***Hants & South Coast Swimming Leagues***

***Affiliated to Swim England SER***

Minutes of the AGM held on 1st February 2023 as a Zoom virtual Meeting. Meeting commenced at 19.45pm and finished at 20:48pm

**Attendees**:

Graham Cawte Chairperson (Bassett)

Chris Lintott Competition Secretary (Hart)

Richard (Dick) (Rushmoor Royals)

Tom Blakeley (Basingstoke Bluefins)

Paul Rutherford (Eastleigh)

Anne Lee Executive Member (Andover)

Susan Dewar (Havant and Waterlooville)

Jonathan Lee Treasurer (Andover)

Steve Harrison Executive Member (Romsey & Totton)

Ruth Askew (Dorking)

Matt Clive (Chichester)

Catherine Lewis Executive Member (Sutton & Cheam)

Martin Greenbank Executive Member (Wey Valley)

Sarah Bassindale (Gosport Dolphins)

1. **Apologies** – None Received

Graham opened the meeting, and spoke about a successful 2022 season. He was concerned the league may have collapsed but it was well supported last year, after the effects of COVID.

1. **Minutes of AGM 2nd February 2022**
   1. Accuracy – The minutes were agreed as an accurate record
   2. Matters Arising – None
2. **Correspondence** – The only correspondence was from Sarah Bassindale, Gosport Dolphins who expressed an interest in becoming secretary. To be approved.
3. **Chairman’s Report** – Report was sent to all clubs prior to the meeting. There were no questions raised on this.
4. **Secretary Reports**
   1. **League Secretary** – As per distribution

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 was agreed for 2022 and a successful years swimming was provided, although with slightly fewer teams than before the pandemic. In 2023, the Arena Junior league has reserved twice as many dates which has caused us even more issues with almost no slots available before the summer break. On the assumption that the counties wont take all the three weekends they have used in the past for their development meets we have had to use one of those dates, with a fallback option of a date after the break if major clashes occur.

A new calendar has been produced for 2023 and the web has been updated to receive entries. All entries should be submitted by 1/2/23 to allow the new seeding plan to be presented at the AGM for approval.

In 2022, the Junior cup division 1 gala could not be held due to lack of officials so the teams were given the option to provide postal times instead, however only Sutton & Cheam and Staines provided me with times. As a result Sutton & Cheam were declared winners of that division.

* 1. **Welfare Officer** – There is currently no appointed welfare officer, as the previous officer stood down. Graham had approached the County Welfare Officer, who is unfortunately unable to help at present. The Welfare role, historically has involved mainly accidents during league swims. Dick from Rushmoor expressed he was happy to take on the role given his experience. To be approved.

1. **Finance** 
   1. Jonathan Lee sent out the financial records which covered the periods over the last 4 years. Jon gave a quick overview of the profit and loss accounts.

As new Treasurer, appointed at last year’s AGM, it took until part year through the year to gain access to the bank account and therefore I had limited involvement in the day-to-day finances. Chris ably undertook the task on my behalf, thank you Chris for ensuring everything went smoothly.

The accounts prepared cover the financial years 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022, and are subject to independent examination.

For the most recent period, 2022, there was a more normal feel to activities after the pandemic.

Income is a little more complicated than usual due to the refunds which were paid to those clubs who had provided entry fees in 2020 but as everything got cancelled due to Covid no activities took place; these refunds totalled £755 which meant Total Income for the year only totalled £713 which also includes gala door receipts.

Expenditure totalled £2,850 with pool hire - £1,033, and gala loss claims from hosting clubs - £1,304, making up the largest proportions.

This meant that the year recorded a loss of £2,138, with a year-end bank balance of £6,208.

For 2021, due to Covid, there was very little activity with a small loss recorded of £394, this was due to website hosting and domain costs covering the period 2017 to 2020 being repaid to Chris Lintott. Year-end balance £8,396.

