesley McGarry and Stephen Boulby for helping coach. Also, Louisa Brown and Eva Greig are doing a great job of coaching the development squad. They have a great rapport with the kids and all are enjoying it.

Alex Johnstone is helping on a Friday night and William Peace is helping on a Tuesday night, both boys are doing well.

The coaching team is in a good place and the kids appear to be responding well. It is important to get it right at the development stage as these kids are the clubs future. We have more kids coming through from the Ready for Club scheme, which has been running for 5 years.

The new squads are now in place, we no longer have silver or gold elite squads. The internal pathway is well loaded. At the moment we have the right number of coaches to kids, however we will need additional coaches should the numbers increase.

The primary aim is to ensure the kids are enjoying swimming. They are introducing competition practice and ensuring the kids are competition ready. A training programme has been put together for each squad and this has been synced with all the major competitions both at junior and senior level.

There are additional coaching courses being considered in the new year.

Stephen finished by thanking the coaching staff for all their help and commitment.

Treasurers Report

Lee Humphries provided a copy of the accounts and a report on the figures at the AGM. There was a deficit last year of £2,200 which is due to a reduction in members and based on this years numbers this could be a £4,000 deficit. 2 years ago we had 70 members, last year 55 members, currently we have 49 members.

Lee confirmed that we need approximately 60 members to break-even.

However the club has good cash reserves to deal with the losses but this cannot be sustained. Membership fee's have been increased to partially compensate for this position.

The main cost is pool hire which is around £11-12k per year. Although we receive a small discount from Live Argyll, on the fees they are not willing to reduce them any further. This has been asked for higher up the chain and the council is aware of the issue. Discussions took place in April 2019 and they are not willing to reduce the fees any further.

Proposed Changes to the Constitution

Although there was no proposed changes from members SASA requested that the constitution was updated to a standardised format. All changes have been made.

Lee asked that we highlight the fact that one of the changes mean that the committee members are now financially liable for the conduct of the club. As the committee members are all members of SASA and have insurance in place, this means that as long as we act sensibly towards the financial operation of the club there should be no issues.

All changes were agreed at the AGM.

Matters Arising or Outstanding From Previous Minutes

No matters were brought up from the previous minutes.

Proposed Changes to By-laws

Again changes which were proposed were mandatory by SASA. All changes agreed at AGM.

Election of Committee Members

New members and officials were proposed by Gemma Peace and seconded by Nicola McMahon.

- **President:** Alex McEwan will continue in the position
- **Vice President:** Gemma Peace will continue in the position.
- **Secretary:** Nicola McMahon will continue in the position.
- **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:** Neill Lyell will continue in the position.
- **Internal Gala Convenor:** Lesley McGarry, Kinga Mihaly, Lois Smith and Kay Bell were all elected to this position jointly.
- **Child Protection Officer:** Sandra Gettings will continue in the position
- **Training Co-Ordinator:** this position is currently vacant.
- **Social Co-Ordinator:** Gemma Peace will continue in the position.
- **Fundraising Co-Ordinator:** Lizzie Kershaw-Yates was elected into this position proposed by Alex McEwan and seconded by Nicola McMahon.
- **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:** Sue Macartney 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.

Any Other Competent Business

Comments from the meeting:

- Can we try and promote the fact that becoming a member of the swimming club does not mean early mornings as this is potentially putting off parents from bringing their kids along.
- As a new member it is difficult to understand all the jargon used by the club. The information surrounding swim meets is not easy to find.
- Are all Timekeepers registered as members with SASA. They previously were included but Elizabeth Brown confirmed this needs renewed again and will be discussed at next GM.
- Aileen Baird continues to hold some trophies on behalf of the club and wanted confirmation that she is insured. Lee confirmed that she is covered.
- Parents should come along and support their kids at the internal club competitions as it creates a good atmosphere and helps encourage the kids.

Meeting with adjourned at 7.20pm.

Proposed by

Seconded by.....

Date.....