

Winsford Amateur Swimming Club

AGM

18:45 Tuesday Nov 10th 2020

Virtually via Zoom Meetings

	Comments	Action
1	<p>Chair's welcome and Apologies</p> <p>Chair welcomed everyone to the Club's Annual General Meeting deferred from the spring. It was taking place virtually for the first time with 30 members of the club in attendance. Apologies from Lisa Rudy-Fitzgerald & Sarah Keeling</p>	
2	<p>Chair's Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A year to remember for sure, and one that has brought out the very best in our Club thanks to the efforts and enthusiasm from all of our members.• Particular thanks first, to Sue and Oli Wright, for yet again they have provided the communications glue which holds everything together.• During the first lockdown major thanks to Dan and Michael for their interesting, and very different updates, and Coaches challenges.• Thanks to Nicky Bradley and André Zwijnen for the running challenges and Zoom training sessions, to Julie Grindley for finding us Wildshore, and again to Dan and Michael for all the training sessions at Knights Grange.• For our restart, a huge thanks to Lucie George and the whole COVID support team that she has put together. Lucie and the team have been key to us getting back as quickly as we did.• Finally thanks to Michael and Sue for running our session attendances, and to Dan and the coaching and teaching teams for making it work so well for our swimmers.	
3	<p>Head Coach's Report</p> <p>Over the past 19 months since our last AGM Winsford Swim Team has again performed to an exceptionally high standard. In the year before we were put on lockdown Winsford achieved great success with our swimmers and club reaching great heights.</p> <p>Notable achievements include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Overall Crusader League Champions.• Arena North West Premier League, A Finalists 8th place.• Top Club in the North Midlands.• Top 3 Club in Cheshire.• Top 8 Club in the North West of England.• Multiple National Qualifiers (British Champs, British Summer, English Summer and Open Water).• Numerous swimmers making finals and medals at the different national championships.• 2 Swimmers on England Talent Camps (Lois Inch, Lewis Turner) <p>The achievements have been fantastic, with many highlights.</p>	

Winsford Swim Team over the past decade has had tremendous success, and this is due to the hard work and commitment of all swimmers, coaches, committee and parents. All working together to help our club to continually punch above its weight, and compete with much larger Metro and City clubs, who have numerous clubs throughout their area feeding into their programme.

Winsford Swim Team is a family friendly club but with a steely competitiveness and professionalism, helping us to produce numerous County, Regional and National Finalist, medallist and champions. Winsford Swim team is a leading example for what a swimming club can achieve, where the fundamental ethos is to produce and improve on the swimmers, that we have coming through our club system. There should be no doubt at all that this club on a yearly basis produces super talents across the ages, and continues to be the top club in Cheshire West and Cheshire East by some considerable margin.

I believe success is down to four key components:

1. Swimmers
2. Coaches
3. Committee
4. Parents

As Head Coach it is an honour to work with so many talented and hardworking swimmers, all possessing super attitude to their training and competitions. It is also wonderful to have such a professional set of coaches and teachers, all of which strive to support me and our swimmers. The committee at Winsford has the best interest of the club at large and run the non-coaching activities on a daily basis, allowing the coaching team to get on with coaching. Finally, a big thank you to all parents, without their support both in terms of time and financial, our swimmers would not be achieving their true potential. A four-way great team effort.

Coronavirus 2020

As you will all know training operations came to a cease in March due to the Coronavirus Pandemic with all training stopping for nearly 5 months. Over the 5 months it has been phenomenal how everyone has pulled together and taken part in the many activities our coaches, swimmers and members have put on, to keep everyone active and motivated. Winsford Swim team again were leading the way with all the land training, open water and activities put on for our swimmers, to keep all our members engaged

Lockdown was a tricky time for everyone, but there is no doubt at all that our club and swimmers have met these challenges head on. Our swimmers returned to the pool in August with outstanding, yes outstanding, attitude and motivation for our operation bounce back. I have to say we came back way ahead of schedule, with many swimmers coming back in great physical and mental condition. It is clear from the past 3 months of pool training we have got a lot of swimmers wanting to push onto greater things in the future. There is a desire and mentality our swimmers possess which is not matched anywhere, and this mentality should be applauded.

