



BRIDGWATER AMATEUR SWIMMING CLUB
Member's Meeting Thursday 9th May 2019

Attendees:

Gin Towells, Ricky Hayes, Alana Head, Debbie Robins, Helen Kirk, Jane Bennie, Jessica Prendergrast, Kelly Short, Martin Kane, Liz Kane, Lyn Forsey, Don Symes, Alison Coulson, Steve Coulson, Heather Prothero, Terri Glassup, Laura Munday, Emma Cobbett, Claire Ramsey, Dariusz Rybinska, Martin Kemp, Emma Kemp, Tia Hayes, Gemma Chapman, James Stacey, Emma Back, Kirsty Darlington, Allen Robins, Deborah Eele, Ellie Patten, Ange Robertson.

Apologies: Derek Monaghan

1. Minutes arising from last AGM

Lyn mentioned Helen Kirk was down for 2 roles on last year's AGM minutes.

2. Matters arising

Rules and constitution have been separated and issued to all members as mentioned in the Chairs speech.

3. Welcome by Club Chair

Gin welcomed everyone and our President Don Symes to this year's AGM.

Chair's report 2019 from Gin Towells

We've had a good & busy year this year. We still have a waiting list for Friday's and we've just reintroduced a 2nd session for pre squad on Mondays. We also started a session on Tuesdays at Quantock Lodge. This is run by Jenny and Steph. This good foundation means swimmers are feeding through well to Junior's and on into Squad. This is essential for the longevity of the Club.

I'm pleased to say that we have continued with Performance Squad, with a number of swimmers joining over the last couple of months.

We've had some great performances at meets, which I'm sure Ricky will expand on. More swimmers are coming along and it's lovely to see the team growing at events.

This year is our 125 year anniversary. We've celebrated by getting new t shirts & hats; each swimmer was given a hat from the club, with parents paying for t-shirts. We've a 2nd order about to go in as they have proven very popular. We also marked the anniversary by inviting Paralympian & ex club member Jo Frith to our annual bbq. The weather was kind to us this year and everyone had a lovely time. Thanks to all who came & supported it, and to everyone who helped.

Having willing volunteers is key to being able to do anything as a Club. Luckily we have a number of people who have started to come forward to help. It may be you don't want to be on the committee, but you're happy to Run at a gala, or man a cake stall. This is all great, as the more that help the less work there is all round.

I'm very proud to say that the Club has been shortlisted for SASP best Club; we are 1 of 3 clubs. Also, I'm really proud that I've been shortlisted as Volunteer of the Year. We'll find out the result on November 15th. These are both down to the hard work of everyone involved with in the club, so thank you.

As most of you know I've been on the committee for a number of years, and my children are getting on a bit! I've realised it's time to step down as Chair and make space for new blood. I'll still be on the committee and around to help out while everyone learns the ropes. Jess has kindly offered to become our Chair, I hope she gets voted on 1st, and that everyone will support her as you've all supported me. We also have a few more new volunteers for roles in the committee, and again I hope you will support them. I'd like to finish by thanking my fellow committee members for all their hard work this year. Increasing numbers at competitions has meant our competition secretary Debbie has been working hard all year preparing forms for meets, completing our entries as well as all the work involved in Club Champs and the Time Trials – thank you Debbie.

4. Treasures report from Alana Head

In 2017/18 we put aside £5k as we predicted a deficit for 18/19 largely due to new ventures costing more. We ended up £6k over, the additional 1k down to: difference 18/19 to 17/18

- Transport went up (not predicted) = £400
- Anniversary hats no charge - gift to swimmers from club = £675

18/19 - £6k DEFICIT. However, we only needed to transfer £2k from the savings that were put aside, the other £4k was managed in the current account balance.

18/19 end of financial year had 125 swimmers (up by approx. 20 from last year).

