

TRING SWIMMING CLUB

MINUTES OF THE AGM FRIDAY 19th JUNE 2009 TRING SCHOOL

Andy Downes opens the meeting.

It is great to see so many people here tonight. Thank you to all the committee members especially those who are standing down. We have had a couple of tough years but I am pleased to see that the club is moving forward.

1. Apologies for Absence

Jo Sansom, Debbie Turnbull, Helen Hodgson, Alan & Julie Garner, Peter Kemp, Verma Burgess and Helen Murcott.

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting

Nothing to report.

3. Chairman's Report

It has been an interesting year!.

Last September we agreed 3 key objectives for the club to achieve by July 2009, at least 150 members, promotion back to Division 2 in the Peanuts league, and a £2000 surplus on the year. I'm delighted to say that Lesley announced at our last committee meeting that we've achieved the first. After 2 rounds of peanuts we're lying comfortably in second place, if we perform as well in the final round we will achieve the 2nd objective, and as you'll hear later we're on track for the 3rd.

We started the year with Bryan Pummel as Head Coach. As many of you will know Bryan had always found it difficult to balance his work and personnel commitments with the needs of the club, and it wasn't a great surprise when he informed us last September that he wished to resign from the post, agreeing to take us through to Christmas to give us time to find a replacement.

We were in the fortunate position that we had built a good relationship with Maxwell Swimming Club and Kevin Brookes in recent years, and were delighted that Kevin agreed to take up our Head of Coaching position, in addition to his role at Maxwell, from the start of 2009. Kevin appointed Craig Oliver as club coach.

Kevin and Craig have brought fresh ideas and a new enthusiasm to the club, and I'm delighted with how the club is progressing. We're now trying to find the best structure for the swimming groups in order to achieve the best for all our members, the proposals we'll discuss later on reflect this.

The real highlights of the year for me are seeing a full pool with enthusiastic coaches and swimmers, to see the excitement and enjoyment the younger swimmers have got through doing well as a team at the Peanuts galas, and the great atmosphere achieved at our own club championships.

A big thank you to PRS Office Furniture for their generous sponsorship of the club, this has been of vital importance to us.

The running of the swimming club is dependant on many volunteers willingly giving up their time - thank-you to you all. I won't name everyone here, but I would like in particular to thank Tony and Gill who are stepping down from the committee, although I'm delighted that Tony will continue to lead the team organising Club Championships. I'd also like to thank Heather for stepping into the Treasurer's post a year ago in our hour of need and doing an extremely thorough job. We do have some other roles we now need to fill, and I hope that we will find some new volunteers for these.

Thank-you all for your continued support of Tring Swimming Club, I think we can look forward with great optimism to the year ahead.

Chris Roberts

4. Treasurer's Report

The financial year for Tring Swimming Club runs from 1 September to 31 August, therefore the accounts being presented tonight are for the period September 2007 to August 2008. There is also a forecast for the current year from September 2008 to August 2009, excluding the final total value of the Club shop's stock. Last year's accounts were prepared by Sue Warren, the previous Club treasurer, and myself, and examined by Vivianne Child of Child Associates.

The preceding two years had been difficult for the Club, and both years had resulted in deficits, however, the committee took steps two years ago to reduce expenditure – by reducing pool session times to lower pool hire costs etc, and reducing the transport to galas. This hard work resulted in turning round the deficit to a small profit.

I'll now look at the results in a little more detail. The total income increased by £1000 over the previous year and total expenditure was £2779 less. The membership income was £2400 higher although the income gained from squad sessions was lower than in previous years as the overall number of swimmers was down.

We would like to say thank you to Peter Kemp and PRS Office Furniture for their generous sponsorship during 2007/08, which started in the second half of the year. Thanks, too, to Carsten Holstein for his hard work in raising income for the Club by running the Dacorum Friendly Gala.

As the overall membership was lower so the fees we pay to the ASA were lower. The pool hire cost was down due to a reduction in session times, some cancellations and a delay in implementing the May 2008 increase in price until September 2008. We also reduced expenditure on transport by running fewer coaches to galas.