Unfortunately, we now begin another mini lockdown of 4 weeks, this has been to be honest, a bit of a kick in the teeth, as many of our swimmers had got themselves in superb shape. Even though the new 4-week break is a disappointment for all our teachers, coaches and swimmers, I have no doubt, all our swimmers will again be

	<p>keeping fit and challenging themselves both in online land training sessions, and in any physical activity both at school, college and at home.</p> <p>All the challenges over the past 8 months really does show what a superb swim team we have, and we all should be very proud that we are a part of such a tremendous club. I don't think we realise how lucky we are to be a member of Winsford Swim Team and don the famous orange.</p> <p>Winsford Swim Team has been built on the ever so important ethos of TEAM. Our success is built on everyone pulling together, and supporting each other. I am sure Winsford Swim Team will again achieve great things going into the future.</p> <p>Thank you once again to all swimmers, coaches/teachers, committee and parents. We look forward to the rest of 2020 and into 2021 and beyond, with tremendous optimism and excitement.</p> <p>Together we can and will achieve more, so much more. See you at the pool Dan.</p>
<p>4</p>	<p>Treasurer's Report</p> <p>2019 Year-End Financial Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Income from membership fees remained around the same as 2018 at just over £93,000 • Monies generated from Galas and Time Trials was up by over £2000 to £14,795 with fund raising generating an additional £5,500 an increase of £1426 on 2018 • Overall 'Sales' were therefore £114,784 an increase of just over £1000 on 2018. • It was noted the important contribution from the Gala Team and Fundraising generating nearly 20% of our income. • Direct Expenses have increased to £100,486 an increase of over £10,000 from 2018 driven largely by increases in pool hire cost by nearly 20%, along with other cost increases for Teaching & Coaching and Lifeguards • Overheads were lower by nearly 50% at £4627 mainly since we had invested in new lane ropes in 2018 • Net 'Profit' for the year was therefore £9670, down by over £5,000, which added to our balance sheet gave the club strong reserves of over £65,000 going into 2020. <p>2020 Financial Report to End September</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obviously it has been a difficult year on all fronts with the impact to Membership fees significant and reduced to just over £41,000. Squad fees were stopped during shutdown and remained significantly discounted during phased restart • We have not had the ability to run any galas in 2020 and limited fundraising opportunities meaning overall income was just under £43,000