Start of 19/20 we lost 16 swimmers however, we are now back up to 131! This is due to the movement between squads, the new Monday pre session and taking extra swimmers on a Tuesday and Friday for pre squad. The waiting list down to just 2 swimmers wanting additional sessions.

2019/20

- 19/20 budget set back in July.
- Predicting a £1800 loss.
- Still have 3k from savings put aside.
- However, since then a new pre squad Monday session started in October bringing in more income
- Hopefully the new SCC bus contract will save some money
- Looking at a slight restructure to Performance squad during half terms to save money
- The club would like to say a huge thank you to Don Symes and his Daughter for donating £2600 from Glastonbury festival, and also to Staceys Motors for their £300 sponsorship for the Arena League bus to Bodmin.
- Think we will now break even provided we maintain numbers

- RESERVE THE RIGHT TO INCREASE FEES AND MEMBERSHIPS THIS FINANCIAL YEAR. We will notify parents once we have been informed by Swim England if they're increasing their membership fees.

5. Head coach's report by Ricky Hayes

Last year I reported back on the clubs most successful season in recent years. This was following on a period of 6 years of year on year improvement in almost all results. I followed this up with trying to set cautious expectations of what could be achieved in 18/19, knowing that clubs that sustain such contestant progress often find themselves at a plateau.

I am really please to say, and I don't often say this but I was wrong! The club has had yet another amazing year!

The season kicked off with a solid performance at County Development Meet where the club swimmers achieved many PBs, CQT, RQTs and a whole load of medals. As whole the club finished in 10th place in the top half of the points table mixing it with the best clubs from Somerset.

Our chosen meets of City of Gloucester, Bristol Henleaze, and West Dorset Meet were a huge success again with many swimmers achieving PBs, CQT, RQTs and winning medals.

We had a great number of swimmers enter the clubs own Club Championships from our newest swimmers in Pre-Squad to our elite performers from performance squad. There are still however events which have no entries. This represents a chance for a swimmer to have some success and win a gold medal or even a trophy so I encourage swimmers to enter as many if not all the events we offer, it really is a great opportunity. Our club championships are a brilliant event I have no doubt they are amongst the best club championships not just in the county but in the region!

We finished 2019 on huge high although we didn't realise it at the time, but having swum two rounds in NASL the club went on to win its final round gala. The first NASL gala win since the club had returned to the league and ensuring the club finished a brilliant 9th in Division 2 our best overall result in many years.

The club excelled again at County Championships with a good size team in action; again we achieved many PBs, CQT, RQTs and medals and improved on our team results from the previous year moving up one place from 12th to 11th in Somerset.

For the second year running the club made it to the A final of the Cotswold Series, putting the club in a position to win the competition outright. The club swimmers swam well and the team were brilliant finishing in 6th place in a gala where the standard of swimming was extremely high.

We had slightly less swimmers at regionals in 2018/19 but the swimmers that attended performed exceptionally well. Max Head was the first club swimmer in at least 6 years to reach a regional final. All the swimmers did extremely well to make it to regionals, the standard needed to just make this grade is very high. Talent alone is not enough to reach this grade and huge amount of hard work is required so a massive well done to all the swimmers that made it. I am sure we will have many swimmers making this grade again this season.

The club continues to develop partnerships with other clubs and I am pleased to say the club is working collaboratively with City of Gloucester to access long course training for County and Regional level swimmers.

The club extended its competition by attending a friendly gala aimed at younger swimmers. This gala was used to give pre-squad swimmers, as well junior and squad swimmers that do not get picked as frequently a chance to race in a team gala. The gala went really well and I am pleased that the club will be attending more of these in the future so we can continue to develop our novice swimmers and better prepare them for when they are chosen to swim at NASL and Cotswold Series Galas.

In June the club had a great response to entries for the Clevedon and Chard Open meet. There was a great team of swimmers at the meet all of whom swam exceptionally well. It was by far the club's best meet performance in the season and this showed with how the points stacked up. In what I believe is a first in club history the club were awarded the top club award beating 14 other teams to the title.