For 2020, a profit of £1,000 is recorded, however most of this got refunded in the 2022 accounts as stated earlier. Year-end balance £8,739.

And for 2019, a small profit of £115 was made, the last full year of league activity until 2022. Year-end balance £7,739.

Whilst there is a reasonable level of reserves in the bank account - £6,208 – this is very likely to come under increasing strain with, in particular, pool hire costs on the rise. 2023 fees have been increased and will be formally discussed at this AGM shortly.

Regarding the appointment of an independent examiner, I use a firm of accountants, Smith Newmans, who support me with 2 other clubs, and whilst there will be a cost, it will not be more than £200 a year, and indeed I think it will be in the region of £140-150. This will be confirmed once and if approval is granted by this AGM for me to seek a letter of engagement from this firm.

Finally, many thanks to Chris for his continued dedication and hard work to make the Hants & South Coast League a success. Hopefully, I can provide more support regarding the finances during 2023 so you have one less item on your pad.

Graham asked how much would be needed in the bank to ensure the smooth running of the league. Jon suggested going on previous years, about £3k.

It was recommended by Jon that an independent examiner audit the accounts. The costs would be approximately £140 - £150. This is also a requirement of SE Region.

* 1. Independent Examiner – Smith Newman’s - To be agreed

1. **New 2023 Competitions, Competition Conditions, Calendar and Prices:**

**Fees:** A new bank account has been set up with Lloyds bank.

Expenditures: Chris looked at the previous expenditures, and worked out a realistic charge. With the cost of Swim England registration and website costs, the membership would be recommended at £7.

Spectator entry fees will be frozen at £3 as a rise could lead to less spectators and be counterproductive.

Running of the gala’s incur several costs, pool hire etc. and so it is proposed the entry fee will rise from £15 to £25 per competition entry. This includes overheads of pool hire and trophy renewals.

The Rother league suggested an entry of £5 per club to cover the cost of trophies

No grants were issued last year, due to reduced income and the league may not be in a position to offer grants this year.

£7 membership and £25 gala entry fees were formally agreed and clubs entered have been quoted these already.

**Calendar** – This has proved difficult taking into consideration other events within the year, and in particular the Arena League. There is a suggestion to avoid conflicting with other events to run 2 gala’s at the same time (Premier and Rother), and move the results once swam. The dates causing problematic is the 11th and 18th March.

Eastleigh mentioned they were available on both the 11th and 18th March.

Graham suggested if the league calendar could be started earlier in the year and distributed to clubs before December. Chris explained he already looks at dates in advance, but the information of other meets aren’t always available in advance at the time of starting the calendar.

A discussion took place with Steve (Romsey), and how the club sticks to the same local meets each year due to the cost of travelling. The club enjoy the league and finds it’s always well run and promotes team spirit.

Chris added that pool availability and also the lack of officials add to the problematic juggle of the calendar and dates. Previous galas did not run due to the lack of officials.

Graham suggested to book dates and pools early, so clubs could then plan around them or decide earlier on if they would be entering.

Chris asked the attendees if anyone could identify possible pools that could be used.

Catherine (Sutton & Cheam) – Have a home pool but not a lot of events held there. Woking used to host several of the galas previously but have not entered this year. This causes the club to travel a lot further afield and sometimes 1.5hr plus drives to galas. Catherine asked if Guildford could be used. (Rother Rd 1 and 2 dates already booked out to schools).

Chris informed the attendees that there are still some teams to join or drop out and the list has not been finalised as yet. There could be an option of using Eastleigh pool.

Dick asked if another club could host if a gala was held at Woking. Unfortunately due to a long standing agreement with Woking pool this is not possible, as they do not allow 3rd party hosts.

Anne (Andover) raised the issue that teams in the West are being sent to swim at events in the East, which impacts on travel costs and times.

Fleet pool has become expensive, but a previous gala was swam at Alton, which was hosted by Wey Valley and worked well.

