



Saxon Crown Swimming Club (Lewisham)

Minutes of the 42nd AGM held on Monday 25th June 2018

At Glass Mill Leisure Centre

41 Loampit Vale, London SE13

Chaired by Neil Amos

1. Apologies: Carrie Markey
2. The minutes of the last AGM were approved.
3. There were no matters arising
4. Executive Committee reports were presented and AGREED. Report from Carrie Markey was received my email and presented.
5. The accounts for 2017/18 were presented. Written accounts will follow in due course.
6. RE-ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The following members of the Executive Committee were nominated and re-elected for 2017/18:

- CHAIRMAN Neil Amos
- DEPUTY CHAIRMAN Marion Levine
- TREASURER: Carrie Markey
- DEPUTY TREASURER: Eva Gerjack
- MASTERS: Kelly Stephen/Lauren Willcox
- SECRETARY: Nicki Kirkman
- ASSISTANT SECRETARY/GALA SECRETARY: Rachael Norman
- WELFARE OFFICER: TBC



- TROPHY SECRETARY: Brennan Lewis
- GALA SECRETARY: Rozanne Ferrigan

7. A new Club Constitution was presented in line with ASA guidance and was AGREED.

Saxon Crown (Lewisham) Chair's 2018 AGM report

The Club remains in a strong position, both in and out of the pool. This is due to the dedication of our swimmers, the parents who get them to and from the pool every day and cheer them on, and the staff, coaches and the volunteers who give up a huge amount of their free time to make the club run.

This year has been another busy year, and one of two halves:

- We said goodbye to Davi and welcomed Gareth Keating as our new head coach in January. Gareth made an immediate impact, with a big increase in early morning swimmers almost from the outset, and more opportunities for competitive swimming.
- We also welcomed several new coaches: Laura Kerr, Helena Richardson, Martin Phu and Tamy Zunic, many of whom have come through our own coach training programme. We said goodbye to Matt Eady, after many years of dedicated support to the Club during some difficult times
- Through our grant from Lewisham Council run by Michael Griffin we have helped 12 volunteers gain their Level 1 qualification and 4 gain their Level 2 qualification, which has enabled us to provide more support to our Tiger Sharks and Learn to Swim squads. We also ran top up classes in the holidays for 680 Primary school children in the borough who needed extra help with their swimming
- We continue to operate our contract to provide swimming lessons to Donderry Primary School, which brings important income for the Club
- We successfully ran our annual Future Champs gala in June and hosted the Arena and Kent Junior Leagues

With a bit too, much change than we all wanted last year, we have focussed in 2018 on building a more solid platform for success in the coming seasons. Nevertheless, we have still had some good success in the pool this year:

- One of our swimmers reached the English Summer championships; 19 made London regionals and 25 made the county championships, nine more than last year despite harder entry times. Congratulations to our six medallists in the county championships and nine in the regionals, including a regional champion.



- We swam again in the White Horse League, to give more opportunities for a wider range of swimmers to compete. We have had lots of participants and stand in a creditable 5th place going into the last round this weekend, which we are hosting.
- We retained our standings as finalists in the National Arena League Division One, finishing 8th out of 16, and are competing in the First Division of the Kent Junior League.
- Masters swimmers continued to gain medals at county and national events and we now have a British record holder.
- Due to their success, several of our swimmers again received bursaries from Lewisham Council to help fund their trips to championships and kit.

We have maintained our numbers this year. Membership in June 2018 was 476, up 12 from last June, and an increase of over 100 from three years ago. We have decided not to grow much further for the time being, as we lack pool space and coaching resilience to be a bigger club. We have made some minor timetable changes this year and continue to have to cap numbers in some squads for now, especially Glass mill, as we are full. We have proposed a significant change in the timetable and squad for next season to have a better pathway for swimmers through the club and to make best use of the pool time we have. We have started to run open water training sessions for masters and youth swimmers during the summer months. With waiting lists to join the Club, attendance at all our sessions remains important. Regular attendance is also critical for swimmers who want to achieve success.

The Club remains in a financially strong position and we have maintained reserves this year to ensure we have some contingency (four years ago we had none). Last year, we did not increase swimming fees but will need to have small increases for next season to reflect rising pool, Swim England and employment costs (including the need for stakeholder pensions for our two eligible staff members). We realise swimming fees are a big regular expenditure for parents and we will do what we can to keep these as low as possible while providing high quality coaching and training. We are helped by regular and prompt payment of fees and many thanks again to Laurie Hanlon for being such an effective Membership Secretary.

