



Annual Council Meeting Minutes
Holiday Inn – Guildford, Tuesday 20th June 2023
7.30pm

Present

Carmen Georgescu-Spiers (CGS) - Elmbridge Phoenix, Carole Chaplin (CC) - Surrey Schools' SA, Christina Victor (CV) - Guildford City, Diane Gamble (DG) - Croydon Borough SA, Jeni Colbourne (JC) - Guildford City, Jim Boucher (JB) - Guildford Water Polo, Justine Ryan (JR) - Guildford City, Paul Finch (PF) - Merton Swordfish, Alan Thurlow (AT) - Wandsworth, Collette Crow (CCr) - Kingston Synchro, John Stiven (JS) - Surrey Schools' SA, Tyrone Blackett (TB) – Dulwich Dolphins, Irene Holden (IH) - Woking

Apologies

Catherine Ferguson (CF) - Woking, Francisco Diaz (FD) - Star Diving, Nicky Gale (NG) - Woking, Hannah Davies (HD) - South Croydon, Richard Willis (RW) - Wandsworth, Christine Goodair (CG) – King's Cormorants; Dave Andrews (DA) – Sutton & Cheam, Tracy Pearson (TP) - Surrey Schools' SA, Emma Sweetland – Spencer Swim Team, Jane Henwood – Wandsworth, Erica Morgan - Reed's School, Stuart Marsh (SM) – Water Polo.

JC welcomed attendees to the ACM and confirmed it was quorate under the old constitution.

1. Previous Minutes

The minutes from the ACM on Tuesday 21st June 2022 were approved.

2. Annual Report of County Activities (prepared by committee and published on the website)

JC thanked committee members for all their help over the last year and said that it has been fairly successful in getting back to normal post covid. All the management meetings have been held by zoom during the year though it's nice getting together for the ACM/AGM.

Reports from committee members on website but a few comments below:

Report from CF to say that she is sorry she is unable to attend the ACM due to a long standing work commitment. It went onto say that it had been an honour to serve as President this year but due to other commitments she was unable to attend the Inter-counties and Diving but had a fabulous time watching the Water-Polo finals. She wishes Carmen all the best in her year in office and wishes the committee a successful meeting.

AT commented that the 50's at LAC were not financially viable, each session had 900 swimmers so it had more or less ended up as a development meet, therefore there was a request from the coaches to come back to county standard swimming. 2023 the 50's had been held at SSP with 400 swimmers but still need to make it a higher quality competition. Relays have been taken out of the counties and are now at the start of the season in September (10/09/23 at K2, Crawley).

12/13yr olds more or less had no swimming over the previous 18months therefore many were in the heats and then finals. QT's for 13/14 yr olds will therefore be reviewed for 2024 to get them back into swimming. 2024 County dates have been requested for 20/21 January and 4/5 February but unfortunately the event coordinator has left SSP and are currently waiting for the dates tbc.

CCr said that covid had a huge detriment to Artistic Swimming and there has recently been some huge changes, they are as yet not back to full capacity in regards to swimming and lost



many swimmers in all National age Groups. However there had been some success recently in regards to Regional Champs and hopefully they will be able to have an Artistic championship in 2024.

JB said that the Masters competition this coming Saturday (24/06) will be busy. They have introduced an electronic entry system which had caused many problems!! It was a good year for Master Swimmers, Inter-counties 4th and Nationals 8th and Mike Hodgson and Jane Asher have yet again won the British Swimming Masters Decathlon Titles.

Hon. Life Vice Presidents Awards:

John Stiven – Surrey Schools Swimming Association

Tyrone Blackett – Dulwich Dolphins

Stuart Marsh – Water Polo

Both John and Tyrone were in attendance and unfortunately the outgoing President CF was unable to attend so JC awarded the trophies and DG will take the trophy for SM. Photo and citation for all awards to be put on the website. CC read out the citation for John, which was very impressive that he still held a National Swimming record as it is in yards not metres and that he first swam a Surrey Age Group competition in 1959!

JS said that he was very honoured to receive the award and thanked the committee for all the good work that they do.

DG read the citation for TB, again very impressed that this was his 40th year as a swimming coach, and that he was an inspiration and a very well respected coach in the county. He has attended 39 yrs of surrey competitions as he started his career with Leander and now coaches Dulwich Dolphins.

TB said he was surprised and grateful to receive the award. He said that he started swimming in 1974 at the age of 13/14 but only Free and Butterfly, he was very determined and within 3 months he set a new butterfly record. After doing some private coaching he was asked to become a club coach and therefore had to make a difficult decision to give up his own swimming career. Covid had been very frustrating but he aims to get the best out of his swimmers and that the older ones that have left for uni tend to return to the club for visits and that his aim is to keep the swimmers in the club and not lose them to other sports etc.

JB read out the citation for SM. SM has been with Water-Polo for about 45yrs either as a participant or as an official referee. He is also Secretary of the Surrey League and well deserving of this award. DG will award SM the award on his return from holiday.

Presidents Plate:

Mike Hodgson – Master Swimmer, Woking Swimming Club

CF was unable to attend so IH read out the citation. Mike has over 100 British Masters Records which have all been set as a Surrey Master Swimmer, first with Guildford and recently with Woking. Mike still holds European and World Records and recently crowned best male master swimmer at the British Swimming Masters Decathlon competition. It is truly an exceptional achievement for any individual in their swimming career and proud to have such a successful individual swimmer in Surrey.

