

North Lancs Swimming & Water Polo Association

Minutes of the 91st Annual General Meeting

Held on Monday 5th December 2016 at County Hall Preston commencing at 7.30pm

| Present: | Karl Bradley (Lancaster) Judith Dutton (Leyland) Steve Heaps (Preston) John Higginbotham (Colne) Allan Howarth (Burnley) Paul Kenny (Clitheroe) Alison Lawson (Fleetwood) Sandra McKean (Garstang) | Mary Parkinson (Chorley) John Robinson (Pioneer 79) Sue Roome (Garstang) Helen Waite (Fleetwood) Shelley Whitehead (Pioneer 79) Amanda Wilcox (Chorley) Jackie Wilkinson (Ormskirk) John Wilkinson (Guest) |
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The President welcomed the delegates to the meeting, and thanked them for their attendance, including the club coaches/team managers in attendance for the Swim League Fixtures meeting at the end of the agenda. He also welcomed John Wilkinson a guest of the Association and the widower of the late Cherry Wilkinson a long-standing member of the Association who had sadly passed away prior to the AGM.

He paid tribute to both Cherry and Malcom Wilson who had both passed away in the last twelve months and were both long-standing and valued members of the Association.

A minutes silence was held in their memory.

1. **Apologies** had been received from:

Andrew Gaskell (Vice President); Craig Brandwood (Water Polo Sec.)

2. The **minutes** of the previous AGM on 7th December 2015 were approved as a true record, as proposed by Sue Tinkler, and seconded by Alan Howarth. The President then signed them.

3. There were no **matters arising** from the minutes.

4. **Presidents Report**

The past year has been another busy year for the Association, detail of which will be given in the individual reports to follow later.

I have already paid tribute to Malcolm Wilson & Cherry Wilkinson, who both passed away in the past year. Both were lifelong supporters of our sport and gave dedicated service to their clubs and the Association.

We have run both our level 3 and 2 meets again, which have proved successful, together with a mad afternoon of relay swims at the Squadrons. Ideally, I would like to see more clubs taking part in this event.

The Swim League ran well as we will hear from the league secretary later. Congratulations to the league winners and thank you to Jane for her hard work during the year.

The Inter-Association team came third this year, behind Liverpool & district and Cumbria. Sadly, the attitude of some of our swimmers was not what it we should expect and it gave the impression that it was a chore rather than an honour to swim for the Association. Thanks to Mary and Jane, our managers on the day and to Janice for her work on team selection and work organising our meets.

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Water Polo still has issues which, hopefully, over time will be resolved. There appear to be problems with completion of fixtures, which the Executive will look to improve in the coming year. My thanks to Craig for his work with a challenging group of individuals.

The Association has seen a number of newly qualified officials, during the past year, which hopefully makes it easier to staff our meets to comply with licensing. Congratulations to all and particularly to Bob Thompson and Kath Cottam who passed their referee exams.

The swimming and development committee has met on several occasions and is currently looking at ways to assist clubs and coaches in addition to the normal grant funding. More information later.

My thanks to Bob Thompson, our Secretary, and Gill our Treasurer for their work during this their first year of office and Andy for work on the website.

Away from the Association, congratulations to Tom Hamer (Burnley) and Stephanie Slater (Preston) who were medallists at the Rio Paralympics, and our swimmers who represented Lancashire at the Inter-Counties competition.

Also, a general thank you to all the clubs who have supported the Association and to the individuals who have helped in any way.

Thank you all, once again.

Garry Whittle

5. Hon. Treasurer's Report

The Accounts had been circulated in advance with the meeting agenda

First of all, I would like to thank John Armour for independently examining the books. I would also like to say a big thank you to Bob for his help this year and Kevin Whiteside for a smooth handover.

The finances for the 2015-2016 year have followed the normal income/expenditure figures that the Association usually shows.

A thank you, as always, goes to Garry & Janice Whittle for their continued hard work, on the Association's behalf.

Financially the figures show a continuation in spending the Association money which is made each year, a deficit this year has been made of £1,238. We have again supported clubs with coaching grants of £4,370 in total.

Finally, if clubs wish to take advantage of reduced affiliation fees etc, for 2017 you have until the end of this month (December) to get your cheques to me, or you can pay this evening.

