

Hants & South Coast Swimming Leagues
Affiliated to Swim England SER

Minutes of the AGM and Executive Committee held on the 2nd February 2022 as a Zoom Virtual Meeting. Meeting commenced 19.45 and finished 21.10 hours.

Attendees

Anne Lee		(Andover)
Catherine Lewis		(Sutton & Cheam)
Chris Lintott	Secretary, Competition and Trophy Sec	(Hart)
Frances Reeve		(Woking)
Helen Hull		(Havant & Waterlooville)
Jeni Colbourne	Treasurer/Welfare Officer	(Wey Valley)
Justin Langford		(Staines)
Martin Greenbank		(Wey Valley)
Matthew Clive		(Chichester)
Stephen Harrison		(Romsey & Totton)
Susan Dewar		(Havant & Waterlooville)

1. Apologies Received from:

Liam March (Winchester)
Martin Greenbank (Wey Valley) – available until 8:15.
Linda Field (Eastleigh)
(Locks Heath)

2. Minutes of the AGM on 3rd February 2021.

2.1. Accuracy

The minutes were approved as an accurate record.

2.2. Matters arising:

- During the summer the new committee should liaise with all clubs and identify what format of league competitions they require in the future and the results will be discussed on a zoom meeting on 3/11/21 so a 2022 timetable can be drawn up. This has been actioned by the executive during 2021.
- Woking to advise the trophy secretary who won the trophies in 2018 so they can be collected in as many as cups. This task is ongoing.

3. Correspondance

Staines - Staines will only be able to field one team ideally in a lower division.

Alton – Firstly apologies for my lack of response, I have been flat out with with HCASA counties 2022 and finding (being the new competition secretary) it's taking a lot more time to deal with everything than anticipated. I will discuss this with our head coach asap this week for decision. Thank you for your patience.

(Competition Secretary's response: I have kept this in mind during the seeding a will delay sending out first seeding sheet until the end of the week as Alton's entry would move a club from one division to another to balance gala sizes to available pools.)

Rushmoor – As you are aware you have not received a response from Rushmoor Royals about representation in the HSCL 2022 for which I must apologise. We have been going through some recent restructuring within the club and as a result things are not as organised as they might have been. As a result we are not in a position at this moment to be able to enter the Rother League events at this time. Can I confirm with you whether it is the case that you need to enter everything now (even for events that are into next season) or is it possible for us to come back later and join the later events in the coming months? Otherwise I know that we value the presence of the league and would hope to rejoin next year. (Competition secretary's response: After investigation of

Rushmoor's seeding for Rother League and Junior Cup, I have confirmed that there is currently pool space in the correct galas to accept a late entry from Rushmoor.)

Fareham – Fareham have unfortunately, recently lost our former head coach and all our senior (14yr plus) swimmers. So this year we will be unable to enter the leagues this year and just concentrate getting back on our feet.

Eastleigh – Facilities at Eastleigh pool are limited, can host 8 team galas.

Croydon – I think we will have to pass this season. We were only going to enter the Junior Cup the n October, but that weekend is pencilled in for our club championships. We owe you a trophy. I will ensure it is returned.

4. Chairperson's Report

With no competitions in 2021 due to covid it has allowed the committee to focus on providing an exciting and streamlined calendar for 2022.

Our new calendar provides exciting racing for all standards of swimmers and all sizes of clubs.

5. Secretary Reports

5.1. League Secretary

In Feb 2021 I continued the role of Secretary temporarily as we had no proposals for secretary in 2021.

I have updated the Swim England membership for 2022 with current league governance positions, but will not complete this and pay the membership until after the AGM as this will change and once complete I can pay this year's fees which are not due until later in February.

The HSCL league web site has been maintained by Martin Greenbank in 2021, but I have maintained the payments for the domain name, 123-web hosting and email

Only correspondence is a request from Sutton Atlantis to remove reference to their club as they have now merged with Croydon Amphibians.

Two executive meetings were arranged via zoom and minutes of the meetings prepared.

The league ideally needs a separate secretary to perform this task. Performing this task at the same time as performing competition secretary tasks tends to require a lot of concurrent activity in February when the AGM needs organising at the same time as preparing the competition timetable and seeding for the next year.

5.2. Welfare Officer

There is nothing to report as there was no competitions in 2021.

