

# Bridge of Don Amateur Swimming Club Minutes of AGM Meeting 12<sup>th</sup> March 2009

## APPROVED MINUTES

**Present:** Ron Smith, Lesley Moore, Angela Stirling, Audrey Deans, Cindy McIntosh, Debby McIsaac, Dianne Smith, Lesley Beveridge, Kevin Paterson, Al Dewsbury, Mary Mitchell, Carol Esslemont, Joan Paterson, Lorraine Gardiner, Alison MacDonald

### 1. President Remarks

Good Evening and welcome to the Bridge of Don ASC Annual General Meeting, Thank you for giving up your time this evening and showing your support for the club

Another year passes and as always we face a critical time for the club, sounds familiar .....as I was reading the minutes for last years agm! Another departure of key members of both the committee and coaching staff leaves us with new challenges whilst we strive to ensure the positive momentum within the club continues.

It is also important that we recognise the huge commitment and effort that has been shown from these individuals over the many years they have helped take the club to where it currently is. Thanks to Alison McDonald, Angela Stirling, Carol Esslemont, Lorraine Gardiner, all of whom are taking the opportunity of the end of year to step down from the committee but all of whom have indicated their willingness to continue helping when needed! We are also sorry to see Claire Barrie leave having previously been a swimmer for the club and most recently serving us as a teacher for the learn to swim squads; Claire will be sorely missed by the club.

Whilst it is always disappointing to be losing willing volunteers from the club it is also good to encourage new parents and helpers to get involved as this keeps the club fresh and enlivened, with new people come new and fresh ideas. So to those new members joining us ...welcome

I am also absolutely delighted that many of the existing committee members have opted, or indeed been coerced into staying on the committee, once again I would like to extend my personal thanks to these individuals for their support over the year and for their continued support.

The purpose of the committee is fundamentally to maintain financial security within the club, and as we will hear from the treasurer we have achieved this, although an area for focus over the coming months will be to maximise fundraising opportunities, the opportunity to complete bag packing with a local supermarket will be high on the agenda and we will be looking for the support of as many club members as possible to make this happen, initiatives through our website are also being explored and we will hear a little more about this later.

The committee views our Social activities as an important addition to swimming with the club, the club is much more than a place where children get dropped off for a few hours a week, swim and then go home, it is an important social activity, the swimmers spend much time in each others company both during training and during competition meets, new friends are made and long term friendships established. The swimmers interact with other swimmers not only from this club but all other competitive clubs.

We endeavour to build on this social aspect of the club by arranging trips, the Christmas trip to the cinema has become a regular feature on the calendar, and this year this was further enhanced by a training away day at the Stirling 50metre pool. In the absence of a local 50m pool this is an important opportunity for our younger swimmers to experience the difference between long course and short course swimming. The fundraising activities undertaken by the club helps to subsidise these events and make them more affordable. I would be keen to continue with these type of events and if possible enhance them further next year.

Membership of the club has continued to grow from strength to strength, however, cost constraints of the local authority has meant that available pool time is at a premium, this together with the fact that new swimmers are moving away from the reduced council run Aqua programmes has led to the current squads for learn to swim reaching capacity. This has meant a return to waiting lists for swimmers wishing to join. This is frustrating for the club and the new swimmers who naturally feel excluded from the sport, however we are doing what we can to increase pool time, recruit teachers and get our existing swimmers progressed and promoted through the squads.

Bridge of Don is one of the feeder clubs to the City of Aberdeen Swim Team (COAST), this continues to be a key goal for the club to enable as many of our swimmers to achieve the qualifying times to be considered for the COAST squads, last month saw the return of a development programme which allows clubs to nominate swimmers with consideration times to be put forward to trial once per fortnight with the COAST Coaches for the COAST squads. It was particularly encouraging to see two of our swimmers being given the opportunity to join the COAST squad at Christmas time.

The club runs three major competition during the year, April Showers, September Splash and of course the annual club championships, It was particularly pleasing to see all three events running smoothly, the amount of organisation that it takes to run a competitive meet it is a credit to all those involved, it was especially pleasing to hear that we received so much positive feedback from other clubs participating. It has also been good to see these events returning to our home pool, one of the benefits of the council difficulties has been a relaxing of some of the restrictions that made this impossible only two years ago.

At the start of the year Graham Bruno approached me with an idea for improving the website. His idea has now reached fruition and I am really pleased with the end product he has given us. Not only does this give us a communication tool, enabling us to communicate with all club members and gives members the ability to contact us easily, it has also opened up the opportunity of raising funds for the club by simply shopping on line with your usual providers but going to their sites via the Bridge of Don site, in addition make "easy fundraising" your search page and more funds trickle back to us. Please visit the site and register and spread the word about this simple but effective means of fundraising, it does need volume users to make it worthwhile but basically involves no effort once set up.

