



(Affiliated to ASA South East Region)

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## **Hailsham Swimming Club Annual General Meeting**

**Woolpack Inn, Herstmonceux**

**27<sup>th</sup> April 2018, 7:00pm**

### **Minutes**

**Present:** Wolfgang Gower, Craig Steenhoff, Tracey Shorthouse, Nick Shorthouse, Debs Barden, Vanessa Ring, Sue Steenhoff, Cail Evershed, Kelly Widdop, Liz Avery, Mike Avery, Pete Last, Jackie Baldwin-Charles, Megan Keen, Kevin Symonds

**Apologies:** Celia Plowden, Jeanette Simpson and Liz Hobden

#### **Approval of 2016 AGM minutes**

The 2016 AGM minutes were received by those in attendance, approved and signed by Wolfgang Gower. There were no matters arising.

#### **Head Coach report – Craig Steenhoff**

Craig presented his report.

### **HAILSHAM SWIMMING CLUB**

#### **HEAD COACH REPORT**

#### **REVIEW OF JANUARY 2017 – APRIL 2018**

##### **Summary**

2017/2018 has been the Club's most successful yet. It has been an incredibly busy but very rewarding year for the club from top performance level right down to the Hornets teaching groups. Real improvements have been made all round the club and we are becoming a rising force in the County and Region. Our best performances at Sussex County levels have occurred in the last 2 years, winning the County Championships in 2017 and coming second in 2018. Our performance at Sussex League is improving each year and we won the Arena League South Division Two East in 2017.

The swimmers have really benefited from new experiences this year from higher class national and international competitions, to long course training abroad in Greece. Hornets swimmers have benefitted from increased participation in galas, Club Championships and Level 3 open meets. The change in structure of the Club Championships have enabled a wider range of the club's members to participate from Streamline to Masters groups, to our very top Performance swimmers.

I feel that the coaching structures in place now best enable our swimmers to train to their abilities, goals and objectives. Whilst our competitive swimming structure is focused on our performance and development swimmers, we have a more defined pathway for the Hornets swimmers to improve and progress to competitive swimming. It has been so nice at recent galas and open meets to see the breadth of our squads participating and having fun with competitive swimming. This drive and ambition needs to be at the forefront of the Club's objectives moving forward.

## **Competitive Swimming Achievements**

The following provides only a small summary of the club's achievements over the last year and a half:

- Winner of our Duel Meet versus Shiverers Swimming Club in January 2017 and 2018
- Top Club Trophy (Gator Trophy) at Borough of Waltham Forest meet in January 2017
- Great achievements at the 2017 County Relay gala with multiple finalists at Gold medal in Boys 4x50m free relay and medallist in Boys Junior 4x50m medley relay and Girls Junior 4x50m free and medley relays.
- 2017 County Championship Points Winners (Overall Championships), second in 2018
- 2017 Winners in Junior Boys Championships helped by 4 Championship Titles by Joe Golding and 3 by Daniel Flint.
- Other County Gold medal winners from 2017 and 2018 Long Course and Short Course Championships: Marcus Tyson, Milly Widdop, Maisie Thornton, Ben Shorthouse, Anisa Maccaksill, Finley Naylor, Sam Avery, Macy Ring, Megan Keen, Harriet Farrington, Lauren Goldsmith, Tom Barden, Roz Scarff. 14 County Champion swimmers from the club in total.
- Successful 2017 Sussex League Campaign finishing in 5<sup>th</sup> place. Performing well so far in 2018 season with win over Crawley SC in the first round.
- Most ever swimmers qualifying for South East Regional Championships: 20 in 2017, 22 in 2018
- Most ever swimmers qualifying for National Championships: 7 in 2017, 2 for British Champs in Edinburgh 2018
- Successful Welsh Nationals Champs for Tom Exall with silver in 50m freestyle (15years)
- British Summer Nationals: 2 swimmers: Maisie Thornton, Daniel Flint
- English Summer Nationals: 6 swimmers: Abbie Shorthouse, Milly Widdop, Maisie Thornton, Sam Avery, Ben Kebbell, Marcus Tyson
- English National Championships bronze medal for Maisie Thornton in Girls 14yrs 400m Ind. Medley. Current Sussex U16 County Record holder.
- Most successful National Summer Championships ever with 10 finalists: Abbie (3), Maisie (4), Sam (1), Ben (1), Marcus (1)
- Winners of the Mike Pashler Invitation Top Club against Hastings and Shiverers swimming club in July 2017
- Most ever swimmers selected to represent Sussex at the Inter County National Champs in October 2017: 7: Sam Avery, James Grimmond, Daniel Flint, Tom Exall, Macy Ring, Harriet Farrington and Maisie Thornton. 3 Masters swimmers selected to represent Sussex in October 2017: Marcus Tyson, Megan Keen and Craig Steenhoff.
- Successful first ever season in the Arena League, winning the South East Division 2 East League and gaining promotion to Division 1 for 2018.
- Maisie Thornton qualified for 2 events and Abbie Shorthouse 1 at the English Winter National Champs in December 2017.
- Great experience of swimming at high quality and international meets: Edinburgh, Sheffield, Swansea, Rushmoor, London Olympic Pool, Cambridge.
- Great success at local open meets with numerous medals won at meets at: Littlehampton, Eastbourne, Hastings, Atlantis and Crawley.
- Increased level of participation from our junior and Hornets swimmers in Club Championships and local open meets which is fantastic to see.
- Participation in a series of gals at Crawley in 2018 to give experience to our more junior swimmers
- Successful overseas training camp in Greece in October 2017, thanks to sterling organisation by our Team Managers and coaches.