6. Finance

6.1. Treasurer's Report

Hampshire and South Coast League, Treasurer Report Feb 2021

The accounts for the 2018/19 were examined independently by Joan Swain (ex Surrey County ASA treasurer) and everything was found to be in order. All invoices for costs of 2019 galas were paid and there have been no galas since. The only expenditure has been donation in relation to death of Dennis Miles and administrative costs e.g. ASA fees, website. No club has requested a grant over the past three years.

The 2020 membership fees received by end of January 2020 have been treated as rolled forward to 2021. Clubs who paid entry fees for cancelled 2020 galas will therefore have a credit towards any galas that may be held in 2022. Any credits remaining after 2022 entry fees have been deducted is being refunded to clubs. (As of 27/2/22 Basset JSF and We Valley have been refunded their refunds and we are awaiting bank details from Eastleigh, Locks Heath, Romsey & Totton and Woking).

As there have been no competitions in 20/21 and 21/22 financial years it is recommended that the few transactions are carried forward and included in the accounts for the next competition year 22/23.

The balance in the league bank account was £8,700.55 as at 27 February 2022. After deduction of expenses and credits, I estimate the league has a surplus in the order of £8000, equivalent to the running costs of the “normal” program of events. This is in line with our current financial policy of starting each year with a balance equivalent to the sum required to cover planned annual costs. However, this takes no account of the strong likelihood that post Covid pool hire costs are very likely to be a lot higher and, of course, there is no guarantee that pools used by the league historically will be willing or able to offer hires for galas going forward. It is my strong advice that before agreeing to any program of events there would need to be some detailed research into not just pool availability but also pool affordability. It may well be that a majority of our member clubs will want to continue the league in principle but they would make a different decision after taking costs into account. Clubs are already facing upward pressures on costs for pool hire and coaches and many are facing difficulties with members paying training fees. For 2022 we have maintained entry fees and spectator fees, but will need to analyse pool hire costs during 2022 before setting the fees for 2023.

The historic HSBC bank account has been closed and the balance paid into a new account set up by the secretary (Chris Lintott). I have forwarded a copy of the closing statement. I have confirmed also that there are no outstanding invoices to be paid and we have reconciled the credits to clubs (as per your recent spreadsheet). I have a remaining task of working through and destroying all the historic treasurer and bank paper information. I would recommend that the secretary, not me, make the reimbursements to member clubs so you can reconcile them with your spreadsheet and the new treasurer. I hope very much that you are able to find clubs volunteers to enable the League to continue.

I commend to all the incredible work Chris Lintott has done to support swimming at this level, his dedication has been immense and it has been a privilege to help him. That said, I have to say that the League is not sustainable if it continues to rely so heavily on an individual.

I will provide all statements and invoices for the last two years for the new treasurer.

6.2. Appointment of Independent Examiner

It was agreed this is not required as there have been no competitions in the last two years. The few minor transactions for these two years will be rolled into the next competition years accounts for approval.

7. New competition Structure, Competition Conditions and Calendar

7.1. Competition Secretaries Report

Following the pandemic and the introduction of the Arena junior league, the executive has looked in depth to see if the league continued to have role and if so what should be offered. As a result of this investigation a new competition structure has been agreed for 2022.

Here is a summary of those decisions:

The executive has looked at the offerings now there is a Junior Arena League which has impacted dates available and offers an alternative to some of the HSCL competitions. They have also sought feedback from many of the clubs on what they are looking for from HSCL. It was identified that the main offering which was missing was competitions in the Junior/Novice category.

Feedback from clubs identified that they like the relay galas as it is an offering not provided elsewhere, but multiple round competitions are difficult for all clubs to be able to make all dates.

It was decided the following changes should be made to the 2022 calendar:

Invitational meet – Drop. (We have been struggling to get enough entries to break even in recent years and had to cancel the 2020 offering)

Minor League Drop (entries had dropped to 6 teams in 2020 and so this two round competition was no longer viable.

Gemini - retained This is a two team competition and there is core number of clubs who it. (6 teams showed interest in 2020, but only 5 could make the same date. Kept for 2022 to see if there is sufficient interest as a two team competition is attractive to some clubs.

Rother League. – change This three round competition was believed to be in need of some changes to meet future needs:

Teams should be free to enter any number of events, but overall trophy is retained for clubs that do enter all three.

Final round is fine and has separate Junior, senior and veterans' trophies which we can retain.

Relay gala should be just that and U14 100m I,M, should be moved to another round. It will need a new set of trophies (shields) to support relays. (For 2022 we will leave the U14 IMs here as it is not easy to fit into other rounds without stretching U14 swimmers.

