

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Serpentine Swimming Club, 09:30 Saturday
27 February, 2016
Sir Alexander Fleming Building Room 120
Imperial College**

Introduction and apologies for absences

Apologies for absence received from: Liz Hurst, Alan Luckhurst, Rosie George.

Seventy-nine members were in attendance.

President Norman Jones welcomed members to the meeting and noted that all input was valid and encouraged members to feel free to express views and issues. It was noted that only Full Members as defined in the club constitution of 2011 were entitled to vote at the meeting. Associate members were welcome to speak and express views.

1 Minutes of last meeting

Minutes of the 2015 AGM had been previously posted on the club room notice board and on the website. Minutes agreed as a true record; proposed by A Cleaver, seconded by W Deeley.

2. Matters Arising

Amendment to Constitution regarding committee members' term of office.

By resolution of the Members present the final sentence of Article 15 of the club Constitution was deleted and new provisions inserted instead providing that one-third of the members of the Committee who are not Officers shall retire each year -

“At the annual general meeting every year one-third of the members of the Committee who are not Officers for the time being or, if their number is not three or a multiple of three, then the number nearest one third, shall retire from office; those members of the Committee who are not Officers to retire every year shall be those who have been longest in office since their last election (or appointment to fill a vacancy), but as between persons who joined the Committee on the same day those to retire shall (unless otherwise agreed among themselves) be determined by lot.”

Resolution, as prepared by the Committee, proposed by Alan Mitchell; seconded Nichola Sanderson. Carried unanimously.

3 President's Report

The outgoing president, Norman Jones, gave thanks to the numerous individuals who help keep the club functioning. He reflected that the Christmas party had been a marvellous evening and thanked Nick and Sakura Adams for their contribution over a number of years. They were now standing down and Norman himself was heading a sub-committee to organise the 2016 party, scheduled for 17 December. Norman noted that though the club is changing with the use of technology, the one thing that does not change is our enormous tea drinking capacity, the banter and the moaning about our harsh handicaps (the members with good “marks” remaining strangely quite). He observed that it is always amusing to see new members' reaction to our “luxurious” changing room and that in spite of being eaten alive by skin loving bugs, most stay and become part of the Serpentine family. Norman gave a special thank you to Lorraine who had always been there for him and stated what an

honour and privilege it had been to be President and thanked members present for their support over the last three years.

4 Financial Report

Bill Deeley, Hon. Auditor, walked the meeting through the club accounts for year ending 31 December 2015 as prepared with Hon. Treasurer Kirstie Neilson. Hard copies of the financial statement had been provided to those attending the AGM. It was noted that the large number of subscription payments and low overheads kept the club accounts in a healthy surplus. This was principally due to the club's heavy reliance on voluntary activity by members. Adoption of accounts proposed by John Luckhurst; seconded by Flora Spencer. Carried unanimously.

5 Election of Officers

President - Norman Jones stood down after his three year term in office. Three members had been nominated for the post: Sakura Adams, Andrew Deeley, Robin Hunter-Coddington. Each candidate was allowed a three minute address to the meeting. Following a secret, paper ballot (tallied by Norman Jones and Brian Thomas) Robin Hunter-Coddington was named club President.

Hon. Secretary - Brian Thomas re-elected unopposed.

Hon. Treasurer - Kirstie Neilson stood down. Tony Schiemann was the only nominee and thus elected unopposed.

Committee - in accordance with Article 15 of the Constitution (amended under Matters Arising) the following Committee members continued in office, having confirmed their intention to continue - Nick Adams, Sakura Adams, George Cselko, Andrew Deeley and Andrew Fuller. John Reid had confirmed he would not stand for re-election; Rod Newing had resigned from the Committee in November.

There were thus three vacancies on the Committee, for which five members had been nominated - Stuart Bowman, Henry Fischel-Bock, Angela Johnson, Norman Jones and Laure Latham. After a secret, paper ballot (tallied by Sakura Adams and Brian Thomas) Henry Fischel-Bock, Angela Johnson and Norman Jones were declared the successful candidates.