Before concluding I would like to acknowledge the hard work and commitment shown by all our coaches, the committee perform a worthwhile role, but without teachers and coaches the club could not function. Recent results from the swimmers have been superb and this would not be achieved without the support, enthusiasm and commitment that the coaches give to our young swimmers. Our three wins in a row with the Beta league is the best results we have seen for many years, long may that continue.

This year has brought many challenges, we have dealt with them to the best of our abilities, we will without doubt face more this coming year, but if we continue to focus on providing the swimmers with a quality learning and competing experience our difficult decisions will be easily resolved justified for the right reasons.

## **2. Apologies for Absence**

Linda Barrie, Claire Barrie, Jamie Smith, Hazel Fowler, Bruce Grant, Graham Bruno, Debbie Moore, Emma Moore

## **3. Minutes of Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2008**

Minutes proposed by Lesley Moore and Seconded by Audrey Deans  
Matters arising; There are no matters arising

#### **4. Hon Secretary Report**

Can't believe that's another year gone as Secretary. The job has gone by with no problems – except when it comes to booking pool's and rooms for Gala's but with the help of Ron we seemed to have got that sorted (Hopefully – Roll on the 27<sup>th</sup> April) I'm standing down as Secretary not because the job takes up time but only as I'm not at the pool as often due to Rebecca joining the Associates so all I can say is good luck to who ever takes over?

#### **5. Meet Secretary Report**

I really wasn't sure how to start of my report for 2009 but here goes.

Since talking over Meet Secretary position, much to my surprise I have enjoyed the job.

It is very time consuming and does take up a lot of my time, but when I get the results back from a Meet and see how well the swimmers have done, it makes it all the worth while.

If I could also please take this opportunity to remind you all to fill out entry forms correctly this would be a big help to me.

Since 1<sup>st</sup> April 08 we have entered 37 events which have include club, districts and national competitions, Beta Leagues and time trials and of course our own Club Champs. Most were Short Courses and 4 were Long Course.

I am pleased to say that all the swimmer did well with many PB's and Medals to boot.

One meet which sticks in my mind was the Cults Novice Meet on the 8<sup>th</sup> February this year. Bridge of Don was excellent in it.

We 12 Gold Medals, 4 Silver 7 Bronze  
Medals also went to 4<sup>th</sup> place with 5, 4 - 5<sup>th</sup> places and 1 - 6<sup>th</sup> place.  
And to top it off both relay Teams also won Gold.  
Everyone went home with a medal.

So my message to all swimmers is "keep up the good work"

I would also like to thank the swimmers for their good behaviour at Meets and for the wearing of Club kit and I would like to wish them good luck in the coming year

I would also like to thank everyone who makes a meet possible by offering their help, be it by Timekeeping, Judging or Chaperoning.  
Thank You.

Sometimes I feel I just don't have enough time as Meet Secretary that I would like to spend doing the job. I have made mistakes, and I am sorry if this has affected you in anyway.  
I try and do what I can in the time I have.  
I am not a great whizz on a computer either.  
But Hy-Tek is a great help.

I would like to remind you that if you need any info regarding a meet the details are on the club web site and I'm always willing to help.

I wish you all well in the year to come.

## 6. Coaches Report

Can I begin with a rundown of the coaches I have tried to represent over the last year? As always coaches have come and gone but we have had a steady core of Claire, Kevin, Graham, Craig, Debbie, Karen, Audrey and Michael.

Early on in 2008 Lorraine and Yvonne qualified as level 1 teachers and recently Ellis and Fraser gained their qualifications. We were also fortunate to welcome Emma back to Bridge of Don. Debbie also passed her level 2 teachers' qualification.

Over the course of the year Michael Shepherd and Niki Brown gave up coaching with us, as they moved on in their lives. They gave much to the club over many years. We face a similar loss soon as Claire Barrie moves away to continue her studying. We have been lucky to be able to call on such dedicated and talented young people and I hope we are able to continue the tradition of our swimmers moving on to coach with us.

I will now touch on a few of the things we have all been doing over the course of the year and issues that have been affecting us

### 1. Restructuring of the squads

It has been the aim of the coaches for some time to reinstate the Elite squad as the top squad at Bridge of Don. Uncertainty at COAST and the possibility that we will need to train our promising swimmers at the club for longer has spurred this process on. I am pleased that we have made a good start on this aim and that we now have an Elite squad that our young swimmers aspire to but the job is not yet complete. Although we are now in a good position to cope with whatever the new COAST structure throws at us we are likely to need further pool time as demands on us increase.