Please post to Mrs Gillian Rankin, Willow View, Gill Lane, Longton, Lancashire PR4 4SS

I would like to wish you all a Happy Christmas and New Year.

Gill Rankin

Hon. Treasurer.

The accounts and report were accepted by the meeting as proposed by Jane Whittle seconded by Mary Parkinson.

6. Hon. Age Group Secretary's Report

Meets:

The two meets we have held have been successful and ran smoothly. The Level 3 Meet in July was quieter than usual, but this was possibly because of the later date in July. It is hoped to hold the 2017 Level 3 meet one week earlier. This will be confirmed as soon as possible. Swimmers achieved times to gain entry into Level 2 meets.

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The Level 2 meet was good with a better level of entries than 2015. The finals for the Championships seemed to work well, much better than having individual age group finals as in 2015.

Thanks to clubs for fulfilling their respective duties. Thanks to officials and poolside personnel for helping. Thanks to Bob who ensured we had sufficient technical officials. We were able to include mentoring and “signing off” of some officials. Congratulations to those who passed their level of officiating. Thanks to Garry and those who helped in the timing suite.

Squadrons:

This, I feel, was the best competition we have had for some years. There was plenty of good competition and the atmosphere was great both from poolside and spectators. It was good to see Southport entering the competition this year. Congratulations to all clubs who won trophies and medals and to Southport who won the overall Squadron Trophy. I am sure everyone enjoyed the afternoon and the younger swimmers gained some experience.

I do encourage other clubs to enter even if only one team is entered. Thanks again to all officials and poolside personnel for their help and to those in the timing suite.

Inter Association:

North Lancs finished in 3rd place with 816.5 points behind Liverpool & District (1032 points) and Cumbria (839.5 points). Liverpool was always going to win. North Lancs had a battle with Cumbria and Manchester & District which then became a fight between NL and Cumbria. It was slightly disappointing to finish 3rd but there were some good swims and the swimmers enjoyed themselves in the main.

Both team personnel were saddened at the attitude of some swimmers (particularly the older ones). They didn't seem to help the younger ones and some were reluctant to follow instructions. Therefore, a special thanks to Jane and Mary who managed the team for the day. I know it wasn't always easy for them.

The competition for 2017 will be in June again (date TBC) and North Midlands are due to host.

Thank you.

Janice Whittle

05.12.16

The report was accepted by the meeting as proposed by Gill Rankin seconded by Alison Lawson

The President then presented the Bob Marshall Trophy to Steve Heaps on behalf of Preston, the Top Club from the Championships

7. Hon. Swim League Secretary's Report

The Swim League season has been very successful, and everything has taken place without too many glitches. The new paperwork introduced in 2016 has made it a lot easier for me to do all the relevant checks and results have been ratified a lot quicker. Thanks to Andy for posting the results on the website.

The addition of Pioneer 79, Blackburn, and Kendal in 2016 has strengthened the league and has made for some very competitive galas during the year as is reflected in the final league standings. Congratulations go to Preston 'A', Clitheroe and Ormskirk who were the respective

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winners of Divisions 1, 2 and 3. Full results of all the galas can be found on the North Lancs Website.

May I pass on my thanks to everyone who has contributed to the running and success of the Swim League this year.

The 2017 Swim League Season will take on a new format. It was decided towards the end of last year that the swimming calendar in general is heavily congested and at times it has proven difficult for clubs to arrange their fixtures. Because of this the following changes will now be applied to the 2017 season.

- Teams will compete in '3 galas only' on designated dates proposed by the Swimming Committee
- The league will be comprised of 2 divisions with a maximum of 8 teams in each division
- The lane draws and team duties for the first 2 rounds will take place at the AGM
- The lane draw for the final gala will be based on gala points accumulated in the first two galas
- Final league standings will be based on accumulated gala points after 3 rounds

The programme of events is remaining the same as this year is the documentation to be used. I will email out all the relevant documentation to all the Swim League Contacts in the coming weeks along with information on the first 2 rounds as determined in this meeting.

As of the 6 June it was decided that there were to be no relegations leading into the 2017 season. The 6 teams in division 1 would remain with the top 2 teams in division 2 being promoted to form the new 'division 1'. All other teams would be in the new 'division 2'.

