West Dorset SC Annual General Meeting – March 23rd 2017 at 7pm

Dorford Centre, Dorchester

Present - Stuart Dawson (Chair), Maxine Martin, Dave Hewitt (Vice-Chair), Carolyn Buttle, Chris Fry, Keren Element, Chris Seall, Keith horn, Julie Horn, Richard Green, Jo Ray, Tracy Limm, Mandi Osgood, Kate Watson, Claire Kingman, Emma Prowse, Jo Taylor (minutes)

Apologies - Cris Hitchcock, Colin Cracknell, Matt Shewbridge, Alex Lawrence, Andrea Dabbs

Minutes of AGM 2016

Stuart went through the minutes from last year.

Keith proposed that minutes are adopted and Carolyn seconded. They were signed off as being a true record.

Chairman’s Report - given by Stuart

“I am pleased to report another exceptional year for the Club.

On a swimming front, we have had many successes over the last 12 months. These include:

* The Club reaching the Division 1 final of Arena League
* Ben Shewbridge winning a gold and silver at the National Para Swimming Championships
* Finley Jarvis being selected for the England’s Talent Education Development Programme
* Finley and Dan Kingman being selected to represent Dorset
* Seeing an increase in the number of swimmers who qualified for Regional Championships with Finley and Dan coming away with medals.

I believe that, through the hard work of Coaches and swimmers we have developed a good foundation for ongoing improvement in the future.

As a Club, we are more than just swimming. We believe that we should offer our swimmers a variety of water based sports to help encourage life long participation.

We have a successful synchro squad and currently have a number of County Champions. We also have a successful water polo squad. 27 of the squad were picked to represent Dorset in 2016-17 with Amelia & Phoebe Jones, Henry Dipple, Cameron Robinson and Luke Wheeler being selected to represent the South West.

West Dorset Swimming Club also has a proud tradition in Pentathlon based events. During the last year, we have seen the following successes in this area.

* Shem Martin winning a gold medal at the World Triathle Championships
* A number of swimmers being selected to represent GB at the World Biathle and Triathle Championships
* Harry Buttle becoming the National Biathlon Champion
* Zoe Gowers being selected to represent GB at the European Pentathlon Championships.

As a Club, we heavily rely on the goodwill and hard work of our coaching staff, officials and volunteers and I would like to thank them for all that they do. We can never have enough Coaches, officials and volunteers, so if you are interested in helping out, please see either Colin, me or another member of the Committee.”

Treasurer’s Report - read out by Stuart in Matt’s absence

**“West Dorset Swimming Club**

**Treasurers Report**

**Period 1st February 2016 to 31st January 2017**

The 2016-17 accounting year has seen a reduction in the deficit to £4,283.07. Compared to £6,883.24 in 2015-16. During the year efforts have been made to ensure that swimmers are paying accurate subscriptions and now periodic checks are made by the membership secretary and treasurer to maintain this accuracy.

This year swimmers subscriptions totalled £54,160.50, this is nearly £5,000 more than last year and more than £1,500 more than 2014-15. On average £4,351 was received in swimmers subscriptions every month from 148 subscriptions. Compared to £4,194 & 146 last year. This year also saw the Christmas Open Meet combined with the Club Championships for the first time and the events were a huge success. The two events combined received income of £10,736.63 compared to £7,785.01 in 2015-16. However, in previous years the expenses relating to these events were not separately identified and only the income was shown in the accounts.

The club has again covered its variable expenses in 2016-17 with a contribution to fixed costs of £1,518.45. This is an improvement of £400 on last year. However, variable costs have increased by over £2,500. The main cause of this is pool hire costs, but the increase is due to the club booking more pool time at Dorchester and Bridport which should be seen as a positive step.

Fixed costs have decreased by £2,000 this year, although this is largely due to a substantial reduction in “miscellaneous” costs which this year have been attributed to more appropriate areas. The combined total spending on the club Christmas parties and celebration evenings (Sharkys) was £1,600. This is not strictly comparable to 2015-16 as last year there were no celebration evenings. Given the assets the club has available, rewarding the hard work that swimmers have put in during the year seems to be an appropriate use of funds.

Despite the continuing deficit the club still has a very healthy balance sheet with over £48,000 worth of assets. It is apparent that in the long term the existing rates of swimmers subscriptions are not able to cover the costs involved in running the club. It should also be noted that 1610 Dorchester are planning to increase their pool hire fees this year and at this time it is unknown what impact that will have on the club. However, the healthy balance sheet will allow the club to approach challenges such as this from a strong financial position.”

