

WEY VALLEY SWIMMING CLUB

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Friday 29th June, 2018 - 7.45pm

Guildfordians Rugby Club

Present:

Ann Tizard (AT) Mark Edwards (ME) Lucy Aitchison (LA) Adrian Mephram (AM) Helga Mephram (HM) Will Giles (WG) Sharon Garner (SG) Katie Jopson (KJ) Alex Armstrong (AA) Jayne Edmunds (JE) Lucy Aitchison (LA) Tamara Pedgrift (TP) Emma Arriola (EA) Gareth Steer (GS) Will Philpot (WP) Olivia Giles (OG), Charlie Conroy (CC) , Tom Edmunds (TE) Sam Cheeseman (SC) Matt Danton (MD), Mark Armstrong (MA), Matt Aitchison (MA) Vicki Moore (VM) Martin Greenbank (MG)

Apologies: Sarah Gregory, Sharon Giles, Helen Baidya, Sam & Jonathan Bentley, Lara Davison, Bob Cox, Sophie Quinn, Vicky Paterson.

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 9th June 2017 were approved.

Welcome & Chairman's Report

HM welcomed those present to the meeting. This year we have improved our relationships with Godalming Leisure Centre and Guildford Spectrum, and our pool time seems quite secure at the moment. We are now part of the local swimming network, which includes Guildford City, Godalming, Elmbridge and Cranleigh. This has led to preferential entry for open meets, as well as opportunities for officials training and volunteer programmes, as well as access to coaching masterclasses, nutritionists and sports psychologists.

The planned overseas training camp in Majorca had quite short notice, and unfortunately we didn't get enough participants to make it cost effective this time. However, we would still like to run this and we will try again this year, with more notice for people to start saving. We will also like to run UK based PGL type trips on alternative years.

We would also like to organise more social events for both swimmers and parents, particularly as we have our 40th Anniversary to celebrate! However, we will need some parents to step forward to help plan and organise these events.

HM said that she would start sending termly newsletters, to help improve communication across the club, and also repeated the request for parents in junior and pre-comp to get involved in the various tasks where volunteers are needed, as the present committee only have swimmers in senior squad and we need to think about succession planning for the potential future committee members.

HM concluded with a big thank you to Ann Tizard and Bob Cox for their continued dedication and support to the club, which is much appreciated!

Head Coach Report

WP reported on the competitive activity within the club over the last year: We had a great win at the Stoodley Cup and performed really well and were very close at this year's Bob Cox gala. We also won lots of medals at the Junior Cup, which highlights the fact that our junior section is getting much stronger and augurs well for the future. We now have much stronger attendance at key open meets, (3 at Cranleigh, plus the Crawley event in a 50m pool) which is great for keeping PBs up-to-date

across different strokes. We had a good Arena League round 3, with particularly strong swims from Cass Din, Sibella Colton and our senior boys relay team. The team spirit was fantastic, with the younger swimmers using the “war paint” to great effect!

A record 60 entries from WVSC at the Surrey County Championships at the Aquatic centre in London, including a full complement of relay teams. A big thank you to Claire Din for organising all of the swimmers for both the Open Meets and the Counties.

WP reported that feels that there is now a good balance between being a friendly and inclusive club, and also being competitive at the top ends of each squad, so that the more able swimmers are able to excel without having to move to another club.

WP thanked Olivia Giles and Matt Danton for their fantastic effort and commitment as Club Captains over the past year, and was pleased to announce Hannah Baidya and Charlie Conroy as Club Captains for 2018/19.

Treasurers Report

ME presented the accounts for the financial year to 31st March 2018. These had been once again independently reviewed and approved by Richard Kearsley.

WVSC had 237 enrolled swimmers at the end of March compared to 251 in March 2016, so we need to focus on ways to increase club membership.

We had a deficit of £14,991 in 2017/18, reducing our club funds to £27,861, which is lower than would like. In order to minimise further reductions in our club funds in 2018/19, we will need to increase termly fees by £10 and £20, depending on the number of sessions swum. This will raise an additional £11,000 if swimmer numbers stay the same.

We will also be adding a £2 administration fee per swimmer (not per event) for open meets and be charging for “T-bags” and Arena league shirts and caps in future. These items will be undated, so that they can be re-used each year.

Appointment of the Committee

HM was pleased to announce that the committee for 2018/19 would be: Helga Mepham – Chairperson, Jayne Edmunds – Treasurer, Gareth Steer – Secretary, Mark Edwards – Membership, Sarah Gregory – Hytek & Swim Mark (handing over Swim Mark to Jenny Secker) Helen Baidya – Welfare Officer, Sam Bentley – Officials, Will Philpot – Coach & Teachers Representative.

HM was pleased to welcome Sam onto the committee and thanked Sharon Giles, who has stepped down from the committee after many years of great service across a wide variety of roles, including Welfare Officer, Team Manager, Social media manager & Club Photographer. Happily, she will still continue to be our photographer!

Any other business

There were some great suggestions regarding ways to increase membership numbers in the squads where we currently have spaces (60-4, Junior Squad) , such as a “bring a friend” programme.

There was also a good suggestion about listing all the roles/tasks where volunteers are currently needed, so that potentially willing people know exactly what’s needed and what would be required of them. These ideas will be discussed at the next committee meeting on September 3rd.