

Thame Swimming Club

8th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held in The Small Hall, Thame Leisure Centre
on Friday 30th June 2017 at 7pm

Present: 36 People (Mixture of Swimmers/Committee/Parents)
Apologies: Claire Revill

Minutes:

1. Welcome & Chairman's Report Update and Plans for the future: Phil Evans

TSC Chairman, Phil Evans (PE) opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. PE then proceeded to reflect on the Club's achievements and successes over the past year including TSC's most successful County Championships and Regionals with more swimmers than ever getting to both. (Please see separate detailed Powerpoint document on website for full details).

During the last year, the Club has also created a new Website, which is a lot cleaner, fresher easier to use. PE thanked Chinnor Web Design, Geraldine Dodds and Michele Block for all their hard work in getting the site up and running.

Another success story for the year was the introduction of Swim Manager in May 2017. This is a customised software tool, used to log into your family/swimmer's gala entries, PBs, accounts and payments. PE explained that there have been a few teething issues, however, these are gradually being ironed out and in the long run, it should be a better, timesaving software package for not only the user but all the volunteers who are involved in the day to day running of the club.

On the Club Development side, PE informed the meeting about TSC's Fundamentals Academy that started in April 2017. This is a tailor made group, run by a TSC Coach for 7-9 year olds who are at Stage 6 in Swim School. Fundamentals is run to help develop talented and keen swimmers who will eventually move up to the main club.

Finally, PE announced that the last key success in TSC's year was gaining the SwimMark accreditation (which is the new name for the old Swim 21); this was only achieved yesterday! PE thanked all the team who helped pull together the necessary paperwork and information, especially Helen Birmingham who co-ordinated the SwimMark application.

Helen Birmingham (HB) then took to the floor and explained a little more about SwimMark.

HB explained that the ASA (Amateur Swimming Association) has been renamed as Swim England (SE); she also spoke about Wavepower, which is a publication issued by SE, which outlines the legislation that clubs must follow in terms of Safeguarding and protecting children who take part in any aquatic activities.

SwimMark is an accreditation issued by SE (the governing body), which ensures that all Swimming Clubs are at the same standards across the UK. Every Club wishing to gain the SwimMark accreditation has to work through

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16 elements, such as Safeguarding, Budgeting, ensuring that the Club has a Development Plan and a Constitution. (For full details please refer to the Powerpoint Presentation).

Having the SE SwimMark Accreditation also means that TSC will now get funding towards coaching and courses to ensure the Club moves forward.

PE told the meeting that although TSC had gained SwimMark using the original Constitution set up when the Club was formed, this has to be reviewed every 3 years, and having looked at it, the Committee felt it need updating. The current Constitution expires in September 2017, and prior to the meeting PE had circulated a new draft of the Constitution to the whole Club, asking that it be reviewed and voted for at the AGM.

One of the main changes to the TSC Constitution is in 3.7 - Photography & Use of Video. As it is Thame Leisure Centre's policy not to allow any photography within the pool area, TSC have followed suit and will not allow any photos or videos to be taken during TSC Pool times; the only exception to this rule is for the Coaches who may wish to take underwater videos from time to time to improve stroke technique. It was also confirmed that Team Managers may take group photos of squads at galas for the Gala Reports.

Helen Williams proposed that the new 2017 Constitution be adopted by TSC, this was seconded by Melissa Simms and this was voted on unanimously by all those present.

PE introduced Will Hard (WH), TSC's new Communications Manager to the floor to explain more about the Club's future Social Media proposals.

WH told the meeting a little more about Swim Manager, and how parents/swimmers can now update their own accounts, he encouraged everyone to login to the software to check their details are correct and up to date.

WH then informed the meeting that TSC is creating a new Facebook Group, which will be private and for members only. There will be a separate TSC Facebook Page, which will just be promoting the Club to the public. TSC are also looking to introduce both an Instagram and Twitter account, more details to follow in the next few months.

Finally, PE wanted to thank all Volunteers who have helped support and run the Club over the last year, and asked for new Club members to step forward and help support the Club over the forthcoming year.

2. Head Coach's Report: Ian Blyth

Ian Blyth (IB) reported that the Club had achieved a lot over the last year. The year had started well at Winter Regionals 2016, followed by a great Counties in January and February 2017, with lots of PBs and outstanding swims. TSC had a great turnout for both age groups at the Summer Regionals - in the 15 & Over Category, held at Wycombe for the first time this year, TSC was represented by Jo Hewitt, who had a fantastic Regionals winning lots of her events, Marcus Birmingham, Rory Pridmore, Lizi Humphreys, Elliot Riley-Brown and Josh Williams. Josh swam with Wycombe at this year's Regionals, and won the 400m Free final - an absolutely amazing achievement, and is now off to compete at Nationals. In the U14 Category, TSC were represented by Oscar North and Lucy Block,

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who both swam extremely well in Crawley, with Lucy reaching the finals of all three of her events.

IB thanked all the Team Managers who wrote all the Gala Reports throughout the year, these are all posted on the website. IB felt that TSC had represented themselves well at all the galas attended this year against some big powerful clubs.