Therefore, the Club returned a small surplus of £237 in 2007/08, however, our assets were represented principally by the value of the Club shop stock. Just before the 2008 AGM Sportspace announced steep increases in the cost of pool hire as there had been significant differences in the rates charged to the Club. The committee decided not to change their proposals for membership fees at that time. As a result there has been a £4000 increase in hire costs during 2008/09 although we obtained a delay in the imposition of the May 2008 and May 2009 rates until September of each year.

Our costs are mostly fixed and the level of income is variable. Fortunately, the numbers of swimmers has increased steadily throughout 2008/09 and the forecast income from membership income, new members and squad fees is due to be approximately £4500 higher, although the level of ASA fees will also be approximately £1200 higher as a consequence of this.

The forecast for the current year shows that we should return a much improved surplus for 2008/09, although this has largely been achieved through again using the sponsorship money to subsidise our normal activities. The overall position will be known when the final stock value is calculated. The forecast includes fundraising income from a wine and food tasting event being run by Peter Kemp in Wilstone on Saturday 11 July. Please come along to this if you are free on that day to have a good time and support the Club. Thanks, also, to Nicky Gray for organising the quiz night last October. We hope to run more fundraising events next year.

I would like to say thank you to Vivianne Child for examining the accounts and offering to examine next year's accounts for the Club. As I was new to the committee as well as new to the post of Treasurer, I would like to say thank you to Sue Warren, the former treasurer, for her assistance when handing over the job, and also to Chris Roberts, the Chairman, who has also given me a lot of help.

Heather Wignall

Proposed : Pauline Scott

Seconded : Gill Davies

5. Head of Coaching Report

I've been in post as 'Head of Coaching' from January this year and as many of you are aware, swimming (and everything to do with swimming) is my profession. In addition to my role at Tring I am also the full time Head Coach of Maxwell Swim Club in Aylesbury and I hold posts within the SE Regional set up and British Swimming on occasions.

My role at Tring Swimming Club is very much to act as a Director / Coordinator of the entire coaching programme and competition structure within the club. In addition to this I also coach some sessions within the week (Mon & Tues) to ensure that I get to work with as many swimmers from Tring as possible.

At the same time as taking up this position I put in place a relatively new but enthusiastic coach as my lead coach to the club. This, as you all know is Craig Oliver who acts as the clubs main coach when I can't be in attendance. From the outset the whole 'feel' of the club changed and everyone suddenly became very enthusiastic and motivated over night!

There have been many things that have changed since the 1st January and the first thing that needed to be done was to change the structure of the squads. Initially the first obvious thing that has changed is the branding of the squads.

The squad names now being used define the competitive ability and standard of that squad and it also fits into the structure that I put in place at Maxwell Swimming Club. Together the squads at Tring and Maxwell will complement each other and provide pathways into future development or into the retention of swimmers for fitness and social purposes.

As part of the restructuring it was imperative that each squad had a lead coach that regularly attended. This has now been achieved. Craig and I take the County Age and Youth Squads and Claire, Helen & Kathryn take the Development Squads.

One of the main changes to take place was to implement a structured training programme that fits into a comprehensive competition programme. As coaches within a competitive club we must always question and ask, what is this particular competition going to achieve for this swimmer and how does it fit into their development?

This is why you may have also noticed increased effort by me and Craig in getting more swimmers to attend individual competitions such as Open Meets. All of which fit into the training programme and all have a purpose. It is at these meets that each swimmer begins to understand what they need to do to improve within their swimming. It also gives each swimmer an incentive to improve, achieve medals and qualification times to higher level meets or championship event such as the County, Regional or National Championships.

Through Tring's links with Maxwell we can now boast numerous opportunities for our swimmers to compete in team galas but also the chance to compete with numerous other swimmers of their own ability level at structured meets and championships throughout the year.

One of the next stages in the development of Tring SC is to allocate the correct amount of pool time to each squad. It's imperative that the hours available to swimmers are in line with the ASA model of Long Term Athlete Development, and of course are on par, if not higher than other clubs similar to Tring's level. This restructuring of pool time will be explained in more detail at tonight's meeting by the Committee.