Our aim, as a club, should be to provide an environment where all swimmers can achieve their potential. I know that statistically speaking we will probably never train an Olympic swimmer – but what if there was such a swimmer in the club right now and we let them down by not providing them with the training they need, when they need it. Of course others, such as the council have a responsibility here, but we must do all we can to give our swimmers every chance to succeed.

That said I am proud that our club is a place where swimmers of all abilities are welcome. I hope that always remains the case and that the training we give provides challenges and rewards at all levels.

### 2. COAST and the Development Squad

It's a bit of a recurring theme but communication with COAST remains sparse. We have found it a struggle to have our promising swimmers accepted into COAST – the traditional routes don't apply any more and our last two entrants only won places after being observed by the JP Coach, who personally intervened on their behalf.

The setting up of the development squad, which is to be a replacement for JC4 has had its difficulties and as always we at BOD seem to be the last to be informed.

Currently we have 5 swimmers in the development squad which runs for an hour, once a fortnight, at Cults Academy pool. Hopefully this arrangement is only temporary and we can at some point move to weekly sessions.

I am unclear where this will lead. As restructuring at COAST is still to take place we cannot know how many places, if any, will be available to development squad swimmers. Nor do we know for how long swimmers will continue swimming with the development squad nor when spaces will be available for new swimmers in the development squad. I believe swimmers enjoy their sessions and I'm sure they will gain much from training with COAST coaches but I think a bit more work needs to be done to work out the details. That said I am much

encouraged that COAST are still looking to the future and I hope as many of our swimmers as possible have a role in that.

Of course restructuring at COAST is likely to affect those of our swimmers currently in COAST. Hopefully they will be kept informed of what is required of them and that the uncertainty will not be allowed to affect their training.

### 3. Increased emphasis on competition

This has been one of the most exciting changes that has taken place in our club over the last year, although we have been building towards this for the last couple of years. I believe that this increased emphasis on competition starts back in the JT4 and JT5 squads with their participation in the club champs and the JT5s in the beta league. It is hard to overestimate the effect that a beta league win has on young swimmers (in fact even a noble defeat builds team spirit)

I coach at a number of meets throughout the year and I believe that our club is once again a force to be reckoned with at meets. We are entering more meets, and targeting those that provide our swimmers with the distances they need to progress. Much of the credit for this must go to Kevin for his hard work, knowledge and enthusiasm. More swimmers are competing and while we have always managed to produce a few star swimmers we are now producing a real depth of talented, competitive swimmers.

### 4. A busier club

As numbers in the top squads increase this places more pressure on our pool space and also on our coaches who find their attention stretched between more and more swimmers. Swimmers are progressing into the top squads at a younger age – I think much credit here has to go to Pauline for her work in developing the learn to swim scheme but also to our current LTS teachers and coaches. Numbers are back up again at Linkfield and I know Claire has been very grateful to Al, the LTS co-ordinator for all his hard work in achieving this. I think this might also be an appropriate point at which to thank Graham and the LTS teachers for their work in the recent syllabus revision. The updated syllabus can be viewed on the website

Little things like moving JT5 to swim alongside the JC1s help to give the swimmers an idea of where they go next and what they have to do to get there – and it is working. Our JT4s and JT5s are highly motivated and eager to progress.

Can I also mention the ACAP link sessions here. Unfortunately we had to decline the offer to take part in the most recent link session as we have no spare capacity. However the link sessions have been a source of a large number of new swimmers for us over the last couple of years. Our percentage take up of offers has been very high, and I think credit here has to go not only to our JT4 and JT5 coaches but also to our swimmers who make this a club other swimmers want to join.

### 5. Difficulties

I can't pretend everything at the club is rosy. There are still problems in getting cover for some sessions, especially where a level 2 teacher is required. Hopefully the larger number of swimmers and volunteers attending level 1 courses will be reflected in a similar larger number completing their level 2 courses in the near future.

Meet cover can also sometimes be difficult. As we encourage more of our swimmers to enter meets we need to back this up with coaches willing to be there to support our swimmers.

Summary

If you come to our pool you will find our squads are full to bursting and our viewing gallery is busier than it has been for many years. Parents see enthusiastic coaches and teachers taking a real interest in their children and they appreciate that. They witness their children progressing while having fun and they get caught up in the positive atmosphere that surrounds our swimming sessions. If you are at all worried about our future come to the pool on Saturday morning during the LTS session and see all the coaches and assistants in action and speak to the parents. Or come on a Wednesday or Friday when the JT4s, JT5s and JC1s are in the pool and see all the new faces and the bond between the swimmers and our young coaches. The parents see it.

I am very proud of all the work our coaches have done over the past year. We are fortunate to have coaches with a real vision of what our club could be. Many of our coaches are young and keen and they need support and encouragement in what can be a difficult job. It has been my privilege to try to support them even in a small way and I am very grateful for all the support they have given me.

