



**AGM Meeting
Thursday 22nd February 2024
Chairmans Report**

Welcome everyone to the 2024 Annual General Meeting of Putteridge Swimming Club. I am the current Chairman of the club and will be chairing this evening's proceedings.

For the sake of good order, all persons present at this AGM must be fully paid up members of Putteridge Swimming Club and must also be registered with Swim England with the relevant Swim England membership fees being fully paid. If you are not then I ask that you leave this meeting now.

The meeting has a quorum of more than 7 members entitled to vote and so the meeting can now proceed.

I will be reporting on the Operational year from January 1 to December 31st 2023.

The purpose of the AGM is to transact and conclude the following business in accordance with our Club's Constitution.

Agenda item 1. To receive the Chairman's Report of the activities of the Club during our 2023 year.

Agenda item 2. To receive our Treasurer's report

This includes the accounts of the Club for the financial year 1st January – 31st December 2023 and the status of our independent examination.

Agenda item 3. The election of our independent examiner.

The club's independent examiner cannot be a member of the Committee or a member of a family of any member of the Committee. This is a specific condition 9.2.3 of our Club's Constitution.

Agenda item 4. The Election of the Executive Officers and Committee.

In accordance with the club's Constitution, all current Executive Officers and members of the Committee will stand down. Notice of those members prepared to stand for re-election along with any new nominees, was posted with notice of this AGM on the Club's website on 22nd January 2024. A function of this AGM will be to elect the new Executive Officers and other members of the Committee that will take this club forward until our next AGM in February 2025.

Agenda item 5. The Election of Custodians of the Club.

The property of the Club other than cash at the bank and including such items as medals, clothing merchandise, swim aids etc., must be vested in two 'Custodians' who are Committee Members of the Club.

And finally Agenda item 5. Resolutions

The meeting will decide upon any resolution which may have been submitted in accordance with Rule 9.3 of our Constitution.

1.0 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

2023 continued to bring external challenges which affected everybody's lives. The continuing war in Ukraine not only increased fuel prices but put pressure elsewhere. Higher inflation, both directly as a result of higher commodity prices and indirectly through increased unit costs, added to the squeeze on real household incomes – which of course has affected all our members and families.

The huge increases in energy prices in particular posed a 'clear and present threat' to swimming pools and urgent government support was requested earlier in the year with a warning to MPs from UKactive, Swim England, swimming pool owners and operators, the Local Government Association, Community Leisure UK and others at a meeting of the All Party Parliamentary Group for Swimming in Westminster, on the 26 April.

As a result we have had to deal with rising pool costs and a continuing, challenging economic backdrop. Inspire Pool, also looking to manage costs have reduced pool water temperatures on occasions creating additional challenges especially for our younger swimmers.

With all of these external pressures we were forced to make a modest increase to fees at the beginning of the year but even with this, it has been extremely difficult to keep pace with rising costs and other pressures.

A major focus has been to continue to grow our 'Little Putts Academy' at Lealands School. It is going well and we are teaching many able-bodied and disabled children in the community. With 180 swimmers, we provide parents with a flexible approach to Swim England Learn-to-Swim programme, starting from 3 years and upwards.

The Academy is structured to offer 2 pathways through children's formative stages; a Competitive Pathway as well as simply keeping children in valuable physical education. I am very proud that the service and reputation of Putteridge Swimming Club is becoming well known and we continue to operate upon recommendations from parents to others. We receive constant enquiries and have waiting lists for disability swimming - in particular for 1:1.

We are working with children on the autistic spectrum, from severe where 1:1 attention is required, to non-conversant and to high functioning. We are also working with many physically disabled. Currently we have 22 children across this range. Many local Community Organisations are sending their patients to us, to get them into swimming. These include Edwin Lobo Centre, Autism Bedford, Team Beds and Luton and Active Luton. It has been amazing to be able to integrate the autistic children into small group environments and social situations so as to help provide real life benefits. We continue to grow an outstanding Team of Teachers at the Academy whose experience and results are second to none. Over this last year, the main core of staff have been Lynn Munn, Trish Taylor, Libby Magill, Miriam Owens and Grace Beeston.

Alongside the practical side of teaching a lifesaving skill, we also have integrated British Swimming and Swim England OADF. That is, Optimal Athlete Development Framework, which sees the swimmer as a 'Person' then an 'Athlete' then a 'Performer'. So, primarily, working on key personality traits that are highlighted. By improving these traits it impacts positively on the Athlete in their training environment which then positively impacts on their performance.

Many of our young swimmers have also given back to the Club throughout the year by becoming Aquatic Helpers at PSC. The benefit to these young swimmers is massive. They, themselves as swimmers, are teaching new swimmers and by being coached themselves within PSC, know exactly what's needed the PSC way. By providing support, skills and qualifications these swimmers can now go on to College or Uni with a qualification that

can help them work and support themselves. Fine examples of this in practice is: Grace Beeston, Libby Magill who were competitive swimmers, Charlie Mulholland and Poppy Magill are now supporting development swimmers, Annie and Eleanor McLeod supporting Little Putts Swimmers and Luke Hutcheson who is now taking a keen interest in helping land training or poolside. It has become a PSC ethos – 'Keep It In the family'.

Competition wise, 2023 brought a full Competition Calendar for the Club.

Lawrence competed at international level in Barcelona and in the National Arena League, our Team came 12th overall in the Premier Division.

We had 30 qualifiers in the East Region Long Course Championships in May, equalling our best record. We had Multi-Finalists and medallists. Overall, we ended up 9th in the East Region - an outstanding achievement.

At the British Championships, Lawrence qualified but was sadly injured. He competed to get his times ranked and made the finals but unfortunately his injury forced him to withdraw.

