



BRIDGWATER AMATEUR SWIMMING CLUB

Committee Members Annual General Meeting

Attendees:

Jess Prendergrast, Alison Coulson, Martin Kane, Ricky Hayes, Martin Kemp, Claire Ramsay, Steven Coulson, Don Symes, Tia Hayes, Grahame Lock, Emma Rock, Ange Robertson, Heidi King, Cristina Pop

Apologies:

Gin Towells, Alana Head, Donna Chillingworth, Kirsty Darlington, Lynsey Wilson

Action points/matters arising from previous AGM:

Nothing to report and no comment on the previous minutes.

1. Club Chair report – Jess Prendergrast

Jess outlined how the meeting will flow and welcomed everyone. She welcomed Don, our President, to the AGM.

Her report is as follows:

It has been another strange year – it was interesting to read back the minute of last time, when we were only part way through, with subsequent further lockdowns and school closures and of course affecting the club and pool time.

As in 2020, I can really do little more than to comment on how impressed I and all the team have been with the swimmers and their resilience in the face of really challenging circumstances. We have coped well as a club, with almost all swimmers returning to the pool despite lengthy absences.

Competitions have inevitably been few, and I am sure Ricky will talk about this in his report later, but I wanted to record my own thanks for the organisers and the swimmers for Level X – both Clare and Martin did absolutely brilliant work to get the event organised and running smoothly and it was a real delight to see the swimmers competing again, and then repeated just a couple of weeks ago when Bridgwater hosted the National Arena League. In December, we of course look forward to Club Champs. Sadly, we were unable to host Club Champs in 2020, missing a year for the first time since the war I believe, so no Presentation Evening and Trophies last year, but we look forward to returning to more normal affairs and maybe even a party again in 2022.

As ever, I would like to extend my personal thanks to the Committee and coaching team who were utterly indispensable to the Club throughout this and last year as we have got to grips with operating during the pandemic. Martin has continued to be a powerhouse of support keeping us safe and following the rules, and of course Ricky and his team of coaches have handled it all brilliantly. I am hugely grateful to everyone who contributes to the club as committee members – it has not been easy these last two years, and we could certainly use some help to share the load to ensure the club continues to flourish, so please do come forward to join if you are at all able.

Aside from the committee, thanks of course to all those who volunteer year round, on poolside, at competitions, at Club Champs, at the Presentation Evening, and again in part of 2021 as part of Covid Crew – it's a real team effort. Even without the usual competitions and external signs of success, perhaps more so, we can feel a real sense of achievement, pride and confidence in our club, the staff and volunteers who make it happen and of course the swimmers themselves. Huge thanks to everyone involved.



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2. Treasurer report – Alana Head

Her report is as follows:

End of Financial Year

At last year's 2020 AGM, we predicted a £2,000 loss for the 2020/2021 financial year. In fact we are only reporting a £1,000 deficit which, considering we are in the middle of a pandemic, isn't at all bad!

The club saw no increase in fees, no fundraising or donations to the club last year, only parent contributions which helped the club through Covid – we are very grateful for that, thank you.

New Financial Year

This financial year, we are expecting to make a small loss and the committee have agreed to transfer some money from the club's reserves, if needed. We are proposing a fee increase to help the club cover ongoing rising costs. This will be from January 2022.

Proposal:

Pre Squad and Juniors will see a £2 increase and Squad and Performance will see a £3 increase per month. This will affect the monthly fees as follows:

Pre-Squad = £26 (or £13 discounted if lessons with 1610 / 2nd Pre-Squad session)

Junior Squad = £40

Squad = £51

Performance Squad = £68

There will be no fee increase on Junior Link/Quantock Lodge top-ups.

We feel we are still very competitively priced compared to other clubs and remain good value for money.

Membership remains the same as last year and will be due by the end of January. If parents wish they can set up a standing order for Nov/Dec/Jan and spread the cost. Reminder of fees:

Previously called Category 1 – new name Club Train (Pre-Squad) = £27

Previously called Category 2 – new name Club Compete = £37 (Junior/Squad/Performance)

Previously called Category 3 – new name Club Support = £12 (parent)

Ricky hopes to offer Pre-Squad 45 min sessions instead of 30 mins to help structure lessons more beneficially for the swimmer and to help them progress within the club. The coaching team are aware of this and hopefully we will be able to introduce this in the new year.

It is important that the club continues to invest in training opportunities and we are in the process of arranging for some of our parent volunteers to complete J1 (judge) course and timekeeper courses to ensure we have a bank of qualified helpers at events to ensure our swimmers can continue competing. If this is something you are interested in please let us know – Lynsey has been coordinating this and we welcome all enquiries.



