



South Ayrshire Swim Team – Annual General Meeting

Monday 19 August 2023 – 7.30pm, The Citadel Leisure Centre, Ayr

<p>Present: Clare Harper, Andy Harper, Phil Stanbridge, Clare Baird, Caroline Heslop, Catrina Steele, Karen Imrie, George McLeod, Allan Simpson, Carolyn Jamieson, Linda Rimmer, Louise Copeland, Rosemary Logie, Betty Logan, Neil Corcoran, Mike Boles, Amy Godfrey, Shirely Robertson, Joanna Clapton, Ewan Clark, Colin Haddow, Fiona Vignon, Louise Littlejohn, Byron Stericker, James Jeffries, Brian Dalglish.</p> <p>Apologies: Robert Hammond, Allison Illingworth, Murray Cameron, Janice Cameron</p>	
Welcome and Introductions	Andy Harper opened the meeting, welcomed everyone present and acknowledged good representation of membership from different areas of the club. He referred to the agenda and introduced the Executive Committee members.
Approval of 2023 AGM Minutes	The 2023 Minutes were approved - proposed by Allan Simpson and seconded by Clare Baird.
Chairperson's Report	James presented the Chair report, copies of which were issued via email and made available on the SAST website ahead of the AGM. James provided a resume of the club's activity in his final year of Chair, offering thanks to all our volunteers and commending the work of all our Coaches. He finished by wishing the new Committee the best of luck.
Head Coaches Report	<p>Byron Stericker presented the Head Coaches report on behalf of himself and Brian Dalglish. Copies of the full report were issued via email and made available on the SAST website ahead of the AGM.</p> <p>Points Highlighted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Too many successes to mention, but we have tried to capture these in the report that was circulated. • Club remains in a very good place, and we continue to operate very close to our capacity for the current set up. Byron noted we are at around 240 members, as against 160 when he joined the club. • Our ability to provide volunteers and officials is almost un-matched in the District and other clubs have highlighted this to the coaches – thanks to everyone.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special mention for the para swimmers who have been particularly successful this season, including trips to Italy and Turkey with Betty and Ian. • Pleased that ex-swimmers continue to work as coaches and delighted to welcome Jessica Murdoch in that regard. • This year the focus will be on consolidating the progress the club has made to date, to ensure we have a solid footing from which to move forward if/when the club grows. • Special thanks to last season's committee/Exec/volunteers for their team work in supporting the coaches. • Special mention for hitting the fundraising target so quickly which has secured new timing equipment. • Thanks to Committee, coaches, volunteers and swimmers and parents. <p>Rosemary Logie commented that the volume of young volunteers at meets was a great credit to the ethos of the club and great to see. Coaches agreed and expressed how much they enjoyed working along side our younger volunteers.</p>
Finance Report	<p>Louise Littlejohn delivered the Finance Report for year ending 30th June 2024. Copies of the Financial accounts were issued via email and made available on the SAST website ahead of the AGM. Louise presented these in the meeting.</p> <p>Points Highlighted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accounts are prepared on a cash basis, not based on income/expenditure match as per normal accounting process. • Aim has been to maximise income and minimise expense due to deficit last year. Increase in squad numbers and great effort from Linda Rimmer to maximise meet income has been welcome. • We have also held as many meets as the Citadel was able to accommodate. • Bonus Ball income down, as not all numbers taken, but we are working on this. • Timing Equipment campaign has been a huge success and thanks to volunteers and contributors for that as we cannot run the meets without it. • Coaching costs down due to using Team Managers where possible. • Warm Weather camp was run last October and will happen again this year.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reserves up by approximately £22k which is roughly where we were hoping to be, whilst recovering from Covid, putting the club in a good place. • Happy to propose the accounts for approval on that basis. <p>Questions raised from the floor:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ewan Clark: The Subscriptions item has increased in the year – what are these? • Response: Small subscriptions for various licenses etc, the bulk of which is the Team Unify annual cost. Brian noted that following a failure in the system, he had negotiated a refund, the amount of which was still to be agreed. • Ewan Clark: Are there any further/annual fees associated with Timing equipment? • Response: In effect no. The majority of what was purchased are physical assets, whilst the annual fee for the timing software we were already paying. <p>Annual accounts were put to the vote and were carried unanimously.</p>
Proposed Changes to Club Constitution, Bye-Laws and Policies	<p>Andy Harper explained that an updated Constitution Document and associated Policies had been circulated and uploaded to the SAST website, and whilst this had a different 'look' to satisfy Scottish Swimming accreditation (Aquamark Level 1), the actual changes related to just three new policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Club Secure Data Handling Policy Mar 24 • Recruiting People with Convictions Policy Mar 24 • Safer Recruitment Policy Mar 24 <p>All changes were carried unanimously.</p>
Determination of Level of subscription and Training Fees 2024/35	<p>A copy of the proposed annual fees 2024-25 were issued via email and made available on the SAST website ahead of the AGM.</p> <p>Questions/Comments raised from the floor:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Catrina Steele: There's quite a jump in SP1 Fees this year, and we're now paying the SS fee on top when this was not the case before. • Response: previously the SS fee was an unseen cost, as it was included as part of the fee spread over the year, this was separated out during Covid. It was felt that the long training hours and level of input from both Head coaches into the most senior squad in the club



was not being reflected in the fees, relative to other squads. This was perhaps higher than it might have been, as all of the development squad are moving on the SAC Leisure Membership scheme this season.