From September all competitive swimmers at Tring will also be 2nd claim swimmers and be registered to Maxwell Swimming Club through the Dual Registration scheme. This process will go to further align both clubs with each other and provide the very best of possibilities to the children of Tring. One such example is that 2 of Tring's swimmers will be attending Maxwell's Training camp in Majorca in October.

Obviously competition isn't for everyone and one thing that I have made sure remains at Tring is the social, fun and fitness aspect that many of the clubs members enjoy. With the proposed plans ready to commence you will notice a considerable development of this side with the inclusion of a new 'Masters & Fitness' squad with designated pool time for just this squad.

Its imperative that this group of swimmers are allowed to continue to swim for social and fitness reasons. This wont impact on the children who want to put all the hours in to reach their potential.

Obliviously a balance is needed and I feel that with this new structure we have created it.

Recently many swimmers from Tring have been competing in local open meets. It was fantastic to see around 25 swimmers (the majority of which were new to meets) attend the Leighton Buzzard C Grade Meet. Lots of medals were won and there were numerous personal bests set. In addition swimmers have also entered the Maxwell Level 3 meet this weekend and I look forward to seeing how they do!

Of course we have also had some encouraging results in recent league events and this is something that can only be built on. To be successful within leagues it depends on having a large amount of depth and quality in each age group and I can see this gradually building within Team Tring.

Membership levels have increased dramatically in recent months which have resulted in the club boasting a complement of 150 swimmers. Of course its my intention to see this figure grow to at least 200 to ensure the financial and performance stability of the club.

The future at Tring looks very promising and as a professional coach I'm always looking at how we can do things better which is why I'm sure you will become accustomed to gradual changes and developments each year. All of which are for the enhancement and development of Tring.

One such thing I'm looking into is the formation of a 'Swimming Development Academy' similar to the ones which I have set up in Aylesbury & Buckingham. This Academy will be the lifeline that Tring needs in allowing for sustainable recruitment of talented swimmers year upon year.

It should not be to anyone's surprise that I very much intend to bring both Maxwell and Tring much closer together to create more opportunities for all the swimmers involved. One thing is certain though – as these developments move forward “Tring Swimming” will always remain at the forefront of the Tring Community and it will remain a club that caters for all within the community in a fun and friendly family environment. But of course, it will also have a structure that encourages performance and competitive development for everyone – with superb coaching and training programmes involved in every step of the way – for all swimmers.

I'd like to thank Craig for his enthusiasm at helping me move Tring forward and I'd also like to thank the committee for showing me the support they have done over the last few months since I've been in post.

Lastly if any of should have any coaching related questions then please contact me through email and I'll be happy to answer these or to meet with you in person.

Kevin Brooks

6. Group Structures and Subscriptions

There has been one change to the original letter sent out. It was decided that Skill Development 1 will stay at 2 sessions from September.

Group Structures

Group	Sun	Wed	Thu	Fri
Skill Development 1	5:00-5:45pm	4:15-5:15pm	-	6:40-7:25pm
Skill Development 2	5:45-6:45pm	4:15-5:15pm	-	7:25-8:15pm
County Age Group	6:45-7:45pm	-	7:30-9:00pm	8:15-9:15pm
County Senior	5:00-6:45pm	-	7:30-9:00pm	6:40-8:15pm
Masters and	7:45-8:45pm	-	7:30-	8:15-

*Masters and Fitness can choose 1 or more sessions. Depending on numbers the Friday session may be separated out, to run 9:10 to 10pm.

**Thursday is coaches invite only for M&F.

Additional 'after school' sessions are available, at extra charge, on the following days:

Day/time	Groups
Monday 3:30 to 4:45pm	All
Tuesday 3:30 to 4:20pm	All

Proposed fee structure 2009/10:

	GROUP	BASE FEE (Sessions included)	ADDITIONAL SESSIONS
1	Skill Development 1	£230 (2)	£60 (1 st), £50 (2 nd)
2	Skill Development 2	£270 (3)	£60, £50
3	County Age Group	£310 (3)	£60, £50
4	County Senior	£380 (3)	£60, £50, £40
5	Masters and Fitness	£150 (1)	£80, £60, £40 (£100 for Thursdays)

Family discounts (on total):

2 family members:	5% discount
3 family members:	10% discount
4 family members	15% discount.

