

Winsford Amateur Swimming Club AGM

16.00 hours - Sunday 3rd March 2024
Winsford Lifestyle Centre

	Comments	Action
1	<p>Chair's welcome and Apologies Chair welcomed everyone to the Club's Annual General Meeting.</p> <p>Present : 20 Person</p> <p>Barry Keeling - Chairman (BK) Lee Turner - Secretary (LT) Hayley Lee - Treasurer (HL) Sue Wright - Gala Representative (SW) Nicola Ma - Coaches Rep (NM) Claire Turner - Fundraising Committee (CT)</p> <p>14 Parents / Carers</p> <p>Apologies;</p> <p>Dan Goodwin Michael Secker Claire Brown Steve Lloyd Catharine Line</p>	

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Chair's Report

Chair acknowledged the Swim Mark qualification that had again been attained by the club and explained that the qualification crosses 15 different areas of business including a development plan, financial competence and identification of future plans for the club. Attainment of Swim Mark is becoming more arduous and time consuming and future consideration is being given to identifying a dedicated Swim Mark representative

Chair identified that there are only a few electable roles within the committee and we are fortunate at WASC to have such a diverse and rich blend of volunteers on the committee.

Club remains strong with additional swimmers joining the club, more members now than before the pandemic struck.

Whilst the Club has a healthy list of volunteers it would be great to see more parents and carers assisting from the younger swimming member cohort.

The chair identified an issue with the lower number of boys entering the sport and remaining engaged throughout, BK is to hold a meeting with Brio in an effort to identify a marketing campaign to encourage more boys to join the sport of swimming.

<p>3</p>	<p>Treasurer's Report</p> <p>WASC has recovered well since the pandemic and is now in a much more financially stable position turning a reasonable profit for the last financial year.</p> <p>Membership fees in 2023 were £131k compared to £110k in 2022.</p> <p>Galas and time trials generated £19k which is an increase on the year before which was £17k and is now back at pre-covid levels. The costs of running galas stood at £5k leaving a healthy net profit of £14k, Treasurer commented that the Club would struggle to operate financially without this funding stream.</p> <p>Direct costs were £122k compared to £116k in 2022, representing pool hire costs, teaching / coaching costs, lifeguarding and Swim England membership fees which stood at £11k</p> <p>Other costs incurred were £3.8k which is a slight increase on the previous year.</p> <p>The net profit for this financial year stands at £26k, compared with £2k in 2022. However there were approximately £8k of costs which should have been paid in December but actually were paid in January, taking this into consideration profit for 2023 stands at £18k.</p> <p>Fundraising efforts have been fantastic again this year, standing at a little under £4k, another extremely important method of income.</p> <p>The club has cash reserves of just under £58k. The level of cash is required to be held by the club for significant events such as a full pool closure and is based on Swim England advice, this is an increase of £18k from the end of 2022.</p>	
<p>4</p>	<p>Coaches Reports</p> <p>Juggernaut Squad - Dan Goodwin.</p> <p>Dan unable to attend – Head Coach's Report attached <i>Appendix 1</i></p>	

5

Fees Increase

Treasurer outlined that there had been an increase in pool hire costs by 10%, the teachers and coaches are to receive a cost of living rise as agreed by the Pay Committee on advice from the Treasurer.

Over preceding years some squad fees had increased more than others as a percentage and in an attempt to align all squads with commensurate swim times then a fee increase was proposed.

The increased fees would only permit the club to make a very small profit which could be used to purchase small items of equipment.

Fees would increase by £3 per month across all squads..

A failure to agree a fee increase would see the club as not financially viable and making a monthly loss. The new cost of membership is still highly competitive when compared with other local swimming clubs.

Following an open discussion the fee increase was agreed by all present. Lessons increase was implemented as from 1st January 2023, WASC fee increase will take effect from 1st April 2023.

It was noted that lesson fee increase is directly linked to the fee increase imposed by Brio due to local agreement.

A parent posed a question as to whether the club offers financial support for swimmers who wish to undertake the sport but are unable to meet the membership fee. BK identified that there are grants available via the club but these are generally for specific elements such as entering a gala, they are managed by the Treasurer.

Outside of this option the club does not assist in providing financial support.

BK outlined that the club accounts will be audited by a previous treasurer Helen Jones and wished to express his gratitude for Helen's assistance.