Chris asked Ruth if she would look into the possibility of a gala being held at Dorking Leisure Centre on a date their club was entered to enable them to host. **Action:** Ruth to update Chris

The biggest number of teams currently entered is in the lower west division.

Paul (Eastleigh) suggested that it doesn’t matter where the galas are held as someone will always need to travel.

Anna (Andover) offered to host the Gemini league. East and West could swim separately and then enter the results after the events.

**Action:** Chris will look at other pools within the area, and the feasibility of splitting Premier One.

Graham asked as the Rother is 3 separate galas of 6 teams, why there are individual trophies.

Chris explained if you win the gala you get the trophy. However, winning a trophy won’t necessarily mean they win the league. The league winners are announced at the end of the year once all galas have been swum.

It was also raised that some pools used are not equipped to take 6 or 7 teams. However as not all teams on the distributed list have entered as yet the teams and locations have not yet been finalised so it is subject to change.

Graham was approached by Wildern Waves about the league, however no entry has been received as yet. **Action:** Graham will contact the club to see if they are still interested.

1. **Trophy Secretary report**

Supplied in advance. However Chris still needs to find trophies and chase up clubs. Graham offered to support on this.

Since the last report the trophies there have been little changes to the trophy state, with the exception that new trophies have been provided for each division for the Rother Relays galas and Rother Age Group galas. Outstanding issues from 2021 are:

* The Genini Group 2 silver cup has been missing since 2015 when we know Godalming had it. Neither Godalming nor Fareham can find the trophy, but I have not yet had a negative reply from Staines and Romsey & Totton who have been the other winners.
* Minor League group 1 trophy now finally back with trophy secretary after a lot of chasing.
* Premier League group 1 is another expensive silver cup. It was last known to be with Winchester in 2017, Hart say they do not have it, which only leaves Haslemere to confirm whether they have it before I declare it lost.
* Rother Lg Div 1 – The veteran’s trophy was not available at the gala and has not been confirmed as seen since 2015. I have ordered a replacement shield and it should be available in a few weeks to go to Havant & Wlv.
* Rother Lg Div 2 – The league, senior team and junior team trophies were last known to be with Winchester in 2016, while the veteran’s trophy was with Cranleigh in 2013. All these were new trophies replaced in 2012 as previous ones were full. I have been unable to contact Cranleigh about the veteran’s trophy as they have not swum with us since and Winchester say they no longer have the other trophies. We have not swum Div 2 for a few years now so there is no urgency to replace these shields.

1. **Election of Officers:**

Chairperson: Graham is happy to remain in post – Agreed

Vice Chair – Vacant and not had for a while, not necessary to be filled at present

Secretary - Sarah Bassindale nominated and agreed

Treasurer – Jonathan Lee is happy to stay in post – Agreed

Competition Secretary – Chris to stay on in post supported by Catherine Lewis as a lot of work involved – Both agreed

Welfare Officer – Dick put himself forward, and was agreed and appointed

Trophy Secretary – Could do with a separate person to take this on, however Chris will continue with the support of Graham.

Executive Members of Ann Lee, Catherine Lewis, Martin Greenbank and Steven Harrison to stay on this year and will be joined by Tom Blakely of Basingstoke.

1. **A.O.B**

* Sue (H&W), asked for confirmation if she needs to book the pool – Chris will be in contact.
* Andover asked if the gala ages cut off could be looked at especially for U10’s.
* Steve – Junior cup age groups need to be the same, can this change to 10U, 11U 12U 13U 14U (age at 30/09/2023). This was agreed and will be implemented.
* Matt (Chichester) will get an answer back to Chris once clarified dates around entry
* Chris explained that the league has a direct arrangement with Hart and Alton where RA’s are in place, could Dick enquire about the possibility of hiring the Garrison pool.
* New fees costing was formally agreed
* Independent examiner for the accounts was agreed to be appointed.
* It was noted the hard work Chris had put in to the previous and current league.

Graham closed the meeting at 20:48pm