Division 1

| | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|-------------|
| Preston 'A' Carnforth | Blackpool Aq 'A' | Leyland 'A' |
| Preston 'B' Fleetwood | Clitheroe | Lancaster |

Division 2

| | | | |
|---------------------|---------------|-------------|----------|
| Chorley | Blackpool 'B' | Leyland 'B' | Ormskirk |
| Pioneer 79 Garstang | Blackburn | | Kendal |

Round 1 – Saturday 11 February at Darwen

| | | | |
|------------|-----------------------|----------------|--------------|
| Division 2 | Admission from 2.00pm | Warm Up 2.15pm | Start 2.45pm |
| Division 1 | Admission from 4.30pm | Warm Up 4.45pm | Start 5.15pm |

Round 2 – Saturday 22 April at Palatine

| | | | |
|------------|-----------------------|----------------|--------------|
| Division 1 | Admission from 1.00pm | Warm Up 1.15pm | Start 1.45pm |
| Division 2 | Admission from 3.30pm | Warm up 3.45pm | Start 4.15pm |

Round 3 – Saturday 10 June at Palatine

| | | | |
|------------|-----------------------|----------------|--------------|
| Division 2 | Admission from 1.00pm | Warm Up 1.15pm | Start 1.45pm |
| Division 1 | Admission from 3.30pm | Warm up 3.45pm | Start 4.15pm |

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The report was accepted by the meeting as proposed by Paul Kenny seconded by Jackie Wilkinson.

The President then presented the League Winners Trophies to the following Clubs:

Division 1 Preston

Division 2 Clitheroe Dolphins

Division 3 Ormskirk Otters

The Draw was the held for the first and second round fixtures of the 2017 League.

8. Development Committee Report

Steve Heaps reported on the coaches' meeting held over lunch at the Level 2 Championships and the positive responses received from those present to the proposals concerning the development of teaching and coaching within the District. Several ideas were mooted including stroke clinics, seminars and club visits and coaches were encouraged to network and arrange visits to each other's programmes.

9. Water Polo

The Secretary advised that no report had been forthcoming, and he hadn't been advised of the winners of the 2016 League.

10. Election of Officers

There being no other nominations the following officers were elected en-bloc

| Office | Nominee | Proposer | Seconder |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Hon. Secretary | Bob Thompson | Mark Patrickson (S/pt) | Gill Rankin (Leyland) |
| Hon. Treasurer | Gillian Rankin | Mary Parkinson (Chorley) | Bob Thompson (S/pt) |
| Hon. Champ & Age Group Secretary | Janice Whittle | Sue Burrows (B/pool) | Andrew Charlesworth (Garstang) |
| Hon. Swim League Secretary | Jane Whittle | Maureen Crawford (B/pool) | Andrew Charlesworth (Garstang) |
| Hon. Water Polo Secretary | Craig Brandwood | Helen Waite (Fleetwood) | Bob Thompson (S/pt) |
| Independent Examiner | John Armour | Garry Whittle (B/pool) | Bob Thompson (S/pt) |

11. Presentation of George Harris Salver

The President presented the Salver to John Wilkinson, the widower of the late Cherry Wilkinson, who had been nominated for the award, prior to recent her sad death from cancer, in recognition of a lifetime's devotion to the sport.

The citation read:

"Cherry has been a loyal member of Colne SC, North Lancs Executive and Micro League for more years than I am aware. She is always willing to support anyway she can. She is a strong supporter of the

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smaller clubs in the Association and regularly expresses concerns for the costs involved in swimming. Cherry is always willing to give her time.” Susan Tinkler (Nominator)
John Wilkinson thanked the Association for the award and read a moving tribute to his life wife highlighting her love of the sport.

17. Meetings

The provisional calendar for 2016 was announced as follows:

Executive Meetings:

Monday 6th February 2017

Monday 3rd April 2017

Monday 5th June 2017

Monday 11th September 2017

Monday 23rd October 2017

AGM

Monday 4th December 2017

All meetings at County Hall commencing at 7.30pm

There being no further business the President thanked everyone for their attendance and wished everyone a Happy Christmas and the meeting closed at 8.45pm