Stuart stated that, as a club, we are in a healthy position and this is due to the good management by previous treasurers and the committee. Some of us have been with the club for many years and will know that the club was struggling some years ago. However, now we are in a good position and one of the things that we will look to improve is the training, support and opportunities that we give to our swimmers over the next 12 months. Other clubs are not in the same position as we are and some of them charge fees that are double the price that we do. 1610 has indicated that they will looking at a price increase for pool hire. Colin has been in touch with 1610 about increasing our pool time so that we can offer more swimmers some extra pool time. The recommendation that the committee gave or agreed before the AGM was that there be a review of subscriptions once we are aware of what the increase will be. This must be a fair figure to our swimmers and parents.

Coaches Reports

Head coach’s report - No coach present and no report was submitted.

Synchro report - submitted by Chris Seall and read out by Stuart

“We started the year on a high note when in February 2016 two of our girls Nell Williams and Holly King made the journey to Burnham on Sea to take their Skill 1 Assessment.  These synchro skill levels are made up of 12 elements performed in front of 12 different assessors who ensure that all the points specified in the figure are achieved. If they do not achieve sufficient passes in the elements, they will not gain their skill level.  On the day 31 girls from across the west took park in this skill 1 assessment and only 15 achieved a pass, 10 of whom only passed after retakes. We are pleased to say both Holly and Nell were successful at the first attempt being 2 of the 5 first attempt achievers. Our congratulations must go to them both for the hard work and the commitment they have shown in order to gain this qualification.

Next on our calendar came the DCASA Championship/Age Groups in June 16. In the routine competition success can be measured in our girls achieving:

1st Novice – Amelia Smeaton,

1st Grade 1 – Nell Williams, 2nd Poppy Elliman, joint 3rd Kitty Sansom, 5th Maisie Brown

1st Grade 2 – Holly King

1st Grade 1 Duet – Maisie Brown/Nell Williams

We then saw seniors Jacqui Hoffmann and Jessica Element enter the water in the Open Duet section and come 1st with a fantastic score of 62.167 beating the Championship Duet score by 5 points.

In November Keren, Jacqui, Claire and I attended a Jenny Gray Development ‘Day’ at Honiton along with 4 girls. This opportunity to train alongside other girls from the West and under the guidance of Jenny Gray, a Senior GB Coach proved a great success. The girls performed well over the 2.5 hours and as coaches we felt the time spent was invaluable. There are more days being organised by the West for 2017 and we fully intend to participate.

Earlier this year we held a Dorset County Synchronised Swimming novice figures competition and again received outstanding results. Natalka Milan 2nd Novice, Holly King 1st Grade 2 and Nell Williams 2nd.

We are a little disappointed that we have not significantly increased the number of regular attendees as much as we would like but the girls we do have are keen to learn.

We have had several girls for trials – the girls however, must to be fairly strong swimmers as we do not have shallow water after 15 minutes and this often proves a stumbling block.

Unfortunately, Synchro is again facing a huge overhaul. The way the girls’ progress through the skill levels, is being changed yet again, there will also be a new pathway for Judges, and competitions will be licenced. We are doing our best to unravel what these changes mean for us.

We were very pleased to be part of the Trophy Presentation award evening and wish to take this opportunity to thank West Dorset for their continued support and I should also like to add my sincere thanks to Keren, Claire and Jacqui for their help on poolside and to our parents for their prolonged encouragement”

Pre Competitive Sharks ( para swimming group ) report - submitted by Chris Fry and read out by Stuart

**“**This is the last time I will be writing a report for this group of incredible swimmers. In April, we will be handing the water time back to 1610 who have, for this group, very kindly given us 30minutes pool time plus a lifeguard for free. Our swimmers will have the opportunity to swim in sessions organised by 1610 now. I would like to wish them well and hope they all continue to swim and grow in ability.

I first started teaching this group about six years ago, in the old Thomas Hardye learner pool, I had just one swimmer at the start, after a short while another little boy started, his name was Sam, he was very lively and enjoyed being in the water very much, to start with he didn’t really understand why I was insisting that he listened to me, why he had to practice what I said when I said and not just play around splashing the water about. It took a little bit of time and patience, but, he got there. Since then we have had a few swimmers come and go, but do you know, Sam is still with me, he nearly always does his best, Sam likes me to give him a score out of ten for his behaviour, if it’s not at least 9 he is devastated, this week he got 10 out of 10 + 2 he was so good. There are 4 other swimmers who have also gained a lot from these sessions all of whom have been with our club for a few years.