New Membership
Fee increase to
take effect from 1st
April 2023, details
to be published on
website - Hayley
Lee/Sue Wright

<p>6</p>	<p>Digital Media</p> <p>Erin Harding and Eden Mankee provided a presentation on their suggestion to implement a greater social media footprint. Many other clubs have numerous social media accounts.</p> <p>The presentation identified a number of bullet points the two members put forward;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Photos from galas of swimmers that have achieved personal goals ❖ Short videos during training sessions to show the hard work the swimmers are putting in ❖ Updates involving galas ❖ Fun challenges with the swimmers <p>A number of questions were forthcoming as to censorship, safeguarding issues and lines of communication that the Social Media accounts would be used for.</p> <p>Catharine Line the lead Safeguarding Officer will be responsible for vetting the content of the social media to ensure it is compliant with Swim England Policy.</p> <p>The account is not an opportunity to open lines of communication between parents and coaches, the established method will remain email.</p> <p>Erin and Eden were welcomed by all as the new Digital Media Officers for the club.</p>	
<p>7</p>	<p>Committee Roles</p> <p>Anyone wishing to take on committee roles already occupied was tabled, no volunteers were forthcoming therefore current occupied roles to remain the same unless identified below.</p> <p>Hayley Lee the new treasurer was nominated by BK and seconded by NM, she was formally welcomed onto the committee by BK.</p> <p>BK thanked the outgoing Treasurer Sarah Carss for all of the hard work and energy she had put into the role over the years, the difficult situation she faced trying to ensure the club remained financially stable during the pandemic and the outstanding work in bringing the finances back into a very healthy position.</p>	

	<p>All squad representative reps are covered and advertised on the website.</p> <p>Swimmers representative on the committee – delegated to club captains / vice captains to hold swimmers meeting prior to committee meeting and then any issues to be brought to committee by Secretary (Voice of the swimmers)</p> <p>BK outlined the new Safeguarding Team, the team comprises of Cally Buso, Lucy Lee, Rebecca Butterworth (Hilton) accompanied by the lead Safeguarding officer Catharine Line, the team will give some resilience to what can be a very demanding position.</p>	
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<p>8</p>	<p>Any Other Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NM identified that Cheshire swimmers are disadvantaged as they do not hold the county championships in a 50m pool when many of the surrounding counties do so. It was highlighted that the only 50m in Cheshire is in Stockport and currently unavailable but NM highlighted that during the weekends of the Cheshires, Liverpool 50 m pool was available and not being used. • A parent pointed out that fundraising had been successful in 2023 in generating a significant sum for the purchase of new starting blocks and yet they were not being used on a regular basis. This was supported by almost all of the parents present with remarks that this view is held by many more who were not present. <p>The suggestion was raised that the blocks could remain in situ during weekdays with a cover over them identifying they were not to be used. This is the situation at Brio in Ellesmere Port, the chairman stated he would raise the issue with Brio</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A parent asked whether the swimmers could practice more starts and turns, it appeared having attended other galas that Winsford Swimmers are not well schooled in this important skill, especially as the new equipment had been purchased 	<p>BK to raise the issue at the next Cheshire County Championships meeting</p> <p>BK to speak to Brio to seek permission to leave the starting in blocks in situ, with a cover over them identifying they were not to be used.</p> <p>BK to speak to the Head Coach with regard to the concern of starts</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zoe Coxon who is responsible for the swim hat order posed a number of questions; <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Are the club happy for us to continue to use the current company or want me to try and source another one ? 2. if staying with the same company am I okay to order the next batch of training hats ? 3. if I am ordering do the club want me to order the amount I currently have on my list or do they want me to up the order to 50 so we get the cheaper price and the club/I can hold a stock of matt black hats with the logo only that can be sold to parents at galas/for emergency's ? <p>Following discussion it was obvious that there were very different points of view including parents wanting orange hats whilst swimmers preferred the black ones, it was felt the best course of action would be for Zoe to compile a short survey to canvass extensive views and then act upon the wish of the majority</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SW asked everyone to please complete the swimmer personal details survey, this ensures we have accurate records of who is in the club with their up to date contact information • CT identified that the presentation evening would be held at Winnington Recreational Hall this year, they will supply the bar and members are welcome to bring their own food, more details will be released nearer the time. <p>Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance, meeting closed.</p>	<p>and turns.</p> <p>Zoe Coxon to compile short survey on preferred supplier and type of swim hat.</p>

Appendix 1

Head Coach Report – AGM 2024

Winsford Swim Team over the last 12 months have performed to an exceptionally high level, with Winsford again punching well above its weight at County, Regional and National level. There is no doubt in my mind that this year has been exceptional for our club of which some of the achievements will be mentioned later in this report.