## **Thank You**

Whilst I will be sad to step down as Head Coach at the end of the Summer 2018, I know that I still wish to be involved with the club in some capacity and plan to keep swimming myself. I will assist as much as possible in recruiting a suitable person to the position, before then making any form of commitments in what level I can continue to help

the club. It has been a very challenging but rewarding 4 and half years in the role and I would like to thank the support of the committee , parents and swimmers for making it so enjoyable and fruitful. I will miss the interaction with the children, and their continued improvement and enjoyment of the sport will always be within my thoughts.

Thank you to all the coaching staff for your hard work and support, which has really shown in the improvements that have been made in swimmers across the whole club.

I would also like to specifically thank the following people:

- Celia Plowden – for her long term dedication to the club in her role as Treasurer (amongst many other roles) and all her support and quick responses to many of my demands;
- To all the amazing Team Managers and volunteers who have supported our swimmers over the numerous meets we have participated in over the last year and a half;
- To the Team Unify team (Wolf, Tracey and all others) for moving us forward with our drive to on-line activities;
- To all the swimmers for amazing performances and for making my job so enjoyable.

**CRAIG STEENHOFF**

**HEAD COACH**

**HAILSHAM SWIMMING CLUB**

On behalf of everyone at Hailsham Swimming Club, Wolf thanked Craig for everything he had done for the Club. The Club would not be in the position it is in now without Craig's incredible hard work and commitment.

### **Treasurers Report – Celia Plowden**

In Celia's absence Wolf presented the Treasurers report.

Hailsham Swimming Club

Treasurers Report 1<sup>st</sup> October 2016 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018

Firstly, I would like to thank Jeni Collins for taking over as the Club's appointed accountant following the sad loss earlier this year of our existing accountant Andrea Lamberton, following a long illness. Andrea had connections with the Club for as long as Jeanette Simpson, when both of their children were regular swimmers over 15 years ago.

You will see that this set of accounts spans an 18 month period. This has been done to bring the Clubs accounting period in line with Swim UK & the County. Please bear this in mind when comparing the figures as it has a direct impact on the assets held, this will even out after another year's accounting has taken place.

During the 7 years I have been Treasurer, the club has seen many changes, and a lot of these have taken place during the past 18 months. This is reflected in the monthly admission figures as well as the yearly membership fees, which are showing an increase over the 18month period.

The club has also had the benefit of a fundraising team who have had great successes, enabling us to purchase the new diving boards and more recently a fantastic up to the minute speaker system, for use at our home galas. As it is more portable than the last system, no doubt it will be available to be used at the BBQ & other similar events!

I would like to thank every person who has given their time freely to the Club during the past seven years. I believe this has been one of the many reasons financially, the club has been so successful, as well as the dedication of the parents and swimmers, and perhaps also, has helped the Club to build up the reserves held in the money management account. The reserves have now reached £20k (they were £10k when I took over) and is held to ensure that should an emergency arise, the pool hire & staff costs will be covered for a period of at least 3 months.

I have enjoyed my term as Treasurer (along with my many other roles) and wish the Club and its new Treasurer every success for the future.

Celia Plowden

Treasurer

Wolf, on behalf of the Club, thanked Celia for all her hard work and time she has given to the Club over many years.

## **Chairman's report – Wolfgang Gower**

Wolf presented his report.

### Hailsham Swimming Club AGM – Chairman's Report

Following on from an outstanding report on our swimming achievements and a reality check on our finances it falls to me to pull our performance as a club together.

We are in a great place with enviable swimming results and an ever increasing position within the county. However when I came into office 18 months or so ago the club was just entering into a phase of growth in numbers and aspiration and we are now living with the effect of that growth which is both positive and challenging in different ways.

