



**PUTTERIDGE SWIMMING CLUB  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2023**

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Online via ZOOM: 21<sup>st</sup> February 2023 at 7:00 pm

**MINUTES**

Chris Long welcomed everyone to the 2023 Annual General Meeting of Putteridge Swimming Club. He explained he was the current Chairman of the Club and was chairing the evening's proceedings.

He advised, for the sake of good order, that 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 they were not, they were asked to leave the meeting.

The Chairman then confirmed that the meeting had a quorum of more than 7 members entitled to vote and therefore, the AGM could proceed.

The Chairman advised that he would be reporting on the Operational Year from January 1, 2022 to December 31<sup>st</sup> 2022 and that the purpose of the AGM was to transact and conclude the following business in accordance with the Club's Constitution.

**Agenda item 1.**

**To receive the Chairman's Report of the activities of the Club during our 2022 year.**

**Agenda item 2.**

**To receive the Treasurer's report**

This included the accounts of the Club for the financial year 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022 – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022 and the status of the club's independent examination.

**Agenda item 3.**

**The election of our independent examiner.**

The Chairman advised that the club's independent examiner cannot be a member of the Committee or a member of a family of any member of the Committee and that this is a specific condition 9.2.3 of the Club's Constitution.

**Agenda item 4.**

**The Election of the Executive Officers and Committee.**

The Chairman advised:

- (i) in accordance with the club's Constitution, all current Executive Officers and members of the Committee will stand down at this AGM and,
  - (ii) 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 17<sup>th</sup> January 2023.
- He further advised that a function of the AGM will be to elect the new Executive Officers and other members of the Committee that will take the club forward until the next AGM in February 2024.

**Agenda item 5.**

**Resolutions**

Chris Long advised that the meeting would then conclude by deciding upon any resolution which may have been submitted in accordance with Rule 9.3 of our Constitution.

## **1.0 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The global pandemic continued to bring many difficulties and challenges to everybody's lives and for our swimming club it was no different. We started a new kind of 'normal' at the beginning of 2022, that required stewardship of the club through a number of new challenges. Our primary challenge was to try and progress the club forward whilst remaining financially sustainable in increasingly difficult times.

A major focus was to try and grow our 'Little Putts Academy' at Lealands School. This is where we were able to not only introduce very young children into the sport of swimming but also create an opportunity to grow our membership and income.

It went well and we are now teaching many able-bodied and disabled children in our community. The Academy has grown to 200+ swimmers and we are now giving parents and children a flexible approach to the Swim England Learn-to-Swim programme, starting them as young as 3 years old.

The Little Putts Academy is offering 2 pathways through children's formative stages - the Competitive Pathway with the very important feeder into our PSC mainstream and the Traditional Pathway which simply supports young children's physical education.

The Academy has worked throughout 2022 with children on the autistic spectrum - from severe where 1:1 is needed, to non-conversant, to high functioning. We have also worked with many physically disabled children. We are currently supporting 22 children across the spectrum.

As such, the club has provided an important service within our community during 2022 and the reputation of the Academy continues to grow. Local Community Organisations are now sending their patients to us - to get them into swimming. These include Edwin Lobo Centre, Autism Bedford, Team Beds and Luton and Active Luton.

Many of our young PSC swimmers became Aquatic Helpers at the Academy in 2022 – so that now we have PSC swimmers teaching new PCS swimmers – passing on their own personal experiences and expertise of coaching within the club.

This important characteristic of 'Keeping It In the Family' is helping develop an amazing organic progression throughout the Club – a fundamental ingredient to our long-term sustainable growth strategy.

2022 also saw the return of a near normal Competition Calendar. It soon became clear that all the hard work and progress made by the club during the difficult days of COVID was starting to produce really positive results.

Lawrence was once again flying the Putteridge flag on the international stage. He competed in Barcelona - his first International Meet in 2 years! It was great to see the club represented on the international stage once again.

The National Arena League was back - and PSC came 10th overall in the League's Premier Division.

Our club had 30 qualifiers in the East Region Long Course Championships. The most we have ever had. Both multi-finalists and medalists.

British Summer Championships saw Lawrence win Gold and Bronze, Olivia Newman-Baronius competed in both the 100 and 200 fly. Then qualifying for the first time, Ollie O'Conner, who multi-finalled and Isabella Porzio who qualified in the 200 breast.

The Swim England Summer Championships saw Annie McLeod in her 1st National Competition qualifying in the 400 freestyle and making her first final.

In the Winter East Region Short Course Open Championships we had 15 qualifiers. This was an Open qualification, so an amazing achievement by all of them.

In the Winter National Short Course Championships, Lawrence won Gold and Bronze. Olivia qualified for the 100 and 200 fly and it was the 1st Winter National for Annie in the 200 fly.