The opportunity of taking part in these sessions has enabled the swimmers to do things that otherwise they would never have done, like, taking part in galas and coping with the challenges this brings, sometimes being in a noisy place can be upsetting for some of them, listening to a stranger telling them to enter the water, sitting still on poolside waiting for the next race.

These young people have made me laugh, think outside the box and made me cry with pride when they have been racing.

Of course, I haven’t been alone, there have been lots of young helpers over the years that have completed an hours hard training in the main pool, jumped out and come in with my swimmers, encouraging and correcting and making my job so much easier, there are too many to name and I wouldn’t what to miss any of them out, they know who they are, so thank you very much. I must just also say a big thank you to the parents, because if you didn’t bring your children to us, we wouldn’t have been able to run the squad.

I couldn’t finish without mentioning two more ex Sharks, Jamie who has been going to open meets with Colin and co, this is a massive thing for him to do, and last, but not least, Ben, he has achieved so much in such a short time. Well done boys, keep going.”

Water Polo report - submitted by Andrea Dabbs and Tanya Wheeler and read out by Stuart

“ WEST DORSET WATER POLO SEASON 2016-17

INTER-REGIONALS

Inter-regionals for the girls U14 representing South West England saw two West Dorset players, Phoebe Jones and Amelia Jones in the team, to play over two weekends. The team were the overall winners and came away with the title and the gold medal.

Inter-regionals for the boys saw 3 players from West Dorset represent South West England, Luke Wheeler, Cam Robinson and Henry Dipple. Unfortunately the boys weren’t so successful , only achieving 7th out of 10.

Poppy Elliman represented South West England in the U/16 team and they came 5th

Harry Wheeler represented South West Engalnd again for the U/19s and they came away with the bronze medal.

COUNTIES TOURNAMENT

ASA South West Counties Tournament at Millfield

December 2016 saw 27 of West Dorset’s players represent Dorset in the competition across all 3 age groups. U/12 mixed, U/14 mixed and U/16 boys and girls. All Dorset teams came in 3rd behind Gloucester and Devon, beating Wiltshire and Cornwall.

ASA SOUTH WEST REGIONAL TRAINING ACADEMY

Newly formed for 2017 – this is the first step for players onto the England Talent Programme. After trials we had 12 players successfully selected and to gain valuable selection slots in their respective age groups.

Zak Sheehy, Alex Felton, George Green, Luke Wheeler, Cam Robinson, Henry Dipple, Fergus Dipple, Luke Sheehy and Jacob Osgood.

Poopy Elliman, Tallulah Chalstrey and Phoebe Jones

DORSET COUNTY INAUGURAL TOURNAMENT

This was organised by Dorset coach Dave Bradley and Leah from WDWP. It was introduced as a way of players gaining more competitive time in the water.

Saw teams from Christchurch, Salisbury, Bridport, Weymouth and Portland, and WDWP having 2 teams in each age group. With an evening competition in each age group U/12 and U/14 saw West Dorset triumph in both! West Dorset U/12 A v B were held to a 1-1 draw in the final. The U/14 team beat Christchurch in the final 12-2.”

Appointment of Committee and Officers for 2017- 18

Stuart Dawson proposed as Chairperson by Chris Fry, seconded by Jo Taylor.

Dave Hewitt proposed as Vice Chair by Jo Taylor, seconded by Keith Horn.

Cris Hitchcock proposed as Club Secretary by Dave Hewitt and seconded by Carolyn Buttle

Matt Shewbridge proposed as Treasurer but only until we find somebody to take over. He will resign from the post due to work and family commitments. Proposed by Maxine Martin and seconded by Carolyn Buttle.

Executive posts all unanimously agreed.

Rest of committee voted en bloc.

Competitions Secretary/Corgi Officer - Richard Green

Ranx Officer - Tracy Limm

Membership Secretary - Maxine Martin

Parent Liaison - Emma Prowse

Young Volunteers - Emma Prowse

Club Kit Manager - Carolyn Buttle, only until September

Volunteer Co-ordinator - Keith Horn

Website manager - Dave McRobbie

Synchro rep - Chris Seall

Water polo rep - Andrea Dabbs

Disability rep - Chris Fry

Non committee posts

DBS Officer - Claire Williams

Open Meets - Mel Charles

Press Officers - Sam Johnson and Karen James

Appointment of Auditors

We have not been able to find somebody to carry this out. Carried over to be discussed at the next committee meeting to meet with the ASA requirements.

Any other business

None