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Although Pool Hire Costs were much lower, operating in Q1 and through restart only, our overall expenses through to end September were just over £53,000 • Along with our overheads this meant that our financial position at end September was a loss of -£13,700. • While the Club has a strong reserve, as noted previously, the Club is losing money each month and this is being depleted. So we need to take actions to address this. 	
5	<p>Statement by the Chairman on Fees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thank you to Suzanne for the Treasurer’s report and for taking up this role following on from Helen who has done a tremendous job over the last ten years. Back then the Club had just invested in the original Timing System and Scoreboard, and needed to rebuild our reserves. We also lost our level 1-5 lessons during this period, requiring yet another rebuild. It is largely due to Helen’s stewardship that we have been able to build up a strong cash reserve in line with guidance from Swim England. Clubs are expected to hold up to 60% of their annual turnover in reserve in order to be prepared for Pool closures or other unforeseen events. We’re certainly in one of those. Our situation is in line with most other Clubs, some of whom may not survive. • With that in mind, it has become necessary to discuss, at this AGM, our current fee levels. We continue to believe that we are one of the best value Swimming Clubs in the region when we compare against the likes of Crewe, Chester, Warrington, Northwich or Macclesfield for example. However, as you will be aware from our Treasurer, we are not now able to cover our costs, which have gone up for a number of reasons: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. First we had to initially increase the number of morning sessions to provide the capacity across the Squads due to restrictions on lane numbers 2. We are running an additional 3 hours of private hire on Saturdays plus having to pay 5.5 hours of Duty Manager costs to keep the Lifestyle Centre open 3. We are now having to pay 1.5 hours private hire for lessons on Sundays and also have to pay the 5.5 hours DM costs, again to keep the Lifestyle Centre open 4. We are having to hire additional lanes during weekdays for our Squads, again due to the continued restriction on swimmer numbers in a lane • In a normal year, we would typically run three Galas and a number of Time Trials that have been a significant source of additional income for the Club. These, along with Fund Raising, have enabled us to build our reserves while keeping fees at their current levels for the past three years 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Even if we are able to get back to running Galas next year, unlikely we think before September, we are going to have to invest in either substantial scoreboard repairs, or, more likely, a new scoreboard. That investment is critical to being able to run licensed meets and should, hopefully, see the Club continue to develop and thrive over the next ten years and beyond. • We discussed the situation as a committee last week, and have agreed a proposal to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Increase our basic membership fee by £4 per month, discounted to £3 and £2 for each additional family member ○ Implement the new fee structure from the beginning of January ○ Incorporate the £5 per month 50 metre training fee for juggernaut and Gold squads at the same time since these hours are being provided back at the Club • We recognise that these increases come at a difficult time, but they are necessary to sustain the Club through this period while ensuring we can invest in our future. To conclude, this is another major funding crisis, and if we don't take action now, we will, by the end of summer 2021, not be viable, as a Club, in our current form and at our current level 	<p>1. Prepare note to members to accompany AGM minutes.</p> <p>Club Sec.</p>
6	<p>Members discussion & questions to The Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There followed a short discussion among the members & committee recognising the challenging financial situation the club was facing. • The proposal to raise fees was accepted. • A number of suggestions were also raised with regards to additional fundraising options • The Committee were ask to further negotiate with Brio to reduce pool hire charges given we are likely their biggest 'customer' • The Coaches were asked to ensure that additional training sessions coming available due to some absences are offered to squad members on an equitable rota basis. 	<p>2. Raise the topic of additional fundraising at next Committee Meeting.</p> <p>Club Sec</p>
7	<p>Committee Structure and Nominations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barry Keeling has agreed to continue for another year as Chairman. The nominations of Suzanne Wilson for Treasurer and Lee Turner as Club Secretary were supported. They succeed Helen Jones and David Cushen who were thanked. • The role of Parent Reps has been changed and volunteers have been invited to take up the role of Squad Reps to support and liaise between the coaching team and members/parents and represent the views across the squad in the Committee. The Coaching team will seek a number of volunteers to fill the remaining vacancies 	<p>3. Fill remaining committee roles</p> <p>Chairman</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are grateful for Alex Moss taking on the role of Press & Marketing to further promote the Club in the News and Social Media • The Chairman thanked all the volunteers both on the Committee and more broadly across the club without which we would not have the strength and spirit of the Orange Army 	
12	<p>AOB</p> <p>The Chair closed the meeting by thanking all who attended.</p>	

Appendix 1: **WASC Committee 2020**

1.	Chairman *	Barry Keeling
2.	Treasurer *	Suzanne Wilson
3.	Club Secretary *	Lee Turner
4.	Squad Representatives	Transition
		Nicky Henshall (Development)
		Development 2
		Julie Grindley (Juggernaut A)
		Claire Turner (Juggernaut B)
		Masters
5.	Gala Manager	Sue Wright
6.	Team Manager	Claire Brown
7.	Judges Representative	Lucie George
8.	Swim England Registrations	Liza Fitzgerald
9.	Membership Secretaries	Debra Thompson (A-F)
		Sarah Carss (G-N)
		Jacqueline Reynolds (O-Z)
10.	Club Welfare Officer	Catharine Line
		Sarah Keeling
11	Press & Marketing	Alex Moss

* Club Officers