3. Treasurer's Report and Approval of Annual Accounts

JB presented the finance report, he explained that 4 years ago we had a huge profit but gradually as prices go up then our costs go up. 2020/2021 we lost over 8k but gradually we are working our way back up to a surplus but Surrey ASA will not see a surplus as we have had previously. Swimming entry fees will have to rise as we are looking at an increase of fees and



we do wish to continue with the development of officials, coaches as well as continuing with the county programmes. The report was approved and to be published on the website for transparency.

4. Appointment of Independent Examiner & Affirmation of Custodians.

JC asked JB if Joan Swain could examine the accounts. JB said that he had asked but JS was too busy to deal with these but she had someone that she could recommend. Post meeting note, JB in contact with Jimmy Daboo, Ex KPMG partner.

5. Election of Committee (other than executive and non-executive officers)

These were noted and approved as:

Hannah Davies (South Croydon) – Team manager role

Christina Victor (Guildford City) – Officials co-ordinator role, Surrey Rural

Fran Diaz (Star Diving) – Webmaster role

Carole Chaplin (Surrey Schools SA) – School swimming events role

Justine Ryan (Guildford City) – Field of play manager role

Alan Thurlow (Wandsworth) – Swimming events promoter role

JC said that the following individuals below have an open invitation to attend committee meetings to report and advise on matters affecting their activity:

Artistic Swimming – Collette Crow

Diving – Fran Diaz

Masters – Jim Boucher

Open Water – vacant

Para Swimming – Paul Finch

Swimming Officials Communications – Sharon Porter

Official Co-ordinator (Surrey London) – Diane Gamble

School Swimming – Carole Chaplin

Water Polo – Dave Andrews

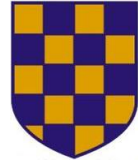
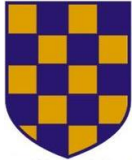
6. Constitution Resolutions:

6.1- The updated Surrey County ASA Constitution of 2023 was approved. It has been circulated to members and published on the website.

6.2 – Committee Resolution: JC thanked everyone for approving the updated constitution but went on to say that we are required to consider whether the county should alter its legal structure to that of a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). Members are not being asked to vote at the moment but it is up for discussion. Management committee would have the final vote but worth having a discussion. She went onto say that becoming a CIO it would mean a more formal structure with more returns but as we are, we carry more liability.

London Region are following the lines of an Incorporated Entity rather than a Charity, though Swim England have not coughed up a template for this type of constitution. Guildford City SC are both a Limited Company and a Charity and there is a possibility that Janette Smith from this club may be able to donate her time to sort us out as it would be classified as part of their charitable status to help us.

Helen Weeks from Swim England is visiting all the Counties and it was agreed not to make a decision until the committee has discussed these options with her and then a decision would be made.



JB informed the committee that the guidance by HMRC is that we should register as a TRUST, though if we register as a company there will be no need for Trustees. It was agreed to note that we have been informed of the updated Trust Legislation and that until we have made a decision in regards to becoming a company or a CIO then we are not in a position about registering as a Trust Fund.

6.3 – Member resolutions: None

7. President Installation:

CF was unable to attend so JC handed over the chain to CGS and she was installed as President for 2023/24. CF was thanked for her year and wished her well. CGS said she was very happy to be nominated as President and she will do her upmost best to attend as many competitions as she could within the year. She has though asked for the disciplines to give her competition dates so she can add them into her diary.

8. Executive & Non Executive Officer Elections

The following were elected for 2023-24:

Executive officers (voting)

Chairman – Diane Gamble (Croydon Borough SA)

Secretary – Irene Holden (Woking)

Treasurer – Jim Boucher (Guildford Water Polo)

Non-executive officer (non-voting)

Welfare – Jeni Colbourne (Wey Valley)

JC thanked everyone for their support whilst she had been Chairman of Surrey County ASA. She went on to say that she should not have been chairman for more than 8 years but thinks she has done double that amount of time. However, she wished Diane all the best and said she would be on hand to offer her the support she needs.

DG thanks Jeni for all her hard work over the years and said that she wished to advise the committee that when she agreed to take this job on then the issue regarding becoming a CIO was not on the radar!! The committee was also advised that she would be Chairman for no more than 4 years and we need newer younger blood on the committee to take it forward in the next few years.

DG thanks everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.55pm.

9. Any Other Business/Discussions (after meeting had closed)

9.1. JB informed the committee that the bank mandate needed to be updated. 3 or 4 signatures are needed or at least Treasurer, Chairman & Secretary to be sorted.

9.2. DG to arrange meeting with Helen Weeks, set a date so committee can attend even by zoom.

9.3. Future dates were discussed and agreed between DG & IH:

MCM Monday 11th September – Zoom

MCM Tuesday 12th December – Zoom

MCM Monday 11th March 2024 – Zoom

ACM – Tuesday 18th June 2024 – Holiday Inn, Guilford.

Times TBA

9.4. Irene & Michael Holden to purchase a Surrey County ASA Zoom License.