

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF BRIGHTON SWIMMING CLUB held on 10TH April 2024 via zoom at 19.30.
Meeting ID: 873 7427 7363 – Passcode 034820
Link to online vote: Swimming Club AGM - 2024

PRESENT: John Kent (Chairman) Jasper Stevens (Deputy Chairman) Peter Tuffin (Hon Treasurer) Denise Halls (Hon Sec) Justin Slater, Mike Read, Clare Mckenna, Kevin Meredith, Deedee Pickering, Dominic Hind, Hannah Devriendt Joanna Rees Mladen Grabovac, Carly Carden, Brian Smith, Marie Poulter Nina Taylor Suzanne Goldenberg, Alan Dishington, Tweetiepe, Elaclack, Henry Duddy, bsccorr, Andrew Collin, Donna Holford, J. Valmante, Marie Poulter.

The Deputy Chairman opened the meeting and informed those present he would be chairing the meeting to enable John to be free to and speak more freely on various items on the agenda. Jasper informed those online that we had a very distinguished and important member attending tonight's AGM and welcomed and introduced life member Mike Read MBE to our meeting. He told the meeting of Mike's 33 channel swims, selection for Great Britain as a swimmer, and his national titles in masters swimming.

John then said the following: - Matt Naunton Head coach from Shiverers is now our Head coach for all of us continuing in that role essentially in our new form so we are very grateful to him. He has been running ragged over the last few weeks.! Following on from my General Spring update which I sent a week or so ago I want to repeat myself by saying: - We do have such a large range of activities in our club are one of the few clubs in the region who has such a diverse range of activities and that is brilliant and one of our strengths which is critical to the success and value of it. We cover ages from 8yrs-85yrs now in our age groups.

The achievement of swimming the first length in the pool is as significant to that child as a master swimming a length of Loch Ness and they all are to be celebrated. Water polo is doing brilliantly along with Synchro who are doing their thing in preparation for their up-and-coming show in May.

Finally, John just wanted to say a thank you to everybody who is involved in the club as a helper, a parent, a supporter, an official, a coach – give yourselves a pat on the back! Jasper commented that he noticed that we have Shiverers members with us which is good to see. Some of you may not be aware. John the current Chairman myself, the previous Chairman and my predecessor John Ottaway and Deedee Pickering have all at one time or the other been members of Shiverers swimming club. It is significant that the Chairmen of Brighton SC have all had this close affinity with Shiverers going right back to goodness knows when and I have very fond memories and connections with people of those days. Jasper confirmed he can remember serving on the Shiverers committee back in the 1970's when the prospect of a merger with Brighton would have been spoken of as something horrific but times change and sometimes the time is right.

Peter stated he was not a member of Shiverers, but his father John Tuffin was. Peter recalls his father held Shiverers club in high esteem and was always very fond of it during his life. So, in view of my father's memory, I want to see the two clubs merge successfully and run a great unit together and I am fully behind and support as we move ahead.

A1/ 24 NOTICE CONVENING THE MEETING was read by the Hon. Secretary.

A2/ 24 MINUTES of the Annual General Meeting held on the 16 March 2023 were attached with the Notice/Agenda via Swim Club Manager and were confirmed as a correct record.

A3/ 24 MATTERS ARISING- None

A4/24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Nicky Chapman Amie Noone Catherine Cameron.

A5/24 CORRESPONDENCE - There was no correspondence relevant to the Meeting.

A6/24 ADOPTION OF ANNUAL REPORT

The Deputy Chairman gave opportunity for discussion on the Annual Report which was sent to the membership via Swim Club Manager.

It was **proposed by** Deedee Pickering **and seconded by** Mike Read that the Annual Report be adopted - **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**.

A7/24 ADOPTION OF STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 2022/23