Payment options:

1. Single payment (5% discount) if received by 15/9/2009.
2. Three equal cheques dated 1/9/09, 1/12/09, 1/3/10. Post dated cheques to be written, and returned if swimmer resigns before the date.

Ad-hoc Fees 2009/10 (2008/9):

Joining Fee:	£35
Match Fees:	
Swimmer (Coach provided)	£4
Swimmer (No Coach Provided)	£2
Non Swimmer on coach	£3

Notes:

1. Fees include standard ASA registration fees. Category 2 fees (required to compete in Open meets or Speedo League galas), currently £15.25, will be due in February.
2. Groups 1 to 4 include 3 sessions a week in the base fee. Any swimmers that can never make a particular session should discuss with their coach option for substituting one of the additional sessions.
3. Group 5 (Masters and Fitness) is applicable to swimmers aged 14 or older who want to swim regularly but don't want to commit to groups 3 or 4.
4. Swimmers changing groups or additional sessions during the year will be charged/refunded at a pro-rata rate.
5. Fees are due on 1st September or within 2 weeks of joining for new members. Anyone failing to pay within 1 month of the due date will cease to be a member.

Question : What is a county swimmer?

Answer : Those swimmers who want to commit to the maximum number of sessions available. Ideally the top squad (13+) with the possibility of merging with Maxwell.

Question : Which county will we be swimming in?

Answer : We will swim major competitions in Bucks.

Question : What do we do if a swimmer cannot commit to 3 sessions?

Answer : Discussions will be made between the coach and the committee and each individual case will be looked into.

Question : If a swimmer from the County Senior squad cannot make a session at Tring could they do a session at Maxwell?

Answer : This would not be a problem, but the individual swimmer will need to speak to Kevin.

Question : Will the Thursday session still be an invitation only session?

Answer : Any swimmer from the top 2 squads (County Age and County Senior) will be invited to swim and we are looking at hiring out the whole pool to accommodate more swimmers.

Question : Will the Tuesday morning session continue?

Answer : Yes, this will continue for the top 3 squads.

Question : I am worried that my child who swims in the County Senior squad also does many other sports and cannot commit to 3 sessions a week. Will he be able to do only 2?

Answer : This shouldn't be a problem but each individual swimmer will need to speak to Kevin about this.

There is an opportunity for 14yrs + to do an asa course to become a coach in the future.
 16yrs you can do Level 1 teaching.
 18 yrs you can do Level 2 teaching.
 If you are interested, please contact Kevin direct.

Proposed : Tony Lynn

Seconded : John Kaye

Majority in favour. 1 against.

7. Election of Officers and Committee

POSITION	NOMINATION	PROPOSED BY	SECONDED BY
Chairman	Chris Roberts	Hilary Denton-Sparke	Ray Williamson
Vice Chairwoman	Hilary Denton-Sparke	Chris Roberts	Lesley Gearing
Secretary	Nicky Gray	Shon Williams	Rob Brown
Treasurer	Heather Wignall	Nicky Gray	Jan Stevens
Committee	Jan Stevens		
	Lesley Gearing		
	Shon Williams		
	Peter Kemp		
	John Kaye		
New Member	Sonia Jennings	Hilary Denton-Sparke	Lesley Gearing
Non-committee volunteers	Chris Cowland		
	Liz Baker		
	Tina Clark		
	Judith Holstein		

8. Appointment of Examiner of Accounts

Vivianne Child has agreed to continue to examine the accounts.

Proposed : Shon Williams

Seconded : Hilary Denton-Sparke

9. Any Other Business

Tina Clark has offered to set up standing orders for September.
Liz Baker has offered to be Welfare Officer.

Andy Downes thanked everybody for coming and closed the AGM.