

Thame Swimming Club

7th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held in The Small Hall, Thame Leisure Centre
on Friday 1st July 2016 at 6.45pm

Present: 42 attended (including 8 committee members; 9 swimmers)
Apologies: Michele Block, Geraldine Dodds, Helen Birmingham

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, Regionals and Welsh Nationals. (separate detailed Powerpoint document – available on request). The Club has continued to attend galas this year with limited disruption to training, and this will continue into the future.

SH informed those attending that club championships will take place in November this year as arranged but next year it will be in July. He responded to a question raised by a parent regarding the timing of this at the end of the exam period when the swimmers may not be as fit because they will have not swum as much during the months/weeks in the run up to their exams. Ian Blyth felt that it wouldn't make much of a difference and felt that it would give swimmers something to aim for at the end of the season.

SH explained that they had been keen to move BBAT to July but the other clubs didn't want to do this, therefore by moving our club championships to July, we can try and move BBAT to November which is preferable to September. SH explained that currently the swimmers aren't as fit in September as training is reduced in the summer.

SH would like to see more swimmers/parents attend the Thame carnival as attendance has been low and it is a great opportunity to raise the profile of the club

For more information on the plans for the year please see power point

2. Head Coach's Report: Ian Blyth

Ian Blyth (IB) reported that the Club had achieved a lot over the last year. He thanked the parents for their dedication and support as without them the swimmers would not be at training/galas.

The ONB ASA have set incredibly high level times this year which will mean that less swimmers will qualify for counties. This is to be raised at the next ONB meeting as many clubs are dissatisfied with the effect this will have on their swimmers

In September Holly Revill will be leaving to go to University; she has been a first class coach, and it will be difficult to replace her. We are pleased to announce that James Newton will take over and will be a strong member of the team in group 1.

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IB also informed the meeting that he would be looking for extra pool time for all groups and is keen to find an alternative venue to Headington as it is difficult for a lot of swimmers to get to.

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

Club Captains: Ben Williams
Ella Simms

Vice Captains: Marcus Birmingham
Maisie Randall

IB thanked SH for his commitment as he steps down as chairman and looks forward to being his boss which is a role reversal on previous years. IB also thanked Wendy Randall who stepped down as officials secretary

3. Treasurer's Report – Rachel Humphreys:

The Treasurer, Rachel Humphreys, presented her annual report for year ended 31st March 2016. (separate Powerpoint document – available on request).

RH reported that the Club had made a loss this year and the reserve has been depleted to £5,000. This is directly related to the cost of sourcing additional pool time; the provision of land training and the increased costs from the ASA.

RH stressed that there is a need to cover the rising costs of pool time and AS and therefore has recommended a small fee increase for all groups – she stressed that this was because the fee increase last year had been much larger for groups 3 and 4. Therefore as of 1st September, there will be a 50p increase to cover the ASA fees; and a £1 to cover the fees. Thus £1.50 increase per swimmer overall for all groups

There also needs to be an increase in fund raising over the year and therefore Rachel called for a parent to join the committee in a fund raising manager role (please see separate Powerpoint document for details).

4. Election of Committee

Chairman, Simon Haarburger 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.

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

Therefore the committee for 2015-16 is:

Chairman:	Brian Pridmore
Vice Chairman:	Phil Evans
Secretary:	Michele Block
Treasurer:	Rachel Humphreys

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Swim 21: Helen Birmingham
Membership Secretary: Geraldine Dodds

The following non-voting committee positions were also confirmed:

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

5. AOB / Questions and Feedback

Q Why are the county times so hard?

A IB explained that they are based on 'A' grade times rather than 'B' grade times that they have been before. It was felt that the counties are being run for Oxford swimming club rather than catering for all swimmers. IB explained that many of the coaches from other teams were also dissatisfied by this approach from our county and felt that it didn't represent all swimmers in the county. Our feedback will be given at the next ONB ASA meeting.

Feedback from Damian Wakefield: He felt that the club was running very well and his son was benefitting from the coaching. He thanked everyone but especially Helen Williams for her fantastic communication.

Q Why is participation in the longer distances at club championships restricted to group 3 & 4?

A IB explained that it was to enable groups 3&4 to achieve their county times. It would be too long a session to run for swimmers that don't have training at longer distances and it is unlikely that they will meet the times required at counties. IB stressed that if parents felt their child would be suitable then they should discuss it with their coach.

IB also informed the group that there would be a Witney long course event that other swimmers could enter.

Q Can swimmers in group 2 go to a gala that is advertised for group 3 & 4?

A Yes if they have qualifying times

Sue Hewitt said that it would be good to be able to run eligibility reports but she will need help and at present the gala assistant role on the committee has not been filled. If a parent can volunteer to support her then this will make gala entries easier in the future.

Q Can there be a link on the website for gala entries beside the gala details?

A The group felt this may only be possible if the website was password protected and each parent had a login. This can be raised with Clare Revill to assess whether this is possible if it will make gala entries easier.

Q Are gala entries on Hytek accurate?

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A Sue Hewitt explained that if the gala is run by Hytek then this directly enters the results. However when a gala doesn't run on Hytek she has to manually enter them – this would be assisted by a gala assistant. Sue explained that if entries aren't accurate to let her know as she may have inputted them wrongly.

Q The swimmers asked if there would be a structured weight session for group 4 in the gym?

A IB has asked Brian Pridmore to look into this

Brian Pridmore thanked Simon Haarberger for his commitment and support to the club in his various roles in the committee (Treasurer and Chairman) and also now to the coaching side.

He also thanked Wendy Randall as she stepped down as officials secretary – a role she has held for 7 years.

The meeting finished at 745pm