- Peter started with an apology to the membership that the accounts were not ready for an AGM and confirmed they were now with our accounts examiner and are almost ready. The delay was due to a high level of activity and massive workloads which were involving many people, due to the merger. He confirmed once the accounts have been finalised, they will be made available for everyone to look through before we hold an EGM to review and report on if anybody has any questions they will wish to bring to the EGM. Peter commented it may be that not everyone will be able to attend the EGM and for those if they have questions related to the accounts, Peter will quite happily respond once the accounts are issued.
- The accounts he suspected will show a small loss for the year, but he was not prepared to go into greater detail until they are submitted to him by the accounts' examiner for him to review. Peter confirmed that the accounts for 2023 reflect to the period of over a year ago and we are now in the start of the second year following those accounts. We expect the current year from 31st March 2024 to be showing a modest improvement on the 2023 accounts.
- This gives some insight on all those involved in the merger who have given a significant effort in reviewing the budgeting and costings for the coming year and we are confident that the result of that will be a modest profit for year-end (April 2025) The security of the club, when we are bringing in a substantial number of members obviously brings risks, but we feel that we have got the costings right. I am confident that all those who have put in the effort have had a good understanding of where we are going and have made an excellent effort at putting that budget together.
- Peter joined with John in wishing to convey immense thanks to all those volunteers who help the swimming club. We would not be able to function without them as he will not say it himself, Peter stated that John has dedicated at least half of his life this year to our club, and I do not know how he has managed to do a day job, let alone sleep. I think there should be a vote of thanks from the club for the sterling work he has done behind the scenes which is not always seen and needs to be appreciated.
- Other than that, I would also like to thank Sonja and Nina for their administrative support which they have given to the club, often putting in more than they are paid for.
- Peter concluded by apologising again for not making the accounts on time but shared the positive view that we are already starting on the next year's accounts so they will be very much quicker! Jasper went on to say he does get copied into a lot of Peter's

emails and can confirm he does spend a lot of time dealing with everyday stuff work on the accounts. So, thank you Peter.

- Jasper commented before we move on to the next item on the agenda - a small request: at every AGM, when we hold a physical AGM, which we normally do, we have a little book which has been in operation for-years; into which we all write our names to say that we have attended the AGM. Normally AGMs are attended by a small number of people, but I am pleased to say we have 31 here today. So can I ask you to help us keep a record of those of you who have attended simply by making a note to respond to the email you received "inviting yourselves to the AGM "just saying I was there!

A8/24 ALTERATIONS TO LAWS

Refer to Item A14/24

A9/24 INSTALLATION OF PRESIDENT:

- Our President who also is our highly esteemed Hon Sec Denise Halls, who handed in her notice as Hon Secretary a few years ago but has yet to find anyone to take on the job when we installed her as president a year ago and I would like to propose we reinstate her the coming year.

Proposed by: Jasper Stevens **Seconded by:** John Kent - **CARRIED UNANAMOUSLY.**

A10/24 ELECTION OF VICE PRESIDENTS & LIFE MEMBERS:

- Jasper gave a brief outline for the following nominations.
V/P - Gill Ashby – Mike Read – Lynn Ottaway.
- **Gill Ashby:** was Hon Treasurer for many years and some time ago she moved away to Norfolk. She did a wonderful job and was there for the start of the synchro. As a courtesy to her we elect her as a vice president each year.
- **Mike Read:** To add to his biography which Jasper reported on when introducing Mike to the meeting. Jasper asked the question to Mike are you are a current English National record holder in masters swimming for 4 or 5 events. Mike responded and said no he holds the championships but not the records! Mike also confirmed he had 3 second places in the recent World Championships in Doha!
- **Lynn Ottaway:** Jasper stated Lynn has done a lot of work for synchro over the years and it will be to honour her with a Vice Presidency and in so doing to perpetuate the name of "Ottaway" in the new club because it has such a long history. **Proposed by:** Jasper Stevens **Seconded by:** Deedee Pickering. All in favour - **CARRIED UNANAMOUSLY**
- Jasper confirmed that life-memberships are for people who have given many years of service to the club and to members who have been selected to represent our country. We have nominations for the following: -
L/M - Keith Stoner – Michele Benny – Marie Edwards – Nigel Carrucan
- **Keith Stoner (Waterpolo player)** who represented GB in under18's and under 20's and is still active poolside coaching!
- **Marie Edwards & Michèle Benny:** Denise reported that she had known Marie and Michèle for a long time. When we moved to Prince Regent from the old North Road, we started doing open meets when they both were very much hands on with the catering back then some 30years ago. They have been very supportive of our club

with swimming masters performing/assisting with the synchro shows, hands on at the Arch and still today helping with our annual Pier to Pier swim. They have been in the background but have been a vital part of the club over the years.

- **Nigel Carrucan:** Jasper stated there is one other life member nomination being Nigel Carrucan who was our club head coach and a member of our club for many years. I swam in county championships winning a bronze medal in the medley relay with Nigel in the same team. He has been a good friend of mine over the years. In fact, there was one occasion when he worked in his previous life in an operating theatre where he assisted in a lifesaving operation where I was the patient! I think you all will agree that Nigel is worthy of a life membership in recognition for everything he has done for our club.