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Other

With the start of the Arena and Cotswold Leagues, the club will again be looking to transport the team to these events. Unfortunately we have not heard back from Hinkley with their previous offer to help support us so we are still looking for any possible help with transport costs or suggestions that can be explored to help with this. The next Arena league competition is Saturday 13th November.

Treasurer Role

Alana needs help please – any offers of help either as Treasurer or Deputy to split the role would be very welcome. We need an additional person for online banking to include checking/authorising/transferring payments. Alana is happy to continue but due to increased workloads at home would welcome any offer of support in any capacity to help – happy to discuss any options that might suit someone.

3. Head Coach report – Ricky Hayes

Well, what a strange year it has been again. Last year's AGM on Zoom doesn't feel like it was all that long ago. I remember commenting on how well the swimmers had done over lockdown, adjusting to the new social distancing measures, how resilient they had been and how, despite all those challenges, the club felt more together than ever. This time last year the swimmers were working incredibly hard only to find us thrown into a fire breaker in November before returning in December and then into a full lockdown in January 2021.

Despite all of these challenges the swimmers and the club continues to show its resilience, dedication and team spirit. It continues to be my pleasure to coach the swimmers and head up the wonderful coaching team that we have.

As a result of the pandemic there is a little less to report in terms of competitions but that has made the results no less impressive, in fact in many ways it has made them ever more impressive.

Having attempted to run a combined Level X and 2020 Club Champs on two separate occasions, it was third time lucky when we finally got to run the Level X competition that SE created as a result of the pandemic in June 2021. Unfortunately by this point it was too late to make it a meaningful Club Champs so ran as a Level X meet only. It was however a brilliant meet with so many really wonderful swims. Having not raced for a while there were definitely some nervous faces but the swimmers did themselves, club and parents proud.

Level X was also a clear indicator of just how well organised the club has become over the years. The meet ran extremely well thanks to the committee and Martin, Claire and Gin in particular and their army of volunteers. It was a feat too far for many larger clubs and acts as testament of how the club has grown in success in a multifaceted manner. This is so important as winning and becoming successful is such a good habit to have.

Not content with just running Level X once, the club rallied again when the Festival of Swimming was launched and tough qualification standards were set, with additional Level X sessions set up to enable as many swimmers with a realistic chance of making the grade a chance to do so. The swimmers hard work combined with the club's quick organisation allowed 10 swimmers to make the entry grade and while not all were permitted to swim for one reason or another it was a really amazing achievement with the standard of entry being



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set so high. A special mention therefore must be made for Max Head, Freya Jennings, Liberty Jones, Theoni Kane, Evie Loosemore, Michael Lyjak, Malakai Prothero, Austin Ranson, Darcy Walsh and Phoebe Wright.

The club was one of the best represented clubs at the meet from Somerset once again punching above our weight and out-performing much larger clubs.

A third Level X meet which doubled as the club's 2021 long distance championships took place in August and again the swimmers did brilliantly.

While it is up to the swimmers to put in the hard work all of this just couldn't be possible without a talented coaching team. As a club we are so lucky to have so many well qualified coaches which are often the envy of other clubs. The club's already strong team has grown this year with new coaches and teachers joining the team or existing swimmers taking their badges to become teachers and coaches. New coaches include Donna Chillingworth, Lynsey Wilson and Laura Ensor, while Katie Debyshire and Daisy Clarke have undertaken their Level 1 qualifications this year, and Hannah Bremner completed her Level 1 this week and is on course to pass.

The club's Pre-Squad also continues to develop. The numbers have steadily increased since returning while many swimmers have progressed up to Junior Squad. Jenny, as lead coach, has introduced a new assessment and grading framework and created a brand new programme to ensure that there is further improvements in the months and year to come. The programme includes 5 levels and swimmers will be assessed against a framework every 12 weeks that links to SE and BS standards.

Jenny is really pleased with how the coaching team across Pre-Squad has developed.

Jenny will also be leading on the club's entry into the Four Seasons gala which will select swimmers from across the spectrum of the club from Squad through to Pre-Squad. This will be an exciting opportunity to allow swimmers to compete in a supportive and fun environment. Where we hope that some of our experienced squad swimmers will be able to help introduce our younger members to the great team spirit that we have at our club and introduce them to our famous OGGY OGGY cheer.

