



Soundwell Swimming Club AGM 2024

Date of Meeting – 11th July 2024 via Zoom

Attendees

- Sarah Taylor (Chair)
- Emma Dodd (Vice Chair)
- Matt Chub (Treasurer)
- Laura Larder (Secretary)
- Sarah England (Competition & Open Meet Secretary)
- Louise Phillips (Welfare Officer)
- Simon Gale
- Alison Dodds
- Russ Smith
- John Buchanan

Apologies

- Jon Wills (Head Coach)
- Claire Kerslake (Welfare Officer)

Previous Minutes

It was agreed that the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 14th July 2023 are accepted as a true record.

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from our previous meeting, the minutes of which were circulated and are on our website.

Chairs report

Welcome to our AGM.

Each year when I am preparing the Chair's statement, I take a look back on what I wrote the previous year. Last year we had made real progress, with a return to twice yearly open meets, numbers were increasing, and we had achieved club records of the numbers of swimmers qualifying at County, Regional and National level.

However, the 12 months ahead came with some challenges: our Learn to Swim programme was losing two key teachers who were moving on to other things and the future for that was unclear. In addition, we had made a loss in the 2022/23 season, and pool costs continued to rise. The need to balance the books and to rebuild the financial reserves lost during COVID were critical.

I am pleased to say that, with the hard work of everyone across the club, things really have improved this year. Shortly after our AGM, Soundwell was named British Swimming's Club of the Year at the British Age Group Swimming Championships. This was an incredible achievement for the Club, and as well as a trophy, we received £5,000 towards a Performance Camp, which is taking place in October 2024. We also had incredible success at both the British and English Age Group Championships in 2023. The Club is at over 90% capacity with squad numbers and the Learn to Swim programme is thriving, with new teachers coming from within our squad swimming community, and numbers continue to increase. A particular thank you to Emma Dodd for making this happen. I am also delighted that we made a financial surplus this year, which is moving the club in the right direction, although our finances continue to need close management and discipline, and grants and other fundraising remain essential.

We could not have achieved all of this without our fantastic coaches, led by Jon Wills, our Head Coach. Jon's training programme is widely regarded amongst clubs across the Region. The results have been sustained this year, and we have gladly supported swimmers at National Level from a number of clubs in preparing for National competitions, including them in our training programme, working alongside their home clubs and coaches. It is a testament to Jon's reputation that clubs are seeking our support. Jon doesn't work alone, so I'd like to say a huge thank you to all our coaches who work so hard with our swimmers, from the beginners through to National Potential. The National swimmers of today came through our squads, and the quality of coaching at all levels has helped get them to where they are. The swimming pathway, led by Ashley Barnett, which links in swim schools across the area to entry level in our club is making great progress, and the Development gala we held last year was repeated again in 2024 and was hugely successful.

Swimming aside, there is much that goes on behind the scenes to make that all possible, so I'd like to focus on some of the big positives from this past year:

We have been able to hold our 2 annual Open Meets, which provide the majority of our 'subsidy' funding towards pool costs. Our relationship with Hutton Moor has been very successful and it continues to be our preferred venue. With the update of GL1 (including a new timing system), we will explore its use in 2025, and we continue to look to holding a third open meet at Level 2 around September, jointly with Bristol Penguins.

The majority of our Club Committee roles have been filled, and that has made a tremendous difference to the running of the Club. I am grateful to Dan Phillips coming on board to help with fundraising, and Laura Larder who has just taken on the Secretary role. I am incredibly grateful to all of the volunteers who have come forward to support in the running of the Club. I'd like to say a particular thank you to Sarah England, who has done such a great job as our Competition Secretary behind the scenes. This is a big role, but often goes unnoticed. Also

I'd like to recognize the contribution of Matt Chubb, our Treasurer. He has such a big role, on top of a full-time job and family commitments, and we couldn't run the club without him. A huge thank you to Claire Kerslake who has stayed on as one of our Welfare Officers, even with her swimmer hanging up his trunks! Claire is on the brink of getting signed off as an official, and it is brilliant that she and her husband are continuing to support the club.