Counties was our most recent event and it saw the whole team perform outstandingly. Never in our history have we won so many relays. Neither have we had so many age group Champions or Junior and Senior Champions!!

The global pandemic brought many challenges but we have dealt with them thus far. Financial Stewardship and Governance has been at the centre of everything we did and the Club simply would not have survived without the PSC Open Meets in 2022.

Each of these events takes a huge amount of time from writing the event programmes and conditions, applying for licences, writing entry files, accepting entries etc. On event days: technical volunteers in the form of officials and the technical suite running the event, to licence and non-technical volunteers, Welfare Coaches TMs', its literally all hands on deck.

Our Open Meets need so many people and we simply cannot stage them without the support of our 'army' of volunteers.

A special thanks must also go to Redrow who continued to sponsor some of our Meets during the year. It is essential that we maintain this incredible support as Open Meets increasingly become a mainstay of the club's annual income.

This year is going to be equally challenging. Post pandemic, post Brexit, and a war in Europe continues to put pressure on our economy and the very resources we rely upon.

The huge increases in energy prices pose a 'clear and present threat' to swimming pools without urgent government support. Figures from ukactive revealed that the total energy bill for the leisure sector has risen from £500 million in 2019 to between £1.0 – £1.2 billion for this year.

The sector has been united in calling for the Government to work with them to deliver the support needed to ensure swimming pools can continue to provide their services at an affordable cost for club's like us.

Our Open Meets are going to be even more important this year as they 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 loss of £3,969. 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.

It was therefore, with a heavy heart, that the Committee took a decision in 2022 to increase Annual Subs and monthly fees in 2023, to effectively adjust for the annual losses. We are

sure our members will understand, especially given we have kept them low for some years now and we currently face unprecedented times ahead.

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 support throughout 2022.

## **2.0 TREASURER'S REPORT**

The Chairman informed the meeting that, at this point, he would normally be handing over to the Club's Treasurer, Ally Donachie, to present the Treasurer's Report for 2022, however, Ally Donachie was unable to attend the meeting. The Chairman advised that he would therefore be presenting the accounts for 2022.

Before doing so the Chairman stated that he would like to say a special thanks to Ally. "He is stepping down as our Treasurer this year and we will miss him. His expertise, diligence and support to the club has been invaluable and on behalf of everyone associated with the club, I thank him and wish him all the best for the future".

The Chairman advised that the Accounts for the Year Ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022 will be appended to the minutes of this AGM and will be available to all members on the club's website in due course.

The Chairman advised that the Accounts were signed off by the Club's Independent Examiner, Chris Maylin on the 14<sup>th</sup> February 2023.

In the absence of the Club Treasurer, the Chairman reported the Headline points of the Accounts:

1. The Club's Income for the year was £210,934.
2. The Expenditure for the same period was £220,038
3. This produced a Net Loss for the year of £9,104.
4. However, it should be noted that £6,390 of Lealands Pool Hire Costs incurred in 2021 was infact carried over into 2022 accounts, slightly distorting operational costs for both years. Effectively, the club actually made a loss for both years of £1,255 and £2,714 respectively. This financial year we have ensured that where possible, all monies owed for 2022 have been fully accounted for.

The Chairman advised that the losses have been met from reserves the club has built over previous years and that the current reserve is just over £20,000.

The Chairman advised that should there be any specific questions arising from the accounts, they may be directed to Ally and he will then deal with them upon his return.

The Chairman asked if anyone have any questions at this stage. None were forthcoming.

## **3.0 RE-ELECTION OF THE INDEPENDENT EXAMINER**

The Chairman advised that Chris Maylin had agreed to undertake the task of Independent Examiner for another year. He thanked Chris for his support throughout 2022 and proposed that the club take full advantage of this opportunity and asked for a vote to approve Chris Maylin as our Independent Examiner for 2023. This was approved.

#### 4.0 ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE

The Chairman advised that, in accordance with the Committee resolution dated 13<sup>th</sup> June 2016, the Committee will be made up of a maximum of 8 members including the Executive members. He advised that he had received nomination forms for the following positions:

Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Committee Members and in the absence of any further nominations, he proposed we run through each and confirm or otherwise the elections via the zoom online voting system.

<b>Position</b>	<b>Nominated</b>	<b>Proposed by</b>	<b>Seconded by</b>
Chair	Chris Long	Lesley Batson	Lawrence Palmer
Vice Chair	Lawrence Palmer	Chris Long	Lesley Batson
Treasurer	We have not received any nominations yet for the position of Treasurer. Ally has advised he will stay on as 'acting' Treasurer until we do.		
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	Owen Bird	Lesley Batson	Lawrence Palmer

All positions were approved unanimously.

#### 5.0 RESOLUTIONS

The Chairman advised that no resolutions had been submitted in accordance with Rule 9.3 of our Constitution and therefore advised that the Annual General Meeting of Putteridge Swimming Club 2023 was now closed.