The committee have done a wonderful job this year and we should pay our thanks to them for their hard work and dedication. The last couple of years have probably been some of the most challenging in the club's rich and long history and their work should be recognised and celebrated.

As we move forward into the new season we are again seeing more shoots of success which I am confident will continue to develop into the new season.

4. Covid-19 Lead report – Martin Kane

His report is as follows:

This time last year I reported that for the first time since the second world war and only the third time in the club's 127-year history, the club had to cease swimming. Since my report last year, the club has now on two further occasions had to stop all activities meaning that COVID has now accounted for 3 shutdowns out of the 5 in the club's history. I'm delighted to report however that after each COVID shutdown the club has very quickly bounced back, and swimming member levels are around pre-pandemic levels.



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The COVID timeline since the last AGM:

- At the time of the last AGM the club was in training, and I launched our Level X campaign due to run on 6th & 14th Nov 2020.
- We swam on 4th November at Quantock Lodge and all training was stopped again for lockdown 2.0. We re-started the excellent Zoom sessions from 11th November, and I'd like to say to Ricky a huge thank you for facilitating these.
- Level X, which would also have been the 2020 club championships was all sadly postponed.
- Training was able to re-start on 2nd Dec and our first session was at Quantock Lodge. We then resumed at 1610 on 3rd Dec.
- Level X which was also the club championships for 2020 was replanned to happen over 2 weekends in January this year.
- It was then announced that from 31st Dec 2020 Bridgwater would move into tier 4 of COVID restrictions which was subsequently upgraded to a full lockdown. This meant all club activity had to cease again.
- Once again Zoom sessions were introduced every Wed & Fri from 6th Jan.
- Level X was cancelled again.
- In readiness for our return to swimming in Apr 2021, every member had to once again complete the COVID Health Screen declarations.
- The last Zoom session took place on Apr 9th and training re-started again on 12th Apr.
- In June we were finally able to hold the long-awaited Level X events for swimmers, giving all our category 2's to gain ranked times ready for future meet entries.
- We held more Level X in July to get as many times as possible for the festival of swimming return to competition.
- On 16th July our COVID crew was disbanded as it was no longer a Swim England requirement. Since we first returned to training on Aug 3rd 2020 we have had a volunteer attend every single training session. A reporting system was set up to flag issues. I'd very much like to say a huge thank you to everyone in the club who volunteered for these sessions. We had an on-line session booking and reporting system and our compliance of the COVID rules was very strong but also, ever improving with everyone's help.
- Our long-distance club champs for 2021 were then held on 2nd & 6th Aug and we were able to welcome back spectators for club events.
- On 16th Aug, COVID rules changed again and almost all restrictions were legally removed. Swim England still insists upon COVID Health Screen forms being completed for any new swimmers and updated forms needed for existing swimmers if anything changed. Our website was used to facilitate this.
- We developed a track and trace and absence recording system early on in the pandemic and this continues to be used now both to assist track & trace efforts but also now provides the club with key management information.

In summary, there has been a constant climate of change since last year's AGM, but as we sit here now, the club is back to full training, competitions are happening, the 2021 club championships have already happened for long distance and the 200m and under events are in 5 weeks' time. We are signing up new swimmers on a regular basis with 2 weekly trial sessions underway. Spectators have also returned to both 1610 and Quantock Lodge. We now recommend face coverings and social distancing, but this is personal choice.

I can't declare the pandemic over for the club, it certainly isn't, but things have a much more normal feeling to them, and the club calendar is in full swing. I can't thank enough everyone in the club who has supported me as COVID lead and also adhered to the rules which constantly changed, it has been a mammoth team effort to be where we are now. As always, we are bound by Swim England's



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rules and government restrictions, for now at least we have a 'near' normal, but we are also very well placed to quickly respond if things change.

Thank you to everyone once again.

On a personal note, Martin conveyed his thanks to the individual who nominated him for a Swim England award. Although he wasn't successful, he was very pleased and touched to be nominated.

5. Welfare report – Kirsty Darlington

Her report is as follows:

This has been another tricky year for the club from a welfare and swimming perspective. We've had a number of opportunities to return to the pool which have been wonderfully managed by the coaches with progressive training and increased workloads with the swimmers development and wellbeing at the heart of the process.

The changing rooms continue to be a tricky area to manage and we have had an instance where the couple of young people behaved quite poorly. I thank the parents of these youngsters for being open to conversation with myself, and for talking to the swimmers about good conduct.

I would like to thank the coaches for allowing us to rejig some groups to enable the best from some swimmers.