We had many successes in the British Summer Championships – most notable:

Lawrence Palmer
Annie McLeod
George Prince
Grace Robinson

In the Swim England Summer Championships, we had

Lawrence again along with:
Annie McLeod
George Prince
Grace Robinson
Ryan Roberts
And also Ollie O'Connor

At the Winter East Region Short Course Open Championships
We had 20 qualifiers. 5 more than last year.

Lawrence Palmer
Harry Bird
Lucy Calver
Melike Dagdalen
Adam Hussain
Imola Jozsa
Marcus King
Poppy Magill
Holly Larbey
Eleanor McLeod
Sophie Payne
Izzy Porzio
Millie Porzio
George Prince
Ryan Roberts
Adam Hazlewood
Alfie Warnock
Annie McLeod
Ollie O'Connor

At East Region Winter Champs

We had a great weekend producing PB's, progression heats to finals, medals, Champions, County records AND Winter National qualification times. Most notable achievements came from

*Lawrence Palmer
Annie McLeod
Sophie Payne
Ollie O'Connor, and
George Prince*

The Winter National Short Course Championships Included more exceptional personal achievements for:

*Lawrence Palmer
Annie McLeod
George Prince*

Over the course of the year numerous Swim England Bedfordshire records were broken by:

*George Prince
Sophie Payne
Annie McLeod*

In 2023 we had PSC Swimmers selected on Swim England Development programmes. On the County Pathway:

*Eden Meanti
Lily Sykes
Michael Hussain
Zac Spiers
Harry Rowson, and
Jack Canham*

And on the Regional Pathway:

*Luke Owens
Philip Spalding and
Kian Ptolomey*

On National Age Group:

Grace Robinson

And in the National Youth Development:

Ollie O'Connor

Lawrence Palmer ran the Regional Programme for Swim England and was selected as a Coach on the National Age Group programme and Lesley Batson was selected to Coach on the National Youth Development Programme Camp.

These amazing opportunities allow our Coaches to bring back all the Up-To-Date Swim England resources to use in our Club - giving our own swimmers and coaches even more tools in their toolbox.

The successes of 2023 has actually come from years of all our hard work – from our swimmers, our coaches and our parents. Our Putteridge Swimming Club and we should all feel very proud that the reputation of our club is becoming well known and established in the region.

As I said at the beginning, the economic background has brought many challenges and the Club simply would not have survived without the PSC Open Meets.

They have provided a large part of the club's income and have allowed us up to now, to continue to subsidise membership fees and keep them reasonable in such challenging economic times.

Open meets take a huge amount of time across the whole club: writing event programmes and conditions, applying for licences, writing entry files, accepting entries etc.. On the day technical volunteers are needed, officials, technical suite operators, non-technical volunteers, welfare coaches TMs', - its all hands-on deck.

Swimming events require so many volunteers, we wouldn't be able to compete at all without our volunteers and we always need more. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has helped throughout 2023.

Our Open Meets are even more important this year as they continue to help provide the 'financial bedrock' we need to be a developing, successful and sustainable swimming club.

Over the past 2 difficult years we have made a cumulative operating loss. Prudently, we maintained reserves to support this but it is becoming increasingly clear that we must get the club back to a sustainable position - especially given the current economic environment.

Finally, I would like to say, our achievements this year would not have been possible without the support of our Committee, our Management Team, Head Coach, all our Coaches, Helpers, Volunteers and Parents. On behalf of everyone at the club, I thank you all for your valued support throughout 2023.

Now, at this point I will hand you over to our acting Treasurer, Owen Bird to present the Treasurer's Report for 2023.

2.0 TREASURER'S REPORT

3.0 RE-ELECTION OF THE INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

I am advised that Chris Maylin has agreed to undertake the task of Independent Examiner for another year. Firstly, I would like to thank Chris for his support and I propose we take full advantage of this opportunity and ask for a vote to approve Chris Maylin as our Independent Examiner for 2024

4.0 ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE

In accordance with the Committee resolution dated 13th June 2016 the Committee will be made up of a maximum of 8 members including the Executive members. I have received nomination forms for the following positions:

Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Committee Members. In the absence of any further nominations, I propose we run through each and confirm or otherwise the elections by

our online voting system.

Position	Nominated	Proposed by	Seconded by
Chair	Chris Long	Lesley Batson	Lawrence Palmer
Vice Chair	Lawrence Palmer	Chris Long	Lesley Batson
Treasurer	Owen Bird	Lesley Batson	Lawrence Palmer
Secretary	Jeff Zorn	Lesley Batson	Chris Long
Committee Member	Michael Pound	Lesley Batson	Chris Long
Committee Member	Elaine Hazlewood	Chris Long	Lesley Batson
Committee Member	Lucie Cox	Lesley Batson	Chris Long
Committee Member	Sheree Meanti	Lesley Batson	Jeff Zorn

5.0 ELECTION OF CUSTODIANS OF THE CLUB

The property of the Club other than cash at the bank and including such items as medals, clothing merchandise, swim aids etc., must be vested in two 'Custodians' who are Committee Members of the Club. In the Notice of AGM document posted on the club's website both Lawrence Palmer and Lesley Batson were nominated as Custodians. However, Custodians must be Committee members and therefore the nominees now being proposed are Elaine Hazlewood and Lawrence Palmer.

Position	Nominated	Proposed by	Seconded by
Custodian	Elaine Hazlewood	Lesley Batson	Lawrence Palmer
Custodian	Lawrence Palmer	Chris Long	Lesley Batson

6.0 RESOLUTIONS

No resolutions have been submitted in accordance with Rule 9.3 of our Constitution and I can therefore advise that the Annual General Meeting of Putteridge Swimming Club 2024 is now closed.

The minutes of this meeting and copy of the Annual Accounts will be posted on the club's website in due course.

Thank you everyone.