Our volunteer workforce continues to look healthy. We have a good number of officials. Luisa Arce is training as a referee, and we have had a number of officials pass the next level of their training. We do need more entry level trainee officials, and we'll be seeking out more volunteers when we return in September. Our Team Managers, who support our swimmers at Meets and at Camps, have increased, and it is great to have a better balance between men and women. We do need more TMs to spread the load, and particularly to support development meets where the older swimmers are not competing, and again we will be asking for more volunteers in September.

The Club Shop continues to go from strength to strength. Thank you to Jess Chubb and Sue Long and the team of volunteers who have been staffing the shop. As well as generating funds, it is a real focal point to enable parents to chat, and to ask questions. We still need more volunteers to spread the load, particularly from anyone who can help on a Sunday.

I do need to touch on the challenges ahead, although the list is somewhat shorter than last year! Rising pool costs continue to be a challenge. We have excellent relationships with our pool providers, helped by Sonja Dalgarno, who manages our pool bookings, however cost increases are inevitable and out of the control of our pool providers. We need to continue to build our reserves to ensure we have an adequate risk contingency in case one of our open meets cannot go ahead, or if we have some emergency expenditure. Matt's tight grip on the cash flow budget is helping the committee keep a careful eye on things, and this will continue for the 2024/25 season.

Swim England regulation and 'guidance' weighs heavy on clubs and volunteer committees. This was recognized in a recent Swim England 'Listening' Report. With a one-size-fits-all approach, this regulation unfairly impacts smaller clubs, and is a challenge. We will continue to work collaboratively with the County, Region and other clubs to try to reduce this challenge.

Finally, I'll close by thanking you all for your support. I know how challenging it is to be a swimmer alongside work and other family commitments. Your swimmer could not do this without you. I have noticed over the past 12 months a change in atmosphere as we have finally shaken off the legacy of COVID. Whether it is Friday night balcony bake-offs, trips to the pub while training is on, making friends in the balcony, or getting together at our end of season BBQ, there is a noticeable difference in atmosphere, and it is heartening to see. I very much hope this will continue when we return in September.

I'd like to recognize the amazing achievements of every single one of our swimmers. Whether they have swum their first gala this year, or achieved National qualification, or anything in between, they should be incredibly proud of what they have achieved. We are losing a couple of our older swimmers this year. I'd like to wish Austin May and Amber Witcombe every success as they move on to the next phase of their lives. Both have been a part of the Club for many years, with Amber also teaching alongside competing, and they will both be very much missed.

Financial Report

The annual accounts were circulated to all parents before the AGM.

Approval of Ind Examiner

Rachael Pickard approved the financial statement. RP does not have any connection with the club. The Meeting passed their thanks to her for her examination of the accounts.

Treasurers Notes:

This year we wanted to focus on the development squad numbers (Skills Development, Competition Skills) and we started off the year with a reasonable size at the lower levels, but not near the 90% capacity we would prefer. Through the year Ashley and the other coaches have done some great work to build up our development squad numbers, part of which is linking in with other swim clubs, as well as running trials nights. We ended the financial year in a much healthier position where we had hit our 90% capacity targets.

In our Learn to Swim lessons we started the year really well and pretty much at full capacity. When we got to around Feb/March time, another swim club doing LTS closed down which caused an influx of new swimmers. We managed to react to this by re-organising the LTS sessions as well as putting in a few extra classes, allowing us to accommodate more swimmers. This has led to an increase in our LTS coaching costs.