We have had one request, this year for information from the police to aid them with an historic allegation, which we fully complied with.

I would like to thank Martin for all of his work in setting up systems and procedures to monitor covid attendances and cases for the club and for keeping the swimmers as safe as we possibly could throughout this year.

There is now a welfare email address so that emails are not going direct to individuals but are coming through one central mailbox that the welfare officers have access to. This is now shared on our social media platforms under the safeguarding sections.

As I am standing down as Welfare Officer I'd like to thank the club for all of its hard work over the years for my swimmer and for all swimmers involved, and I wish the club and the new Welfare Officer best of luck.

I will make sure that I am a point of contact for the next few months to make sure that we have a smooth handover and continue the great work.

6. Appointment of Officers and Committee

Alana paid her thanks to Kirsty for all her help over the past couple of years, and for her wealth of knowledge. Jess also paid thanks to Kelly who has been an important part of the committee for many years, and she thanked her for her efforts.

- Jess is happy to continue as Chair for another year. Ange nominated and Alison seconded.
- Alison is happy to continue as Secretary. Jess nominated and Ange seconded.



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- Alana is happy to continue as Treasurer. Claire nominated and Martin Kane seconded.
 - Heather will continue as Membership Secretary. Claire nominated and Martin Kane seconded.
 - Claire is happy to continue as Vice Chair. Martin nominated and Jess seconded.
 - Martin is happy to continue as Competitions/Communications Secretary. Don nominated and Claire seconded.
 - Heidi is going to become our Welfare Officer. Ricky nominated and Martin Kane seconded.

Other general committee members who are happy to continue – Martin Kemp, Donna Chillingworth and Rich Hill – Heidi nominated and Ricky seconded.

7. Approval of new Club Constitution

The new Constitution has been shared on our website. Swim England have changed their name in the Constitution so we've had to amend various references to include South West. Nothing significant was changed. All those present at the meeting were in favour of approving the new Constitution.

8. Any Other Business

Don is really encouraged by the way the club has pulled together and been really innovative in the way they've managed to keep the club swimmers together. In particular, he thanked Martin and Ricky. Congratulations went to the club as a whole.

Prior to the meeting commencing, Grahame Lock (a Life Member) spoke with Alison and said that his wife Yvonne is also a Life Member, as is his son David. Alison apologised for not being aware of this and said she would add them both to the list for the future.

Jess thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed at 7.30pm.



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BASC Accounts 2020/21

Bridgwater Amateur Swimming Club - 01/08/2020 to 31/07/21			
Income		Expenditure	
Fees	29,945.20	Pool Hire - Quantock Lodge	5,048.83
Membership	4,106.00	Pool Hire - 1610	18,707.75
Stock	142.50	Gala	23.96
Club Champs	601.50	Transport	0.00
Open Meets	0.00	General Admin	149.58
Badges/Certificates	0.00	Open Meets	0.00
Sundries	0.00	Courses	16.99
SOCIAL	0.00	Registrations	3,674.90
Gala	0.00	Stock	see below
Sponsorship	43.75	Badges & Certificates	see below
CONTRA	36.00	Club Champs	135.00
Fundraising	0.00	Equipment	129.20
Donations & Coach Fees	99.02	Insurance	333.52
Courses	135.00	Sundries	0.00
Open meet REC ac	1487.01	Chief Coach Salary	6,880.60
Interest (Deposit Account)	2.33	Chief Coach Expenses	279.50
		Ass. Chief Coach Expenses	0.00
		Bank Charges	0.00
		Fees overpaid (refund)	1,063.50
		Swim 21	0.00
		Stock Purchased	583.94
		Open Meet ac	408.00
		Stock Used in yr	88.75
Total Income	36,598.31	Total Expenditure	37,524.02
Excess of exp over inc			925.71

2019	2020	2021
Opening Balances	Closing Balances	Closing Balances
Stock 488.57	Stock 288.75	Stock 200.00 swimzi hats
c/a reconc 184.43	c/a reconciliation 3784.74	c/a reconc 1866.54
d/a reconc 18,327.09	d/a reconciliation 18336.27	d/a reconc 18,338.60
Cash in Ha 57.65	Open Meet reconciliation 385	Open Meet 1,464.01
OPEN MEE 468.00	Cash in Hand 52.65	Cash in Ha 52.55
	22,847.41	21921.72
19,525.74		
	Less Opening Balance 19,525.74	Less Open 22,847.41
	Movement in Year -3,321.67 MATCH	Movement 925.71 match

records of Bridgwater Amateur Swimming Club

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