Clevedon and Chard marked a special occasion with it being Alex Towells last open meet as he has now attending university. I wanted it put on record that Alex has been an extremely important part of the club for many years as a swimmer, coach, captain and generally a great role model and ambassador for the club. He will be missed although we still hope to see from time to time and maybe as soon as NASL round 1 this year.

Theoni Kane finished the season off for the club by competing as a guest at the Welsh Nationals where she achieved a number of personal best times.

As you should know the Gin Towells has been nominated for a SASP Sports award as volunteer of the year. I cannot express how much this is deserved and while I am sure the other nominees work hard they cannot possibly compare to Gin, if you don't win Gin you've been robbed. I want to express my personal thanks to the whole committee who make this club so special but a special thank you has to go to Gin who really has been incredible.

I am sure 2019/20 will bring further successes many of which have already begun to roll in.

6. Welfare report by Kelly Short

Well, what can I say? This year has been really quite an interesting one for me. Having been at the Club for the past 3 and a half years and as Welfare officer for the past 3 years, I have seen many of our swimmers grow into great swimmers and lovely young people. This year however quite a few of our original swimmers have grown and left the Club, mainly because of exams and school pressures. This means I have had to get to know quite a few new swimmers as they have moved up through the Squads. I have found I can now put faces to names, but not children to parents!! Welfare has had no major problems this year. We have had four yellow cards handed out but no reds. The card system seems to be working.

I would like to thank Gin and Ricky for their support given to me over the past year and helping to sort out any minor issues that have arisen. Thankfully it's not been many and they've been sorted efficiently. I know hand over this role to Ellie, and wish her all the best for the forthcoming year. I'm looking forward to carrying on in my role as team manager.

7. Appointment of officers and committee

- Don Symes happy to stay on as President
- Chair Person - Jess Pendergrass, Don proposed and Heather Prothero- second
- Secretary - Ali Coulston - Jane proposed and Ange 2nd
- Welfare - Ellie Pattern- Kelly Short proposed and Helen Kirk second

- General committee members Kirsty, Claire, Kelly, Gin, Martin and Martin Kane- Ange proposed and Jess 2nd

Auditor - Donna Rich - Proposed Alana and second by Don Symes

8. 50 Club – This will be discussed at the next committee meeting.

9. Membership fees – When we hear from Swim England about any fee increase, we will then as a committee discuss this and see if we as a Club need to increase our fees.

10. Any other business

Ali Coulston- asked her employer if they would donate any money to the Club. They kindly said they would but it will have to be on something specific. Gin suggested a Starter gun. WPA will donate £800. Gin will look into this this week

Carnival = 17 volunteers helping. Martin Kemp is going to the meeting this week. Tia, Deborah, Emma, Helen have offered to do the count on Sunday morning after the Carnival.

Club champs is on Friday 29th November and Sunday 1st December.

Gin gave 2 cards to Don Symes and daughter Alicia for all the collecting money at Glastonbury.

Thanks to James Stacey from Stacey's motors for sponsoring the coach for Arena league round 1 to Bodmin.

11. Letter of thanks from Jenny

Could you please thank Ricky from me for all his support and help over the past year and for giving me complete confidence to lead.

Pre-Squad is now 52 + swimmers spread over 3 evenings. Tuesdays is growing in numbers and Monday's has seen another group added.

We're currently planning for the 4 Seasons Gala in November. Details will be released shortly.

12. Words from Don Symes – BASC Club President.

Really is good to see club going from strength to strength- Fantastic results in Arena league – well deserved and top Club at Clevedon & Chard.

Thanks to committee members those leaving and good luck to those who are starting – Thanks to all volunteers and coaches.

Don said some lovely words about Gin and thanked her for all her help and commitment over the years. She really has been a wonderful Chair person.

He welcomed Jess as the new Chair.

Congratulated Gin and all the Club for all their hard work and commitment

Gin thanked all the Coaches for all their help.