Finances

Income

- Squad Fees for the year total £152.8k which includes Annual Membership Fees 10.2k
- Year on year – squads fees both Squad and LTS increased by £5k (4%) driven by those increase in swimmer numbers
- Annual membership fees – we decided to increase these to £60, and keep them fixed at that price for 2 years to cover Team Unify costs increasing.
- Master Fees – very small amount as we ended this last year due to numbers as well as pool time changes.
- Soundwell hosted events – we hold two of our own swim events as well as a couple of smaller events which are all key to covering costs through the year.
- Competition Fees are a little up on last year, but don't forget a lot of that is pass through revenues. £43.3k
- Kit Sales are £1000, up from £700 the previous year – there are now various pieces of kit for sale, with more than just t-shirts being sold.
- Camp – once again camp pays for itself, and the club doesn't make anything from this. This covers two swim camp periods (Mount Kelly last year, and deposits for overseas camp coming this year)
- Fundraising - 2 x grants (1 for £3k and another for £2k), Community Matters £500, £250 for Mental Health work Andrea undertook and £120 from Easyfundraising,
- Shop Income – £2.6k this year has seen a real increase in shop income, doubled on last year which comes from not being in the previous covid window. There are more parents around and the increased number of kids that we now have in the club – apologies if that means more visits to the dentist!

Costs

- £6k increase in coaching fees – driven by increased squad numbers, and we saw a small increase in those competition revenues, where we did one or two events that meant we needed to cover coaching fees
- Pool Hire, always brings a tear to my eye, but last year was pretty much in-line with expectations, and going into this year we have started to see increases from leisure centres for general running, plus some new guidelines on lifeguards.
- Swim England Fees – up against last year, but driven by swimming numbers. We also have a healthy number of volunteers who we need to cover as well.
- Our meet costs rose slightly last year, as well as the cost of running our events; however, we made the most of these events by ensuring they were full!
- Training costs – these have mainly been due to the increase in squads (LTS mainly) and are needed to ensure all teachers have the correct training and cover.
- Kit – couple of pieces of small kit purchased – bungee ropes, Jon's poolside speaker and our new club champ medals.
- Competition fees paid out were paid out.
- Domain and Email Systems have costs to run which are paid annually.
- Social Activities – year end BBQ
- Kit – you will notice a lot more kit than income, timing on this is that kit was purchased in this financial year, but the income came in in May.
- Shop – bulk sweets purchased for the shop.
- Hardship Fund.
- TeamUnify.

Overall, we are £6.5k up. A lot of that has come from fundraising, which we need to continue.

Welfare Report

During this swimming season 2023/2024, the Welfare Team have processed 10 DBS checks for volunteers helping out on poolside, Team managers and Swim Coaches/teachers. The verification has been very speedy and returned within a week or two.

The Welfare Team have been regularly present at training nights and competitions. This has enabled the team to support swimmers and families when they need it. Both Welfare officers have extensive experience in the world of swimming and have been able to offer advice in an informal capacity and also supporting parents to have conversations with coaches if needed.

The Welfare Team have also supported the coaches when they have had questions or concerns about a swimmer's welfare. We have been able to work with parents and coaches to ensure the swimmers have the support they need.

Both the Welfare officers attend committee meetings and share safeguarding updates from Swim England, for example, the 'no Mobile phones use in changing rooms' was shared across all squads and coaches. Everyone was aware of this new requirement this season.

The Welfare Officers will continue next season spending as much time at the pool with all the squads so we can respond to concerns/questions promptly ensuring everyone at

Soundwell Swimming Club is supported on their swimming journey whether it's a swimmer, parent, coach, teacher or a volunteer.

Head Coach Report

Welcome to all and thank you for attending.

First off, I would like to thank the committee and volunteers for their tireless work over the last couple of years to allow the club to thrive and grow. The club is now beginning to reach good numbers across all squads with the help of LTS galas and the pathway sessions. The continued hard work of the academy team has also been on show, with swimmers progressing into the competitive program on a regular basis. Due to the success in the pool, we have also experienced increased demand from older and swimmers wanting to join the club.

We have continued to build relationships with local clubs (Bristol North, Bristol penguins and Clevedon). Through these links we have developed joint training sessions, club champs and galas. This is an area that has benefited all who have participated, and I look forward to seeing what developments can happen in the future.

Club level

We managed to run another successful club champs this year with the help of Bristol North. Lots of new swimmers have been given the well needed opportunity to compete within a safe, friendly, and familiar environment. Big thanks to all the organisers and volunteers who helped make these possible.