IB reported that Marcus Birmingham and Harry Block had both completed their Swim England Level 1 Teaching, and Marcus had also done his Level 1 Coaching Certificate. Damian Wakefield is currently half way through his Level 1 Coaching as well. IB went through all the current TSC Coaching Team (please see powerpoint slides for full details).

IB explained that the Fundamentals group was very popular and going well, however, the Club really needs more pool time across all groups, but he explained that it is difficult to secure any further time in this area as all the local pools are tied up with Oxford, Maxwell and Wycombe.

Finally, IB reflected on a great Training Camp in Torremolinos last October with Didcot SC, and confirmed that there was an even bigger squad going out there again this year.

3. Appointment of 2017/18 TSC Club Captains and Vice Captains:

IB then moved onto the appointment of Club Captains and Vice Captains. He thanked Ben Williams, the outgoing Captain of 3 years, who is going to University in September for being such a good leader, always cheering on Team Thame and for being such a great role model. Ben was presented with a thank you from the other Captain/Vice Captains.

IB then announced the Club Captains for the forthcoming year – they are:

Club Captains: Marcus Birmingham
 Ella Simms

Vice Captains: Harry Block
 Maisie Randall

PE said that moving forward he would like to invite the Club Captains to a TSC Committee Meeting once every quarter, so that they can have a say on behalf of the swimmers – this will start with September's Meeting, date tbc.

4. Treasurer's Report – Rachel Humphreys:

The Treasurer, Rachel Humphreys (RH), presented her annual report for year ended 31st March 2017.

RH explained that a number of years ago TSC had built up a large cash reserve, therefore fees remained unchanged for a long time. However, as pool hire and expenses increased, things caught up with the Club and in 2015/16, TSC had a huge deficit of £9,000 that eroded the Club's surplus right down. The Club had to take steps to try and rectify this, so had to substantially increase fees across the groups. Despite increasing costs, TSC has managed to increase its reserves back up to a safe level, at about £12,000. (Please see Powerpoint Presentation for full breakdown of figures).

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RH reported that going forward Pool Hire charges were due to rise again in the autumn and were non-negotiable, so to keep on top of the situation and so that the finances of the Club remain healthy, she would propose that the Club raises it's membership fees by £1 per month across all groups from 1st September 2017. Ian Blyth proposed that the £1 fee increase be accepted by Club Members, Mike Block seconded this and it was voted on unanimously by all those present.

RH also spoke about TSC's fundraising, which, during last year was exceptional. The Club had raised nearly £1,000 from the Rotary Swimathon, which was organised by Linda Newton and Helen Williams, a big thank you to them, and also TSC been given a grant of £3,000 by Thame Town Council which had bought a PA System and Starting Equipment for our in-house galas.

PE stressed again that the TSC is in need of a Fundraising Manager and or Fundraising Team, so if anyone would like to volunteer, please let one of the committee know.

5. Election of Committee

Chairman, PE, thanked Helen Williams, TSC's outgoing Communications Manager, Fundraising Co-ordinator, and Team Manager for all the hardwork and dedication she gave to her various roles during her time on the Committee.

IB then asked that the new committee for 2017/18 be elected for the forthcoming year. The Committee was proposed en-block by Damian Wakefield and seconded by Helen Williams, there was a unanimous vote by all those present.

Therefore the committee for 2017-18 is as follows:

Chairman:	Phil Evans
Vice Chairman/SwimMark:	Helen Birmingham
Secretary:	Michele Block
Treasurer:	Rachel Humphreys
Membership Secretary:	Geraldine Dodds

The following non-voting committee positions were also confirmed:

Officials Secretary:	Emma Camp
Communications Manager	Will Hard
Head Coach:	Ian Blyth
Welfare Officer & Club Kit:	Natalie Phillips
Webmaster:	Claire Revill
Health & Safety Officer:	George Day
Team Manager/ Gala Secretary:	Sue Hewett
Fund raising manager	vacant

5. AOB / Questions and Feedback

Q: Is it possible to have a Club/Recreational Squad at TSC?

A: IB explained that a lot of the larger clubs do have Club Squads, for youngsters who enjoy training/swimming and also the social side of being part of a swimming club but don't want to compete. However, these are

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usually larger clubs who have lots of pool time. TSC would really like to have a Club Squad, but the problem is lack of pool time. It would be possible if swimmers didn't mind swimming at 9pm at night, however this is not very practical in school term time. IB confirmed that it is definitely something that TSC will try and pursue.

Feedback from Marie Withers: she just wanted to publicly thank everyone at TSC, especially all the coaches for looking after her son over the last few months, as without their help he wouldn't be able to swim.

Q: Has the qualifying criteria for the Most Competitive Trophy been looked at?

A: PE explained that the Most Competitive Trophy was introduced when the Club was established in 2009. Points are awarded to swimmers at galas based on where they come in an event – the swimmer with the most points at the end of the year, wins the cup. As some galas are now geared towards certain training groups, all the cups and awards need to be looked at as to whether all swimmers have a fair chance of competing for them. PE confirmed that the Committee will look into this matter over the forthcoming months and will send out an email outlining their proposals as soon as possible.

With no further questions from the floor, PE thanked everyone for coming to the Club's AGM.

The meeting closed at 7.50pm.