



Annual Council Meeting Minutes

Holiday Inn – Guildford, Tuesday 21 June 2022

7.30pm

Present

Carmen Georgescu-Spiers (CGS) – Elmbridge Phoenix; Carole Chaplin (CC) – Surrey Schools' SA; Catherine Ferguson (CF) – Woking; Christina Victor (CV) – Guildford City; Diane Gamble (DG) – Croydon Borough SA; Francisco Diaz (FD) – Star Diving; Geoff Simmonds (GS) – Godalming; Hannah Davies (HD) – South Croydon; Jeni Colbourne (JC) – Guildford City; Jim Boucher (JB) – Guildford Water Polo; Justine Ryan (JR) – Guildford City; Michael Holden (MH) – Woking; Nicky Gale (NG) – Woking; Paul Finch (PF) – Merton Swordfish; Richard Willis (RW) – Wandsworth.

Apologies

Alan Thurlow (AT) – Wandsworth; Christine Goodair (CG) – King's Cormorants; Collette Crow (CCr) – Kingston Synchro; Dave Andrews (DA) – Sutton & Cheam; Kristie Jarrett (KJ) – Swim England South East; Martin Greenbank (MG) – Wey Valley; Sharon Porter (SP) – Farnham; Tracy Pearson (TP) – Surrey Schools' SA.

In Attendance

James Warrener (JW) – Swim England London.

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

1. Previous Minutes

The minutes from the ACM on Thursday 27 June 2019 were approved.

2. Outgoing Management Committee Report

JC thanked committee members for all their efforts over the last few difficult years. A number of meetings were held virtually in that time. Despite the challenges and setbacks thrown up by the pandemic, swimming and diving still managed to run competitions when they were allowed. MH had had an enjoyable time as president, attending various competitions and meeting the many volunteers who give up their time freely for their discipline. He was unable to attend any artistic swimming, masters swimming, open water or water polo.

3. Treasurer's Report and Approval of Annual Accounts

JB presented the finance report spanning the previous three years, which included a table over a four-year period. Membership numbers were inevitably down in comparison to before the pandemic. It would take a while for clubs to recover fully. Following discussion and Q&As, the report was approved and to be published on the website for transparency.

4. Independent Examiner Appointment

JC or JB to ask Joan Swain if she would independently examine the accounts.

5. Management Committee Nominations

These were noted as everyone present, excluding GS, plus some absentees: CGS, CC; CF; CV; DG; FD; HD; JC; JB; JR; MH; NG; PF; RW; CCr; DA; MG; SP.



6. Constitution Changes

None. But Swim England (SE) had revised its club constitution model at the start of the year and planned to introduce a county constitution template for the first time next year.

A SE online county consultation survey was recently completed and submitted by JC.

JB informed that our current constitution already ticks most of the SE boxes.

One area being looked at was serving officers' terms in office, currently set at eight years max. Our constitution derives from a reworked club model.

7. President Installation, Awards, Honorary Life Members & Life Vice-Presidents

CF was installed as president and MH handed over the chain of office.

CF will chair and minute competition committee meetings over the next year, a custom befitting the president.

MH was presented with a past president pin.

AT was the recipient of the president's plate. RW will pass it on.

A county coach award was being introduced this year. It would be for those who had coached the inter-county swimmers and also been head coach of the county development camps for 11-year-olds. David Vine (Leatherhead) and Matt Smart (Guildford City) would be receiving them initially.

Alicia Wilson (Guildford City) was made an honorary life member.

CC, PF and FD were made honorary life vice-presidents. CF presented each with a glass cube.

8. Take, Discuss and Vote on Any Resolutions

8.1. Trophies

Long-standing trophy secretary GS was stepping down.

This led to a wider discussion about the future of county silverware.

Trophies had accumulated over time, some of which go way back. There was no disputing their historical importance.

HD pointed out that most had not been engraved for years and should only be done by a specialist due to their delicate state.

GS had been carting them around from one pool to the next for a good number of years, where they were presented to the winners, photos taken and then put back into storage. This was now considered to be untenable.

It was noted that the South East had bid farewell to their swimming trophies a few years ago.

JW informed that the West Midlands had theirs valued before taking steps to auction them off.

DG suggested that the donors be contacted where possible to discuss handing them back, or to seek their approval for the county to dispose of them appropriately.

It was noted that some 'named' trophies were not donated by them, rather by the county on their behalf.

The funds raised at auction could go towards the cost of a photographer, the creation of a digital record and any other good aquatic causes.

GS informed that the trophies were valued at £61,000 in 1994.

Having discussed and agreed to their disposal in principle, it would now be up to the age group swimming committee with help from GS to come up with a process.

9. Principal Officer Elections



The serving principal officers stood down. The following were re-elected for 2022-23: chairman – JC; treasurer – JB; secretary - vacant.

10. Any Other Business/Discussions

10.1. JW informed that London had suspended its bursary system due to Covid recovery.

10.2. JB clarified for JW that clubs could still apply for a county 'top-up' bursary regardless of whether they had applied and secured a regional bursary.

10.3. JW was looking for a Surrey-London club coach to join the London coaches' forum.

10.4. JR raised the possibility of a 'tribute to Julie Burvill' (JBU) award. HD had already spoken to Hannah Burvill (HB) about it. Having tangible criteria were key, to avoid the potential for complaints. JR suggested that the development camp head coach could play an important part. HD would go back and discuss it with HB and Stuart McCrea (SM).

10.5. HD informed that SM would like a revamp and change of fabric for the existing county T-shirts. It was agreed this could be looked at once existing stock levels had whittled down (some were ordered last year in the expectation of the inter counties returning). SM was welcome to propose a new design for the age group swimming committee to review and ultimately approve.

10.6. Future medal and memento ordering will be done by JR. Supplier invoices to go to JB.

10.7. DG informed that CC and Nick Williams (Kingston Royals) had passed their referee theory.

10.8. DG and AT have been selected to officiate at the Commonwealth Games. CF will be looking after dignitaries.

10.9. DG and AT had just been appointed to the British Swimming development programme for refereeing.

10.10. To help clubs' recovery from the pandemic, rising pool hire and the cost of living crisis, it was agreed to keep county membership fees the same next year (£1.50 across the board).

10.11. JBU needed to be removed as a county custodian.

10.12. PF and RW were noted as the two Surrey representatives for the London members' forum in the run-up to incorporation. FD will notify London.

10.13. CGS suggested that the county development camps were an opportune moment for a senior official to attend and discuss recruitment to the swimmers' parents.

Dates for Next Meetings

Dates and venues for next age group swimming committee, management and competition meetings to be communicated later.

With no further business the meeting ended at 9.30pm.

Post-meeting add-ons:

MH confirmed that Doug Howell (Woking) would not be taking on the secretary role.

FD informed both regions that any 'important' county correspondence should be sent temporarily to finance@surreyasa.co.uk

The SE online membership system (OMS) county registration officer will revert to JB imminently.

CF cannot attend this year's inter counties (October 2) due to an overseas family commitment.

There was no objection to the Reed's School Surrey-South East affiliation and constitution.