Our achievements speak for themselves – we happily hold Club Championships which are now all licensed and have become more and more inclusive of all members with Hornets and Masters Races featuring in the programme. The meets look and feel like bigger events held by large clubs and are a point where we all meet and enjoy the club environment with parents and volunteers pitching in to help – my thanks to all of those 'meet makers' and officials who work tirelessly to make it all happen. Our success at holding club meets has led us to hosting 2 open meets in our calendar – the newly created Mike Pashler summer meet and the winter duel/distance event. The compliments we receive from other clubs attending are always positive with most being quite envious of our facility and great family atmosphere. Long may we continue!

Our standing in the county has grown immeasurably and we are no longer one of the small clubs that gets whisked up in the flurry of our bigger cousins, we lead the way and thanks again to Craig for taking his seat at the table of the county committee, it has been great to have a voice. We celebrated last year's performance at Buxted Park with a grand afternoon tea and I couldn't have been more proud to see our swimmers in their finery, behaving like the great people we know they are - and as I hoped they didn't get complacent..... they put in an equally outstanding effort in this year.

We have now completed several Crystal Palace overnight stay training camps and these led us to the EPIC Athens trip last year – again a huge thanks to Craig and Colin for their training efforts and Debs and Jackie for underpinning the TM role, Jackie especially deserves a huge thank you for her planning and financial control of the trip.

We have newly embarked on a modernisation of the back office of the club – Celia has held the club together for a long time and her departure will be hard felt. We have undertaken to implement the Team Unify system which will assist us in the running of the club and put some of the responsibility for open meet entry and payment management back onto our members. The system has been well received and once our engagement levels get closer to 100% of parents and guardians we will see the benefits. Our payroll and bookkeeping are also now being outsourced - it has been my concern that key

roles such as these should not be 'tied' to the committee, we should not jeopardise our ability to pay staff or carry out the day to day running of the club at a point when we lose volunteers.

And this leads us to the challenges we face in the oncoming year – as we age up as a committee and our children migrate to other interests and exams etc. there does not seem to be a flow of new volunteers to further the club for the next generation of competitors – our children and young sports people are the life blood of the club but the heart must come from its volunteers, we are not a business we are a CLUB, the mission must be to encourage others to join the ranks – if everyone does a little no one does the lot!

Financially we are stable but we still have to keep control of our costs and expenses, we will need to up the numbers of swimmers further (we have the space) in order to stop running the line between black and red and the pressure of open meets both the number and distance we are travelling to will have to be controlled, although these events offer great opportunities they are extremely costly.

Our relationship with our host, Bede's is very amicable but also provides us with constraints. The school has developed its own learn to swim programme which has squeezed our pool time – only by half an hour but they have plans to expand into our time on Saturday mornings. They have also just increased our pool hire by £2.50 per session – this sounds insignificant but multiplied by the sessions we swim it will add £100 to our monthly pool hire bill. Going forward scholarships will not be offered around swimming but the school will look to us to provide their competitive swimmers with a home.

Finally our biggest challenge will be the loss of our head coach, Craig. His input is immeasurable and we owe our success to his efforts. A lot of Craig's work has been unpaid and above the normal role of a head coach and he will leave us with huge boots to fill. The recruitment process has not born much fruit so far but I remain hopeful we will fulfil the position before Craig leaves us in September.

I must express my gratitude to all staff members – we will never please all of the people all of the time but when I scan the pool in any session the quality of our swimming is improving in leaps and bounds and I will commit us to developing staff and their engagement levels even further in the future.

I have mentioned a few names in my report worthy of the highest praise but keeping the club going is a true joint effort and we will only succeed further if people keep joining the 'push'.

Hailsham Swimming Club remains a great place to be and with our noses to the grind stone we will make it the best place to swim in Sussex. Challenges are ever present in youth sport as whole and as I get behind scenes through my officiating role at other clubs I see them as they face the same challenges – it's just they are not as good as we are at conquering them! We do what we do for the members, young, old, competitive, fitness and just starting out – let's not forget it through our next year and keeping pushing forward.

Wolfgang Gower

Chair Hailsham Swimming Club.

AGM 27<sup>th</sup> April 2018.

## **Appointment of Officers and Committee Members**

Chairman	Wolfgang Gower
Secretary	Jeanette Simpson
Treasurer	Tracey Shorthouse
President	Sue Steenhoff
Committee members:	Vanessa Ring
	Debs Barden
	Kelly Widdop
	Liz Hobden
	Nick Shorthouse
	Caili Evershed
	Kevin Simmonds
	Megan Keen
Welfare Officer	Jackie Baldwin-Charles

Liz Avery has stepped down from the role as Club Welfare Officer. Wolf thanked Liz for everything she has done for the Club, whilst in this role.

Jackie Baldwin-Charles has offered to take over the role of Welfare Officer. Unanimous approval, from all in attendance, for Jackie to take on this role.

### **Any Other Business**

- The Club will look to offer a University Membership price to give swimmers, who leave the Club to go to University, the opportunity to continue to train and compete with Club during holiday times.

Meeting Closed 7:55pm