Round 1 should be removed as by mixing divisions it means clubs have to travel a long way. Also there was a feeling it should have less open content. The Rother Junior trophies/Premier Lg, which used to be the fourth round of the Rother League should become round 1. We have the Rother Junior trophies trophies for all divisions to support this. We should limit swimmers to not obtaining the Hampshire county qualifying time for the stroke in their age group (except U10). Fast swimmers can swim up in an age group where they don't have a qualifying time. Those who exceed the time will be given a speeding ticket.

Clubs wishing to enter the league should do so independently to the individual galas and the times from the galas will be fed into the league competition.

Junior Cup – retained This offering is late in the calendar for Junior swimmers and it is well supported and does not conflict with anything else.

A new calendar has been produced for 2022 with the new set of competitions and the web was updated to receive entries.

7.2. Draft 2022 Seeding

A version 2.2b was discussed. It was noted that we could accommodate Alton and Rushmoor who had both contacted late to say they were interested but not ready to finalise their entry. Alton said they would complete their entry within a week.

Main discussion was on which pools to use for the galas. Main concern was how many people a pool would allow during the current situation and spectators provide much of the valuable income.

Many clubs in the west divisions would prefer Southampton, but none had an arrangement with Southampton pool which has very complex arrangements for those wishing to hire their pool. Matthew Clive said he knew Southampton club were interested in re-joining the league and he took an action to contact them. (Post meeting note: Southampton have now entered all the Rother competitions and are happy to host the galas.)

Similarly many clubs in the East divisions thought that Fleet would be a better choice of pool for some galas. Hart have not entered this year and using Fleet pool requires use of the Hart club starting system and PA. Secretary has been tasked with contacting Hart and seeing if they are willing to let us use their equipment for a gala not hosted by Hart as we have done in previous years.

8. Trophy Secretary Report

Since the last report the trophies there have been no changes to the trophy state, with the exception that new trophies will be provided for each division for the Rother Relays gala. The outstanding issues from 2021 are:

- I have no confirmation that Group 2 cup was passed to 2019 winners, Romsey and Totton.
- Minor League group 1 trophy I have no confirmation that trophy was passed on in 2019 to Woking.
- Premier League group 1 – I don't have confirmation that it was passed to Hart.
- Rother Lg Div 1 – The veterans trophy was not available at the gala and I don't think it has yet been passed to Sutton and Cheam. (Sutton Cheam confirmed at the meeting they do not have trophy as they did not enter the event.)

- Rother Lg Div 2 – Hart won the div 2 league, senior team, junior team and veterans trophy, but they were not available at the gala. I still do not have confirmation they now have them.
- Rother Lg East and West - I have no confirmation that trophies for the league, senior team, junior team and veterans have been passed on since 2016 and that the current winners now have them:
East Lg: senior team Godalming, League, junior team and veterans Haslemere.
West Lg: veterans Seaclose, League, senior team and junior team Eastleigh
- Junior cup div 3 trophy – new trophy provided.

This main issue is getting clubs to report trophy being present at galas and presentations that were made as part of the results they return to the league. I will need to do another full audit to try and get confirmation that trophies are where they should be.

9. Election of Officers

<u>Post</u>	<u>Nominee</u>	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>Seconded</u>
Chairman	Graham Cawte	Anne Lee	Matthew Clive
Treasurer	Jonathan Lee	Anne Lee	Matthew Clive
Secretary	Chris Lintott	Stephen Harrison	Susan Dewar
Competition Sec	Chris Lintott	Stephen Harrison	Anne Lee
Competition Sec	Catherine Lewis	Stephen Harrison	Anne Lee
Trophy Secretary	Chris Lintott	Stephen Harrison	Anne Lee
Welfare Officer	Secretary to approach Hampshire County (Previously covered by Surrey)		
Executive Member	Anne Lee (Andover)	Catherine Lewis	Graham Cawte
Executive Member	Steve Harrison (Romsey & Totton)	Catherine Lewis	Susan Dewar
Executive Member	Martin Greenbank (Wey Valley)	Catherine Lewis	Susan Dewar

Notes:

Maintenance of the web site Martin Greenbank (Secretary to manage web site payments)

Post meeting note: Secretary has emailed Hampshire Welfare Officer regarding the Welfare Officer role.

10. AOB

Executive will need to check with pools what their current rules are on swimmers, spectators and charges as this could affect which pools are suitable.

11. Date of Next Meeting

Provisional dates of future meetings:

The next AGM will be in first week of February 2023, Wednesday at 19:45 using zoom.

Exec meetings will be held as required based upon league activity.