- George McLeod: There are small pool hire fees shown in the accounts – what are these, and where are the main pool hire costs?
- Response: The pool hire shown is for meets – when we take the whole pool for a day or half day. Main pool hire fees are not shown, as there are none, due to the partnership arrangement with SAC.

There followed a discussion on the relative cost/benefit of the SAC Leisure partnership, which results in all SAST swimmers taking out a SAC membership. Key points were:

- The benefits available to swimmers, varies with age although the cost is the same, e.g., younger swimmers have access to pool time only, whilst older swimmer can use the gym, not entirely fair?
- Louise Littlejohn explained that had the club not gone into partnership with SAC, the fees at that time would have doubled (due to having to pay for pool time for every session).
- Brian highlighted that as such, paying the SAC element was keeping membership costs down to a degree that was many more times larger than the actual SAC fee. The SAC is really a mechanism to avoid paying for pool time and reduce overall clubs costs (and membership fees) and therefore access to any additional activity was a bonus.
- Brian did accept there had been teething problems registering swimmers under 11, and he was working with SAC to resolve this.
- It was generally agreed that compared to other sports/activities, swimming fees appear high – until they reviewed relative to the amount of hours training received.
- Byron highlighted that the financial benefit of the SAC partnership was only part of the story, and his experience the way that SAC support the club and make our sessions part of their overall maintenance and management planning is unique.

Louise summarised the approach by noting that the fees only cover running costs for the club, and anything else must be raised by holding meets or fundraising. The proposed figures are the result of three months of deliberation and much scrutiny to ensure the future of the club.

Proposed Fees were put to the vote and were carried unanimously.



Election of Vacant Committee Posts	<p>Summary of changing and new Committee positions:</p> <table><tr><td><u>Position</u></td><td><u>Member elected</u></td><td><u>Proposed by</u></td><td><u>Seconded by</u></td></tr><tr><td>Chair</td><td><i>Colin Haddow</i></td><td>James Jeffries</td><td>Carolyn Jamieson</td></tr><tr><td>General Member</td><td><i>Ewan Clark</i></td><td>Clare Baird</td><td>George McLeod</td></tr></table> <p>A vote of thanks was offered to George McLeod who had to be co-opted onto the committee during the year to fill an unexpected vacancy at STO. His position was duly ratified by the AGM attendees.</p>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Member elected</u>	<u>Proposed by</u>	<u>Seconded by</u>	Chair	<i>Colin Haddow</i>	James Jeffries	Carolyn Jamieson	General Member	<i>Ewan Clark</i>	Clare Baird	George McLeod
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Election of Club Captains	<p>Club Captains for the 2024/25 Season</p> <p>This year, willing candidates were asked to make written application for the role, and based on the result, it's a process that the Coaches wish to continue (with thanks to Rosie Logie for making the suggestion).</p> <p>Under the Constitution, there can be only two captains, and these will be Eilidh Robertson and Benji Jeffries. However, the applications were so strong, the Coache have also appointed vice-captains to support them, and these will be Emma Logie and Lewis Gibson.</p> <p>Congratulations to the new club captains and thank you to the outgoing club captains Katherine Simpson and Adam Currie. Katherine has offered to provide a hand-over and the Coaches agreed that this would be very beneficial, as she had done a fantastic job in defining the role this season.</p>												
Appointment of Auditors	<p>William Duncan & Co, Chartered Accountants were re-appointed as proposed by Louise Littlejohn and seconded by Andy Harper, noting that this firm now trade as Dains Accountants.</p> <p>This carried unanimous support from the AGM attendees.</p>												
Announcements of Life Membership and Other Awards	<p>No Life Membership Award was presented this year.</p> <p>A Special Awards of recognition was presented to our outgoing Chair James Jeffries, for a job well done, not least in relation to overseeing the replacement timing gear. Special mention for Allan Simpson for the Race Against the Clock Campaign and organising the Race Night more of less single-handed.</p>												



Date of AGM 2023	Monday 18th August 2025
AOCB	N/A
Andy Harper thanked everyone for attending, offered good luck for the new season and closed the meeting.	