Jasper requested that we take all four nominations as a block.

Proposed by: Deedee Pickering **Seconded by:** Mike Read - **CARRIED UNANAMOUSLY.**

A11/24 ELECTION OF OFFICERS

- The following nominations have been received for the election at the Annual General Meeting:

Chairman: John Kent
Deputy Chairman: Justin Slater
Treasurer: Peter Tuffin
Hon Secretary: Vacant
Welfare Officer: Virginia Fonteyn.

A12/24 ELECTION OF MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

- The following were duly elected having been proposed and seconded.

Jurgita Valmante
John Bird
Jasper Stevens
Dominic Hind
Clare Christie - **(Pool)**
Hannah Devriendt - **(Synchro)**
Catherine Cameron - **(Arch)**
Mladen Grabovac - **(Waterpolo)**

Proposed by: Deedee Pickering **Seconded by:** Mike Read - **CARRIED UNANAMOUSLY**

- Jasper stated if we had more nominations than that we would have had to have a vote. So, we did not need to vote as they just automatically go through to serve as our next committee.
- Now the Brighton swimming committee has the option to co-opt members at any time. So, if any one at any time feels they have something to say then they are within their rights to ask to be co-opted.

A13/24 APPOINTMENT OF HON. ACCOUNTS EXAMINER:

- The Hon Treasurer confirmed that Mr Andrew Rees would be appointed as the Hon Accounts Examiner.

A14/24 MERGER Jasper stated that items 8 and 14 on the agenda will run together and will report on the status of the merger with Shiverers and item 8 the alteration of laws.

- **Alteration to laws** - Proposal worded by Jasper Stevens. The following alteration having been proposed and seconded states: following the merger with Shiverers Swimming club that the name Brighton Swimming Club be amended to the **City of Brighton & Hove Swimming Club**. for the purpose of club registration with swim England but that the **sea swimming section** will remain in the club maintaining its name Brighton Swimming Club to maintain its heritage and protecting its historic title.
- Jasper stated it was slightly unconventional to hold a survey of all club members online, as a quorum for an AGM is 7 so having 150 people respond suggests it is a more successful way of engaging with the membership. 85% agreed with the rule change and 15% not supporting makes a two thirds majority in favour of the rule change.
- Jasper commented that the initiative John took in widening the audience to the whole membership, in the way he did frankly overrides the attendance at an AGM. I think it is a fair assumption to say "it is the wish of Brighton S.C. that we change our name in this way and retaining the Brighton S.C. name under the new name's umbrella title.
- **Note:** The rule change is not official until the rule change is sanctioned by SE. **UPDATE:** Confirmation from SE the rule change has been sanctioned by SE,
Proposed by: John Kent **Seconded by:** Jasper Stevens— **CARRIED UNANAMOUSLY**
Merger
- John reported there are two aspects which we wanted to reflect on. The changed structure of the club and bringing the two clubs together, but also to reflect that Brighton and Hove are distinct towns but are also combined as the City of Brighton & Hove. So, recognising the city name in our new name was important. One of the feedbacks John said he had received was that the club still has Brighton in the name but until now we have been Brighton Swimming Club not the City of Brighton S.C. It is a change for us too. John confirmed that under the latest guidelines from Swim England, our governing body, clubs need to have a geographical reference in their titles. Our new name encompasses that.
- In terms of maintaining Brighton S.C in that connection is important in two parts. One it brings us quite a lot of internet traffic and revenue. Although we have not been doing the traditional Christmas Day swim for quite a few years now it is rightly recognised. People talk about "bonkers swimmers" swimming in the sea they often look up BSC first from marketing agencies, photographers, and filming brings in a fair amount of income. While it may not be to the benefit of our younger members the famous picture of the "men with the top hats," which now and then twirls around the internet, does give us quite a lot of interest and traffic.
- So, there are two aspects: one reflecting the change of the club in the city and holding on to that heritage. As Peter and Jasper have said the connection and link with Shiverers is important and I think that it is an important aspect to hold on to the Shiverers name in some way. That name retention will be delegated to the swimming committee. Shiverers has 103 years of history, so we want to preserve that name in some way.
- John opened for any questions: -
 - Q: Justin asked am I assuming those Shiverers with relevant honours transfer to the new club?
 - A: John commented that the membership has come across but have not quite found a way around it yet!

A15/24 ANY OTHER BUSINESS: None

The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the chair at 20:10

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Deputy Chairman

Jasper Stevens