Finally, on behalf of all the coaches, I would like to thank our wonderful swimmers, who never cease to amaze and inspire us.

## 7. Financial Report

The Accounts for the previous year are still with the Accountants (See Attached Letter)

### Statement of Income & Expenditure Year To Date Bridge of Don Swimming Club as at February 2009

Income from March to YTD		Expenditure from March to YTD	
<b>Fees</b>	£ 14,701.75	<b>Pool Hire</b>	£ 8,778.97
<b>Gala Entries</b>	£ 3,032.00	<b>Gala Entries</b>	£ 3,353.25
<b>Swim Shop</b>	£ 2,330.01	<b>Refunds</b>	£ 470.90
<b>SASA Reg.</b>	£ 1,690.90	<b>Swim Shop</b>	£ 1,949.45
<b>Membership</b>	£ 3,158.83	<b>Postage &amp; Stationery</b>	£ 384.87
<b>Misc *</b>	£ 381.28	<b>Juice etc</b>	£ -
<b>Learn to Swim</b>	£ 7,382.95	<b>COAST</b>	£ 360.00
<b>Sept Splash</b>	£ 5,110.58	<b>Audit Fees</b>	£ -
<b>Beta League</b>	£ -	<b>Misc *</b>	£ 3,897.04
<b>Apl Showers</b>	£ 4,765.86	<b>SASA registration</b>	£ 3,281.45
<b>Rookie</b>	£ -	<b>Sept Splash</b>	£ 2,930.35
<b>Refunds</b>	£ 815.75	<b>Apl Showers</b>	£ 2,081.71
		<b>Honarium</b>	£ 8,664.30
	£ 43,369.91		£ 36,152.29

## Misc \*

Misc Income breakdown is as follows from March 2008 TO February 2009

Interest	£	143.28
Raffle Tickets/Prog	£	238.00
Grant		
		<b>£381.28</b>

Misc Expenditure Details as below from March 2008 TO February 2009

Teacher Courses	£	850.00
Room Hire for Committee Meeting	£	427.95
Brightview(Madasafish)	£	21.92
Mileage	£	33.00
Embroidery of Shirts etc/New Hoodies	£	568.02
Squad Caps	£	536.50
North District Annual Fee	£	100.00
New Notice Boards/White Boards	£	30.47
chq returned	-£	100.00
Medals Club Champs	£	470.00
Referee - Club Champs	£	60.00
Food/Raffle Prize etc - Club Champs	£	606.15
Flowers	£	35.00
Engraving of Trophies		
Internet & New Web	£	139.71
Misc Items	£	77.35
Camera Case	£	9.97
Beta League Trophy	£	31.00
	<b>£</b>	<b>3,897.04</b>

### **8. Membership Fees**

It was decided to keep the membership fee the same

### **9. Proposed changes to Constitution**

The constitution remains unchanged.

### **10. Proposed changes to Bye-Laws**

The Bye-Laws also remain unchanged.

## 11. Election of Management Committee Members

Positions	Nominee	Proposed by	Seconded by
President	Ron Smith	Lorraine Gardiner	Carol Esslemont
Vice President			
Treasurer	Jamie Smith	Carol Esslemont	Lesley Beveridge
Secretary	Lesley Beveridge	Lorraine Gardiner	Carol Esslemont
Assistant Secretary	Lorraine Gardiner	Carol Esslemont	Lesley Beveridge
Meet Secretary	Joan Paterson	Lorraine Gardiner	Lesley Beveridge
Assistant Meet Secretary	Debby McIsaac/Dianne Smith	Kevin Paterson	Alison MacDonald
Child Protection Officer	Elaine Cruickshank	Lorraine Gardiner	Lesley Beveridge
Equipments Convenor	Mary Mitchell	Lorraine Gardiner	Carol Esslemont
STO Convenor	Andy Scott	Lorraine Gardiner	Lesley Beveridge
Membership Secretary	Hazel Fowler	Lorraine Gardiner	Carol Esslemont
Learn to Swim Co-ordinator	Al Dewsbury	Lorraine Gardiner	Lesley Beveridge
Coaches Representative			
Newsletter Editor	Christine Coldwells	Lesley Beveridge	Lorraine Gardiner
Adult Member	Bruce Grant	Carol Esslemont	Lorraine Gardiner

## 12. Approve Management Committee appointing Auditors for the Club's Accounts

By a majority vote it was agreed that the Management Committee had approved to appoint the Auditors for the clubs Accounts.

## 13. Life Membership Awards

There were no Life Membership Awards

Next Meeting Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2009 at Danestone Committee Centre at 7.30pm