The Club gained Swim Mark re-accreditation this year, which means that we are recognised by the ASA as having the policies and procedures in place to run effectively and safely. This year, we updated our codes of conduct. We ran safeguarding training sessions for our coaches. We are planning to run a training session from Signal, a local charity, to help coaches understand how best to support swimmers on the autism spectrum. Unfortunately, we had to end the practice of using group changing rooms due to ongoing poor behaviour from swimmers. This was disappointing.



I continue to spend a lot of time building relationships with Lewisham Council and the two leisure operators, Fusion and 1Life, who run the pools in which we swim. Relationships remain good and we get strong co-operation from leisure operator staff and management in many of our pools. However, high staff turnover in some pools makes maintaining relationships difficult and we are also concerned about the quality of the maintenance of the blocks and timekeeping equipment at Glass mill.

It has been great to see so many swimmers and parents continuing to help in the running of the Club, and more recently new volunteers getting involved, especially at the Future Champs gala where we had many new people helping to run the event. We have had a big increase in parents starting to gain qualifications in judging and attending the Team Manager courses. Hopefully, they will be able to see it through and gain their qualifications as we still only have very low numbers of qualified officials (4).

Coaching resilience remains an issue and we continue to look for ways to strengthen the team. I really appreciated the flexibility shown by the coaches to cover slots left by Davi's departure at Christmas before Gareth joined us.

I would also like to thank my fellow committee members and other volunteers for all the time and commitment they put in to the running of the Club. We are, to all intents and purposes, a small business and there is a huge amount of often unseen work involved in keeping the Club running. As an example, we were required this year to work through the implications of GDPR (the new data protection laws) and we had to do a substantial amount of research ourselves to ensure our policies were compliant. A small number of volunteers also spent hours sorting out the meet and timing software we need to run galas, including re-conditioning two laptops and resolving glitches. We also introduced a text messaging service to alert swimmers and parents to any last-minute changes. Fortunately, we have not had to use this too often, but have had several incidents where pools have closed, and we have only found out at the last minute.

We still have lots of ideas for improving the club. The website, communications and our social media and online presence generally could do with improvement. As always, the more people who help the more we can do, so please get in touch!

Thank you to all my fellow committee members, volunteers, Gareth, and the coaching team for working with me this year. You should continue to be proud of how we have helped move the Club forward. I have decided to stay on for a further year (should I be re-elected) and I look forward to working with you in 2018/19.

NEIL AMOS, Saxon Crown Chair. June 2018



Saxon Crown (Lewisham) Treasure's 2018 AGM report

This is not the final report but an interim one due to circumstances out of my control

We are continuing to grow in membership numbers over the past 12 months but not as much as in previous years.

We need to as a club still build on running our own galas as we are losing quite a bit of income from not doing this and it is reflected in the bottom-line this year. Running our own galas can be quite labour intensive but also very financially rewarding. We are looking at opening a bank account solely for the use of gala income and expenditure to give us picture of where we can improve and see how much money we are losing by **NOT** hosting galas.

We should also be looking at running fundraising events to raise some extra cash for the club whilst the swimmers get to have some fun.

We have completed the 3rd year of the Lewisham Main Grants which showed that we had almost spent all the income and any carry over which again affected our bottom line but also gives a truer picture of where we stand financially, as we are not carry over income that is not free reserves.

The cash balance at the end of the year was still a healthy £17,049.14 which although is lower than the last year is still a healthy position to be in.

The main area that is concerning me with expenditure are the ASA membership fees as over the past 12 month we are getting high bills for changes/additions/renewals which have not been budgeted or factored for during the course of the year. This is worrying me already for this financial year too as we have not long done the whole renewal process of all swimmers but are already getting invoices in the changes/additions/renewals which again I am not expecting.

This year if re-elected it would be great to have some help – especially with two little ones running around.

Going forward the budget for 2018/2019 needs to be finalised but I'm concentrating on finishing 2017/2018. Once everything has been agreed with the plans for 2018/2019 and they can be fed through to the budget we will be in a strong position again with a truer picture of what our free reserves are.

Carrie Markey



Saxon Crown (Lewisham) Head Coach 2018 AGM report

Progress

Since coming to the club we have managed to get a lot more people competing which is something we needed to do. This has led to good success, in Kent champs and London regionals along with the smaller comps through the season. The mentality of the swimmers is improving. They want to compete, most want to train and a lot of them are now seeing big improvements. Morning sessions attendance has increased an average of around 8/9 per session which is a huge improvement on the 1/2 average we had when starting in January.