Note, after the meeting all ballot papers were destroyed by Brian Thomas, Hon. Secretary.

6 Social Functions

As reported by Norman Jones during his President's report, the Christmas party had been pencilled-in for 17 December at the Charing Cross Hospital sports' centre.

It was noted that the first Thursday of the month socials, currently arranged by Ange Johnson, had continued to be enjoyed and would again be arranged during 2017.

River Nene swim arranged by Jeremy and Ingrid Hunter-Coddington was scheduled for Sunday 7 August. Norman Jones suggested the club arrange coach transport for the event.

Any Other Business

Changing room and Lido area options -

Mark Faure-Walker addressed the meeting, outlining proposals put forward by the sub-committee to The Royal Parks. A meeting had been held with them in March 2015, when drawings provided by Jaki Fischel-Bok showing an expansion of the current changing room into the Lido conference area had been shared. It was reported at this meeting that The Royal Parks had longer term plans for sporting/recreational activity within the Lido area. These may well supersede plans proposed by the club. The sub-committee and main Committee felt the potential costs (circa £20-30 thousand) of any short term development would be best not committed at this stage, assuming agreement by The Royal Parks. The club will continue to keep in close contact with The Royal Parks with respect to their longer term plans and with their plans for management of the Lido franchise.

Matt Moroney enquired as to whether there was scope to increase the swimming area available to the club during our permitted hours. Brian Thomas noted that though the Lido area was shortened during the 1990s re-build, we did retained the right to continue to race over a 220 yard course.

Dani Lobo asked whether we could extend the club's permitted swimming hours after 09:30. It was noted that, whilst many would like this, our Licence stipulated 09:30 daily and any extension may lead to issues with people swimming solo as the morning crept on.

Topo Wrensiwiro commented that with the changes being discussed it was important that the club retained its' non-profit making status.

Youth competition -

Following his suggestion at the 2015 AGM Alan Mitchell noted that he will pull together some ideas for a Under 16s or Under 18s club event to be considered by the Committee and for inclusion in the 2016 fixture calendar. Mike Olizar observed that in 1939 a Cygnets section of the club had been formed for younger members, though this did not survive more than a few years. "Cygnets" to be included in the title of any proposed event.

Sports Relief –

Robin Hunter noted that Flora Spencer had proposed a "continuous 220 yard relay" during the club's opening hours. The meeting supported the concept.

Wendy Cup –

Mary Gilbert suggested a "Wendy Cup" be awarded on Christmas Day to the second person home of the opposite sex to the winner of the Peter Pan cup. Brian Thomas, Hon. Secretary, explained that the AGM of 2005 voted that women be entitled to compete to win the Peter Pan cup. In the 1990s a handful of women (five or six) swam in club races but were not allowed to win the Peter Pan cup. Alan Titmuss arranged for the club to present a small cup each year for the first woman home on Christmas Day to encourage female members. As with each year's Peter Pan cup, this was retained by the winner (i.e. there is not a previously annually presented Wendy cup sitting in a dark corner gathering dust). The decision to allow all club members who qualified for the Christmas Day race to compete for the Peter Pan cup had the full support of the Greenbury family. They had expressed concern at the discrepancy when the 2004 race was won by a woman, who was presented with a token Wendy cup and not the main silverware of the day. The Committee has previously considered the prospect of reintroducing a Wendy cup, but did not see this as desirable or relevant as all members

swam as equals under the handicap system irrespective of gender. George Cselko expressed some sympathy for a second cup as he felt further increases in race competitor numbers on Christmas may become unmanageable.

Bathing Costumes –

Topo Wrensiwiro asked whether club members could be allowed to “skinny-dip” at certain times/occasions. This brought much mirth to the meeting. Hon. Secretary Brian Thomas noted that this definitely would not be permitted by The Royal Parks, a similar request by another organisation having been rejected by them during the year.

The meeting concluded at 11:18 with a large vote of thanks to Norman Jones for arranging the Imperial College venue and for all his input and efforts during his three years presidency.