



Ashbourne and District Swimming Club Monthly Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday 7th February 2024 7:30 at the Ashbourne Leisure Centre

Minutes

Apologies – None received.

Presidents Welcome – E-mailed received from Vicky.

Minutes of 2023 AGM – These have been on the website and no issues raised.
Proposed by Ian and seconded by Louise

Matters Arising – None.

Chair Report by M A Caton

It is my pleasure to present my first Chairs report having taken on the role in February 2023. Recognising the importance and value of both the lifestyle of swimming to the individual and the contribution of the club to our local community, I am pleased to report that the club has had another successful and strong year, again in the face of different challenges.

The new 2023 year began with many new to the roles upon the committee. I would like to begin by offering my sincere thanks to those more established members of the committee for both the welcome, support and guidance to myself and other new members. I am of the view that it allowed us to start the year well and with limited disruption. Point in case, our need to quickly meet Swim Mark reaccreditation which we did.

Upon starting in this role, my first priority this year was to establish a robust strategical plan for the year. Meetings are often taken up with the 'operational' needs of running the club, but behind them sit the strategical intents. Proposing and agreeing key areas for focus and development has allowed us to achieve some important milestones.

We remain financially viable, not least for the diligent and professional work done by our treasurer Louise. There will be more detail in that specific report, but in short we have responded in advance to changes afoot from the Leisure Centre and are ready, and we have promoted and encouraged fundraising within the club with real success. Along with our increasing social media presence and strong communication levels, we are well placed to increase our levels of sponsorship for the club for the coming year. My thanks to Bec, Lara and Nicola for making this possible, and Katy for keeping us all informed and on track in our record keeping and communication.

Our young members continue to enjoy structured and fun swimming sessions thanks to the hard work of our coaching team lead by Ian. Diane, Sheila and Lauren have provided excellent support of our swimmers and their development which is

evidenced by the continuing success of those who represent the club at the host of gala's and meets in the busy year. I would like to make a special mention here of the incredible hard work, and significant time given by Helen in making these events happen. Recruiting and coordinating other valued volunteers, management and working with Lauren to coach these young people is a key success of our small club.

Membership in the club remains consistent and positive thanks to the hard work of Andrea our membership secretary – as we always face the challenge of those coming in being greater than those naturally leaving. Our swimmers are safe. Claire has made a most valuable contribution to ensure that, in a positive and efficient manner this year for which we are all very grateful.

Looking forward to the year ahead, our key areas for development are both significant and exciting. We shall undergo an external strategic financial review in the Spring, and with our current financial profile there is the opportunity for some further capital expenditure. We shall develop and build our coaching team further to support our swimmer development and opportunities for them. We shall establish improved working and mutually beneficial relationships with other swimming and local sporting clubs. We will increase our profile in the local community through social and other media activities to develop sponsorship levels, and recruit more volunteers to key committee based and other roles.

I began this report with a vote of thanks, and let me close with that again. To our outgoing committee volunteers, Vicky, Louise, and Claire – thank you for your hard work and example. Clubs such as ours exist because of volunteers. There is much to do, there are challenges that arise, but it is the hard work of our committee and other volunteers that make it all possible. On behalf of all club members, swimming and others as well as parents may I thank all for their continued volunteering.