Coaching Team

When I first joined I believed that the coaching team were void of confidence and this element has definitely improved. What still needs to improve is the quality we are delivering and the standard of coaching practices and methods that are being demonstrated. I am very keen to get more coaches doing more CPD training and working with them closer to improve the sessions and techniques they are delivering. We are a little thin on the number of coaches, so we may need to bring another on board in some capacity.

Structure

The new structure obviously seems like a drastic change and in a way, it is but this is something that is massively needed to improve the quality and the morale of the swimmers. It will allow swimmers of the same age to be swimming in the same squad, give less committed swimmers the chance to swim more often with a more technical focus and generally create more space across the club. I appreciate that some swimmers will be jumping a couple of squads however the base focus at the start of the season will be getting the skill levels of all swimmers to a similar standard no matter what squad they may be in so therefore this should not be a problem.

Focus next 12 months

We need to improve our talent pool at a younger age. Going to watch the KJL was an eye opener for me and showed me the lack of strength in depth in certain ages. The new structural changes will hopefully have relatively quick success, so we can field a much stronger team next season. Arena league may take a step backwards before taking hopefully a few steps forward, but I would rather do well at KJL than in the arena league as if we coach these kids right then we have a great chance of creating a more successful team across all ages and therefore lead to a much stronger arena league team long term. 1 step back, 2 hopefully 3 steps forward. Same with Counties and Regionals - qualifiers and depth likely to take a step back next season but the following season they will dramatically improve across the board, hopefully with the addition of multiple national qualifiers. Not to say we won't have good results, they may just be similar to this year but without the depth of qualifiers

Support

I know it seems to be a lot of change in a short period of time and I appreciate that, but this is needed to improve the club. The club has a lot of potential and if we get this right we can do some good things in the community and in terms of performance. The biggest thing I would ask from anyone associated with the club is patience, these changes aren't going to be perfect straight away and may need tweaking so please bear with us. If you have constructive criticism then I am open to ideas, what we do not need is moaning for the sake of moaning.

I am personally looking forward to the new season, fresh start and new focus. Bring it on!!!

Gareth



Saxon Crown (Lewisham) master's 2018 AGM report

Swim successes include:

- Second place in the Frank Rider Trophy gala in March
- A new British Record by Rebecca Stewart of 0:28.82 for 50-54 years 50m Free
- New Swim England South East records set by Lauren Willcox in the 200/400/800m Freestyle events

Other:

- Overall swimmer numbers increased from 53 to 59 (July 2017-June 2018) and we continue to receive a healthy number of enquiries. Numbers peaked (at the highest ever recorded) in March 2018 with 62 registered swimmers
- Despite not having a large event to train towards the numbers attending master's sessions have remained high (with exception of Thursday and Friday – agreed to remove Friday session next season)
- Competitive swimmers continue to have the opportunity to swim with Performance A on a Saturday & Wednesday (agreed to review how we select attendees next season)
- Introduction of three open water swims at Victoria Docks with Gareth to support swimmers' training for open water events
- Owing to popularity an additional lane was introduced at Glass mill on Wednesdays
- We've secured several swims over the summer months – when the timetable is traditionally reduced
- We managed to secure a regular coach on a Sunday morning 1000-1130 (although a replacement will be required post summer)
- Intensive summer swim weekend in the diary for August – organised in collaboration with GR & Hackney
- We continue to be challenged by the fees and sets offered by Greenwich Royals. We currently continue to Saxon swimmers who have also joined GR to supplement training (more cost effective to join both than increase SC sets). Despite changes to our timetable to compete with RG (coached longer session on Sunday, more options for competitive swimmers) – we have struggled to retain these swimmers as sole Saxons



Priorities and progress 2017/2018

1. **Coaching & sets** – work closer with our existing coaching talent to ensure swimmers feel they have a devoted team focused primarily on swimmer fitness

Comments:

- Jon N continues to do an excellent job as Lead Masters coach
- Meso cycle in place – working towards a handful of key competitions/events chosen by master's swimmers
- Attendance at competitions remains low – but numbers are higher than 2017 with more swimmers attending the EDSC masters Meet (owing to the Meso training cycle) and European Championships in Slovenia

2. **Build on our existing sense of community and cohesion**

Comments:

- Introduction of WhatsApp group
 - T30 being planned for November – and to include Christmas social
3. **Swimmer recruitment** – no further current progress on this action owing to fine line between recruitment of swimmers and having enough pool time to accommodate them. Have agreed we don't want to increase numbers at this time

Kelly Stephen/Lauren Willocks