

Thame Swimming Club

6th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held in The Small Hall, Thame Leisure Centre
on Friday 10th July 2015 at 7pm

Present: 34 attended
Apologies: Wendy Randall, Geraldine Dodds, Claire Revill

Minutes:

1. Welcome & Chairman's Report - Update and Plans for the future: Simon Haarbarger:

Chairman, Simon Haarbarger (SH) opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. He then proceeded to reflect on the Club's achievements over the past year including TSC's most successful County Championships and Regionals. (separate detailed Powerpoint document – available on request). The Club had attended 20 galas this year, but despite this there had been limited disruption to training, and this will continue into the future.

SH then informed those attending that due to changes in ASA rules, both BBAT and Club Championships now need to be licensed as Level 4 galas, so that the times achieved by swimmers at the galas would count on the ASA Rankings, and could be used to gain places at Counties.

3 Thame Club Swimmers are off to the Welsh Nationals, in Swansea, in a couple of weeks' time, so good luck to them!

In September, TSC will be introducing the new Swimmers log book, which will highlight each swimmers' goals for the year, and be a place to record swimmers PBs at the beginning and end of the seasons to ascertain their progress.

Training across the club is being managed to help swimmers peak at BBAT, Club Champs and Counties, whilst still tweaking swimmers strokes.

2. Head Coach's Report: Ian Blyth

Ian Blyth (IB) reported that the Club had achieved a lot over the last year, despite not having a pool in Thame from February to April!

The ASA had agreed that the Ages for Country/Regional and National Competitions is now age of child at 31st December, which was a blow to a lot of competitors at Thame.

Counties were the best ever; we had the most swims/competitors from Thame ever – the boys 13-14 year old relay team achieving a magnificent 3rd place, out of a field of 22 clubs.

The Club now has new designated coaches in place for each Group (details on separate Powerpoint document – available on request). Mark Simms and Simon Haarbarger completed their Stage 1 Coaching Course. However, in September Rachel Newton will be leaving to go to University; she has been a first class coach, and it will be difficult to replace her.

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IB stressed to parents that either they or their swimmer should approach the group coach regarding gala and event selection – each coach would be happy to help guide them through the various options.

IB said that it was hard for our younger swimmers at galas as they are competing against other 10/11 year olds who train 7-10 hours a week at the bigger clubs. However, the gala programme which is published on the website targets specific swimming groups, so swimmers should attend as many as possible at their level to gain experience and get better times.

IB also informed the meeting that he had now secured extra pool time for Group 1, so he will be forming a Group 1+ for the swimmers who are making the progression from Group 1 to 2. This will take place on a Wednesday evening at Thame.

IB thanked the outgoing Club Captains for their hard work over the last year. The Head Coach did state that there were a few more duties for the Captains this year and they would be expected to be at most club/interclub galas, and help out at events such as the Carnival, especially with the younger club members. IB then announced the Club Captains for the year – they are:

Club Captains: Ben Williams
 Ella Simms

Vice Captains: Marcus Birmingham
 Laura Nobes

3. Treasurer's Report – Rachel Humphreys:

The Treasurer, Rachel Humphreys, presented her annual report for year ended 31st March 2015. (separate Powerpoint document – available on request).

RH reported that the Club had made a loss this year in the region of £5,000. This is directly related to the fees and number of members in the Club. Since the Club was started six year's ago, there has been no fee increase, and also swimming has declined in popularity as a recreational sport. This has made an impact on reserves, and they have declined from £19,000 to £14,000.

RH stressed that there was a real need to drive membership up, so as to increase income. The TLC Academy is helping with membership and a large number of swimmers are feeding into the swim club.

At present income does not cover expenditure. TSC can take 130 members but currently it only has 111. The club is a not for profit organisation, however, it does need to carry a surplus in case of unexpected expenditure. It is therefore necessary to raise fees to ensure that the Club can cover its costs. (please see separate Powerpoint document for details).

4. Election of Committee

Chairman, Simon Haarbarger then thanked all outgoing Committee members for all their hardwork and dedication. He then asked that the new committee be elected for the forthcoming year.

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The Committee was proposed en-block by Andrew Newton and seconded by Ian Blyth, there was a unanimous vote by all those present.

Therefore the committee for 2015-16 is:

Chairman:	Simon Haarbuerger
Vice Chairman:	Brian Pridmore
Secretary:	Michele Block
Treasurer:	Rachel Humphreys
Swim 21:	Helen Birmingham
Membership Secretary:	Geraldine Dodds

The following non-voting committee positions were also confirmed:

Officials Secretary:	Wendy Randall
Head Coach:	Ian Blyth
Welfare Officer:	Natalie Phillips
Webmaster:	Claire Revill
Health & Safety Officer:	Iain Smith
Team Manager/ Gala Secretary:	Sue Hewett
Masters Representative:	vacant
Club Kit	Natalie Phillips
Performance Director	Simon Haarbuerger

5. AOB / Questions and Feedback

Andrew Newton asked how many swimmers were attending galas; maybe there aren't enough to keep them involved.

IB answered this question: The Club has tried to introduce more galas for Group 1 to get them more involved – they went to a Beginners' gala in Witney and only 8 swimmers entered. IB did say that once a swimmer had won their first medal, it does give them the bug to do more.

Andrew Newton then said that perhaps the gala system was misleading for new parents. It was therefore agreed to hold a meeting for new parents to explain the gala system and how to enter etc.

A question was put forward about how far in advance TSC needs to enter galas – are we doing it early enough, as we seem to be being scratched from quite a few at the moment.

IB said he would try and work with the new Team Manager to get gala information out earlier. IB also explained that Clubs only run galas to make money – galas need to raise £10,000 plus per gala for the Club, so they fill them as quickly as they can, and if two or three large clubs get in before the smaller clubs, then the gala gets quickly oversubscribed.

Someone asked why we don't enter the Chiltern League?

IB explained that our Club was too small to enter the League, as you need at least 4 boys and girls at each age level from 9 year olds to 16 year olds and our Club just don't have enough swimmers to fulfil this criteria.

The meeting finished at 8.10pm