Treasurers Report by Louise Davies

Ashbourne and District Swimming Club Annual Finance Report (2023)					
Current Account					
Topline		OUT		IN	
1st Jan 2023	£2,418.85	Admin	£49.07	ASA/Club Membership 2023	£3,390.00
In	£51,392.07	ASA Membership	£2,886.00	ASA/Club Membership 2024	£500.00
Out	-£49,837.60	Coaching (Training and Galas)	£8,670.00	Bank Compensation	£150.00
31st Dec 2023	£3,973.32	Donation	£1,000.00	Bank Transfer (Old Savings)	£7,577.54
Difference	£1,554.47	Equipment	£59.49	Donation	£1,000.00
		Galas	£3,101.00	Fundraising (Annual Awards)	£305.50
		Gala Refunds	£55.00	Fundraising (Club Champs)	£289.00
		Internal Transfer (to Savings)	£7,577.54	Fundraising (Easy Fundraising)	£112.14
		Kit	£327.80	Fundraising (MC Event)	£800.00
		Fundraising (Float)	£54.00	Fundraising (Raffle)	£110.00
		Fundraising (MC Event)	£800.00	Fundraising (Summer Splash)	£309.00
		Marketing	£412.79	Galas	£3,357.00
		Miscellaneous (Gifts)	£160.12	Galas (Refunds)	£59.00
		Pool Hire	£23,640.00 *	Grants	£750.26
		Printing	£86.80	Internal Transfer (from Savings)	£370.00
		Subs Refunds	£93.00	Kit	£179.88
		Training Courses	£108.00	Sponsorship	£980.00
		Training Courses Refunds	£634.00	Subs	£30,756.25
Predicted Balance	£1,723.32 *	Trophies	£122.99	Training Course Bursaries	£396.50
Predicted Difference	-£695.53	TOTAL	£49,837.60	TOTAL	£51,392.07
Savings Account					
Topline		OUT		IN	
1st Jan 2023	£0.00	Internal Transfer	£370.00	Bank Transfer (Old Savings)	£7,559.25
In	£9,431.77			Bank Transfer (Old Interest)	£18.29
Out	-£370.00			Donation	£1,000.00
31st Dec 2023	£9,061.77			Fundraising	£800.00
Difference**	£1,502.52			Interest	£54.23
		TOTAL	£370.00	TOTAL	£9,431.77
Treasurer's Summary Statement:					
<p>The key financial objectives for 2023 were to increase members and raise funds in order to cover the increasing club costs of running the club.</p> <p>In terms of membership, we continued to recruit but these gains were often cancelled out by retirements. In terms of raising external funds, we were hugely successful and we raised over £4,600 across the year (from fundraising, sponsorship, donations and grants). Thank you to everyone who has promoted and supported our club events and activities to raise these valuable extra funds for the club.</p> <p>We end the year much more financially secure than at the start. The club benefited from an agreement with the Leisure Centre, whereby prices would not be increased for the year beyond the 6% agreed in January 2023 - on the understanding that these would be increased in January 2024. Furthermore, the club was credited with £2,000 in over-invoiced pool charges by the Leisure Centre at the end of the year - of which £1,000* was applied against the LC invoice in December (and the remaining £1,000 will be applied in January 2024).</p> <p>We received a surprise grant* payment at the end of December from the Derbyshire ASA and a number of early 2024 club membership* payments further boosted the bank balance going into the new year.</p> <p>We anticipate that 2024 is going to be an expensive year for the club. The Leisure Centre pool hire costs have increased by 20% and lifeguard hire by 13% - and these may increase further throughout the year as the fixed price agreement is no longer in place. Swimmer numbers have dropped slightly in January, and a number of swimmers have dropped down to fewer sessions per week - which will impact the incoming subs payments. This means that once again the financial focus for this year is to increase and retain swimmers and keep the fundraising momentum going.</p> <p>Both membership and subs prices for swimmers have been increased, for the first time since 2021, to cover some of these higher charges. Expenditure on non-essential items have been limited throughout 2023 and will continue in 2024 to protect the savings fund. The committee has committed to using the club savings to bolster funds as and when necessary during the coming year.</p> <p>Thank you to our sponsors, MasterMover® Ltd, No.1 The Orthodontic Specialists, Leek Building Society, Precept Insurance Law Solutions, The Market Place Fish and Chips and Wyaston Nursery and for their generous payments which covered the cost of our annual club awards and our gala team kit for 2024. Special mention for one swimmer, Matilda C, who raised £500 in sponsorship for an open water swim event in the summer. Lastly, a huge thank you to the Good Samaritan charity whose generous donation has once again secured our finances going into 2024.</p> <p>Finally, a personal thank you from me, who will be retiring from the position of Treasurer this month. I've been in this role since February 2017 and, whilst it has had its challenges, it's been a real pleasure to be part of such a great club. Good luck for the future.</p>					

Coaches Report by Ian Duckmanton

2023-24 has been another challenging year for the Club as we continue to recover from the Covid Pandemic which saw the Club lose a number of members.

We continue to develop and recover as a Club, with a number of positives seen over the past year:

The Club continues to have 4 training days, resulting in 7 sessions across the week - 3 senior, 3 junior/development, 1 challenge session.

Swimmers are accommodated across the sessions to ensure they can be members of the Club. This can make allocated swimmers to 'squads' challenging.

Membership and recruitment has been on a steady upward curve as the year progressed. As ever we see membership fluctuations around exam periods and Christmas. Swimmers have joined all squads - mainly junior and development have attracted most swimmers. Thank you to Andrea for her hard work in communicating with parents and to Lara / Rebecca for media promotion.

Club Championships took place in November and January (after the December event was snowed-off). SKINS knockout races continued in the main format and contributed to the overall points totals. This format proved popular and more engaging with an increase in participants from 2023 event.