A clear sign of a successful club is the numbers in the program and the demand for swimmers wanting to join us. The numbers right through the club from lessons up to Juggernaut and Masters look extremely healthy, with a high demand for swimmers wanting to join the best team in Cheshire West and East. In my opinion all squads are well stocked and full of swimmers who want to achieve, succeed and to train and race with great determination and enjoyment for the club. Michael Secker has confirmed to me that our lessons program is super healthy with up to 90 young talented swimmers on our books and more wanting to join. This bodes very well for the future of the club going into 2024 and beyond.

A few highlights for our club and our swimmers over the past 12 months;

- Winsford swim Team ranked as the top club in both Cheshire West and East.
- Top club in the North Midlands.
- Top 3 club in the Cheshire County.
- Top 5 in the North West Arena Premier League.
- Winsford Swim B Team Promoted into division 1 of the Arena League

Winsford again continue to go from strength to strength with more and more swimmers reaching higher levels, and this is testament to their dedication to the sport.

This year we again fielded two Arena Teams, with our B Team racing in Division 2. As most will be aware the Arena League for 2023 was one of our most successful in the history of our club, with us gaining promotion into Division 1 with an incredible performance at Leigh. Add to this our A team again performed to an incredible level, placing us 5th in the North West Premier League. Winsford Swim Team will have a Team in the Premier and Division 1 for 2024, which is outstanding. No other team in the NW of England has a team in both the premier and division 1 leagues, this shows what we have built with enough talent to field two very strong and competitive teams. All swimmers, coaches and support staff should be very proud of the club's achievement in the Arena League competition.

As you can see our success over the last 12 months has been nothing short of phenomenal, with Winsford Swim team punching well above its weight, Floyd Mayweather style, time and time again. We have had much success over the last decade but I think this last year has been one of our best ever, ranking top in the North Midlands, third in Cheshire, achieving a top 5 position in the Arena Premier League, gaining promotion into Division 1, and having a super successful National Championships with many swimmers qualifying and achieving finals and medals both at British and English level. Success doesn't just arrive through chance; it is planned for. Success only comes about through hard work, commitment and a first-class attitude. With the help of all coaches, teachers and committee we have a system in place which year after year time we produce technically skilled, mentally strong and dedicated young swimmers.

Many thanks to all our swimmers who contributed to our club's success over the last 12 months; we have without a doubt some of the best swimmers in the NW of England. The attitude when at training is second to none with all swimmers training with great focus and determination. I would also like to add the team spirit is the best, no other words needed on this as everyone knows what our club is about.

I would also like to thank all coaches and teachers who have spent many hours on pool side trying their very best to help our swimmers to improve. We have a superb range of coaching and teaching talent, with a conveyor belt of people wanting to help out on pool deck. It really is great to see so many senior swimmers taking an active part in the lessons programme and giving their knowledge and experience to our very youngest members of Winsford Swim Team. All Coaches, teachers, and team managers make such a valuable contribution to our club and our swimmers, and for that I am very grateful.

I would also like to thank Barry and all the committee who make my life as easy as possible, by allowing the coaches get on with the job of coaching, whilst they do the difficult parts such as running a swimming club with hundreds of members. Many members will not realise how far Winsford Swim Team has come over the years, we are now a fairly large establishment and with this the club requires great planning and organisation. Certain committee members have contributed so many years of service, I won't name them as I wouldn't want to embarrass but there is no doubt in my mind, one million percent we wouldn't be where we are without such incredible organisational skills and the sheer number of hours they have put in for our club, hats off.

Not only would I like to thank the committee but also all parents who give up their free time to help our club, volunteers are the back bone of our club, and it is these people who help our club to be so successful. I honestly believe we are one of the best run swimming clubs around and a template for other clubs, we produce talented swimmers in a competitive but friendly environment, where every swimmer matters. Add to this we are financially very astute and viable for many more years to come, Winsford Swim Team really is a super healthy club both in and out of the pool.

Many thanks to all who have contributed in any way to our success. The last 12 months has been a record breaker in more ways than one, and one too look fondly back upon. But we now look forward to the next 12 months, I am sure it will be another absolutely fantastic year for our swimmers and our club.

Kind Regards

Dan Goodwin

See you at the pool!