We also managed to run two open meets this year which were a great success. These brought in essential funds for the club and were run very successfully. A massive thank you again goes out to all the organisers and volunteers who helped.

County Level Competition

This was another very successful championship with a record number of qualifiers for the club. A total of 15 senior and junior titles were won.

51 Gold - 28 Silver - 43 Bronze

Final medal and points rankings were not published by the county.

Regional level competition

Summer

Very strong performance in total. Increase in qualifiers from 30 to 37 qualifiers. We totalled 21 medals.

6 gold, 6 silver, 9 bronze

49 finals

Open water

8 swimmers -1 silver - 3 National qualifiers - 6 top 10s

National level competition

Winter

We had 8 swimmers qualify for this year's champs with a total of 25 events across all disciplines. We managed to total 7 junior finals (17yrs & under) and a 3rd place for Harriet in the 100fly junior. We also managed to bag 3 county records for Rhys, Roger & Harriet, some were from 2006.

British Champs/Olympic trials

2 Qualifiers - Roger and Harriet

Summer nationals

NEW CLUB RECORD OF 17 INDIVIDUAL QUALIFIERS!!

British Summer champs	English Summer nationals	Open Water
Roger Harry T Rhys Sam Harriet Jake G Josh	Zachary Weekes Sam Mills Archie Dalgarno Josh Miles Roger Davis Harry Taylor Rhys Dodd Jake Gaunt Austin May Maia Dodd Evie-Bea Chubb Lucy Budd Harriet Smith Amber Witcombe	Josh Jonah Amelie

Arena League

Strong 3 rounds from Soundwell placing just outside the regional final in 10th.
The arena league teams were a great success, and we will be looking to run the same this coming season.

Junior Arena League

Last round to be complete. Great set up with gala set up. Look forward to the final results.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all the members of the committee that have given up so much time to run the club. A special mention should also go out to the tireless work of the coaching team. Their hard work passion and enthusiasm enables all of these young swimmers to achieve their dreams. There wouldn't be a swimming club without your

help. We do run on volunteers and the club relies on parent power to continue, if you have any skills, you feel may benefit the club please come forward

Election of Officers

Post	Name	Status
Chair	Sarah Taylor	Re-appointed
Vice-Chair	Emma Dodd	Re-appointed
Secretary	Laura Larder	Appointed
Treasurer	Matt Chubb	Re-appointed
Assistant Treasurer	-	Vacant
Welfare Officer	Claire Kerslake	Re-appointed
Assistant Welfare Officer	Louise Phillips	Re-appointed
Competition Secretary	Sarah England	Re-appointed
Membership Secretary	Sarah Bodmer	Appointed
Officials Co-ordinator	Steve Witcombe	Re-appointed
Workforce Co-ordinator	Maxine Adams	Re-appointed
Swim Mark Co-ordinator	Barbara Gaunt	Re-appointed
Pool Bookings Co-ordinator	Sonja Dalgarno	Re-appointed
Club Shop & Helpdesk Officer	Jess Chubb	Re-appointed
Fundraising Co-ordinator	-	Vacant
Sponsorship & Grants Co-ordinator	-	Vacant
Trophy Controller	-	Vacant
Independent Financial Examiner	Rachel Pickard	Re-appointed

Rachel Pickard was approved by the committee to continue in her role as Independent Financial Examiner.

AOB

The committee is happy to vote that we are not making any changes in our constitution.

Louise Phillips asked if we are able to look at funding for a club iPad, possible by crowdfunding, donation or grant. Sarah Taylor will look into costings then see how we might raise the money for this.

Russ Smith wanted to check that swimmers from other clubs are paying when training with our squad. Matt Chubb and Sarah Taylor confirmed this is happening.

Our first committee meeting after the summer is Thursday 19th September 2024 via Zoom

Approval

These minutes have been reviewed and signed-off by:

Signature: L.Larder
Name: Laura Larder
Position: Secretary
Date: 21.07.24

Signature: S Taylor
Name: Sarah Taylor
Position: Chair
Date: 22.08.24