Galas have continued to be attended - approximately 1 per month. Thank you to Helen Margiotta (for coordinating the programme and entries), Lauren Edden (as lead coach attending galas), and Team Managers for making these happen. We continue to seek more Team Managers to

This year has seen some changes to our coaching team as Katie T and Ellie T have both left. We have seen a good influx of young volunteers via DoE on poolside to support our younger swimmers.

Thank you to Di, Sheila, Lauren, Katie T, Katie H, Ellie T and Lucy BW for their continued delivery of great coaching.

The number of coaches and poolside helpers has been a great benefit which enables more support to swimmers 12 swimmers have entered for 2024 County Championships in February.

The Club continues to cater for competitive, developing and fitness swimmers.

New Club and Junior Captains were recruited in February 2023. Sophie D, Isabella M, Connie H, Daniel M and Owen R-J.

Thank you to the Committee, Coaches, Poolside Helpers and Team Managers for helping run the Club and provide a great environment for our swimmers.

Membership report by Andrea Hurst

Projected Membership Numbers (pre final submission)

Club Train: 37 (1 student member)

Club Compete: 29 (inc 3x 2nd club members, only 1 of which pays us training fees)

Club Support: 14

Total Retired Members (pre submission) 21

Club Train: 18

Club Compete: 9

Club Support: 9

14+ age group = 19 F 5M

<14 age group = 26 F 13M

Without doubt financial uncertainty alongside the unavoidable increase in training fees and membership fees has hit our swimmer numbers in the last few months. From February '23 to end of July '23 we had 15 new swimming members and 6 swimming members resign. However, September '23 to date has seen 8 new members but 21 resignations. Whilst we have had less swimmers leave during this year (27 v 34 last year), the number of trials requests leading to membership has dwindled. This has put our membership back to more or less where it was at the last AGM.

Alongside the 23 trials which led to membership, a further 5 trials have taken place: 4 of these were recommended for a retriál, of which 1 went to another club and 3 are for follow up later in the year. There have been a further 15 trials offered, and 3 enquiries:

3 x changed circumstances led to withdrawal

2 x parent/ guardian concluded child not yet ready

6 x declined trial – 2 state intention to request a trial in the future

3 x did not respond to multiple offers

1 x declined membership due to sporting clashes

1 x membership pending

1 x trial date offered in January/February

Number of trials offered since the last AGM = 43.

Number attended =28

Number of trials offered from Sept '23 = 21

Number of trials attended since Sept '23 = 14

The age of swimmers offered trials was split evenly between those 8 & under, and those 9-12 yrs.

Competing demands from other sports were cited as reasons for leaving by 7 swimmers. The 2 swimmers who were on hold decided not to renew their memberships at the present time. 1 swimmer moved away to start work. The parents of several swimmers expressed thanks for the experiences the club had given their swimmers. For some families, the increasing costs led them to reflect on whether their swimmers were as motivated to swim, and subsequently made the decision to leave.

Going forward, continuing to capitalise on our presence in the leisure centre alongside our dynamic social media presence will hopefully see our membership grow as it had been. Word of mouth has also been a catalyst for trial requests, which indicates parents/ guardians of members speak positively about what we offer.

Constitution agreement – Updated 2023. To be reviewed again by AGM 2025.

Reports all agreed and no questioned asked. Proposed by Marcus and seconded by Sam.

Election of Officers:

- Marcus Caton for Chairperson – Proposed by Ian, seconded by Katy.
- Constance Woolley for Treasurer – Proposed by Marcus, seconded by Sam.
- Katy Harrison for Secretary – Presented by Louise, seconded by Andrea.
- Vicky will be stepping down as President – Vacant. To be appointed.
- Lara Howe for Communications Officer – Proposed by Marcus, seconded by Helen.
- Andrea Hurst for Membership Coordinator – Proposed by Helen, seconded by Louise.
- Rebecca Lewis for Social for Media Coordinator - Proposed Louise, seconded by Ian.
- Nicola Reynolds for Sponsorship and awards Coordinator – Proposed by Marcus, seconded by Katy.
- Vice chair – Vacant.
- Claire stepping down but will remain in post until Louisa Duckmanton is qualified. Louisa Duckmanton for the role of Welfare officer – Proposed by Marcus, seconded by Katy.
- Helen Margiotta for Gala Secretary – Proposed by Katy, Seconded by Louisa.
- Lara Howe for Kit officer – Proposed by Louise, seconded by Ian.
- Swimmers' representatives – Club Captains: Sophie D, Isabella M, Connie H and Junior Captains: Daniel, Owen.

AOB – Nothing raised.

Meeting closed at 20.11pm

Date of Next AGM Wed 5th Feb 2025