

## **Minutes from the 48th Morpeth Amateur Swimming Club Annual General Meeting**

The meeting was held on 27.04.2017 at 7.30pm at The Cygnet lounge, White Swan, Morpeth and was chaired by Simon Watson.

### **1. Apologies for Absence**

Present: J Belton, S Watson, J Peck, A Tate, H Seymour, C Logan, A Leja, M Glossop, W Pallett, M Aitchison, K Howe, L Garland, L Henderson, V Butterworth, J Butterworth

Apologies received from: P Rushworth, C Dawson, B McGuire, L Howe

### **2. Acceptance of minutes from 25.04.2016**

The minutes from 25.04.2016 were accepted.

### **3. Matters Arising**

Nothing to discuss

### **4. Report from the Chair – S Watson**

Another very busy and exciting year for MASC has passed by. It seems that every year there are some significant changes and achievements and this year has been no exception.

Early in the year, the hard work Kay Howe and her team had put in began to pay off. From the very youngest at the Sunday sessions, to the very experienced at County and Regional level her drive and determination as Head Coach was proving to be a great boost to the club. Developing the coaching team was also something Kay took pride in as well as making sure the club was well represented in the 'outside world' at Northumberland Hub and N&D meetings.

For the first time in a number of years Kay produced an annual plan, covering many galas for all levels of experience, bringing a much more formal approach to the season providing a clear plan for the swimmers to work with throughout the season. As well as looking forward, entering new galas and changing things around there was also time for the more traditional club activities; the annual club gala was swamped with entries meaning it spilled into three sessions for the first time. There was also the annual competition with Portabello club where the club performed superbly, bringing the cup back 'home' to Morpeth.

After all this hard work, successful development of the club and its members it was then a bit of a shock when Kay announced that she was to step down as Head coach at the end of December. Changes at her 'other' job meant she was no longer able to fulfil the role but in her usual supportive way she assured me she would help recruit a replacement, fill any 'gap' needed and intended

continuing as a volunteer with the club which was a great comfort and helped me ease the 'panic' of having to recruit another head coach!

In the short term, the rest of the coaching team all rallied round and agreed to fill in any gaps while we recruited a replacement. Peter Rushworth, Carol Dawson and I interviewed the potential candidates and were delighted when we found Becki who appeared to be just the kind of Head Coach we needed. Although this would be her first Head Coach role she clearly had lots of experience she could bring to the club and continue to develop the swimmers, coaches and club – building on the work Kay had put in.

It is early days in Becki's rein but all the signs are looking very positive, with Becki's passion, experience and drive for competitive swimming, Kay supporting with the development of coaches and poolside helpers and Jennie G continuing to introduce new members into the club via the Sunday sessions the club looks to be on an exciting journey and I am looking forward to the year ahead.

As well as the poolside developments, there are also many 'behind the scenes' activities that go on that are worth taking a few minutes to mention. Lynda's work with the Head Coaches to manage competition entries often gets overlooked but is an essential part of the club's smooth running. There is also the vital role of treasurer – the true 'Cinderella' role at any club that Janet carried out for another year. Although she stepped down from the role at the end of March she made lots of time to ensure all the accounts were in order and lots of support was given to the new Treasurer, for which I know Andreas is very grateful.

There are many, many other volunteers who make this club what it is today, there is a website that gets updated, meetings get organised, poolside sessions get covered, sponsorship gets raised and I cannot name everyone who has helped this year but I can speak on behalf of the committee when I say a big 'Thank You' to them all. We have a great team at MASC, of which I am proud to be a part of.

S Watson thanked J Peck for her work as the club Treasurer and presented her with a gift of flowers. M Glossop stepped down from the committee after twenty years and was presented with a gift. L Coffey has also decided to step down from the committee.

## **5. Report from the Treasurer – J Peck**

This is my second treasurer's report –Accounts have been reviewed and verified by Ryecroft Glenton Accountants again.

I am standing down as Treasurer after this AGM and Andreas Leja is taking over the role. Please continue to support him and ensure that all monthly fees and gala costs are paid in a timely manner and in advance of the meetings.

## **6. Report from the Head Coach – B McGuire**

As I only took over as Head Coach in January 2017 this report only covers the last 4 months.

### **Competitions**

February: Thirteen Morpeth swimmers competed at the Northumberland

and Durham Championships (N&D's) in 44 swims. Personal Best times (PB's) were recorded in 78% of swims. Hannah Seymour, Niamh Atchison, Dan Dixon, Hannah Pountney and

Kate Kennedy all made finals/finished in the top 10 of their age group. Other Morpeth swimmers who competed with many setting new PB's and recording new North East Regional qualifying times (NER) were Dominic Anderson, Sam Tate, Jake Hewitt, Matthew Eke, Ben Walker, Jess Watson, Erin Atchison and Ruby Swarbrick. The results were promising but the goal is to now increase the number of swimmers firstly qualifying for the N&D Championships, but also improve the number of swimmers making it into finals and winning medals at this level.

March: Tynemouth ASC Spring Meet - There was a good turn out with 31 Morpeth Swimmers competing at this meet recording Personal Bests in over 100 swims. There were medals for many swimmers including 4 medals in the team events out of the 6 teams entered. The Boys 9-11 years 200 Freestyle team (Ben Hewitt, Angus Cummings, Aidan Moody and Henry Brett) finished 3 rd. The Girls 12 years + 200 freestyle team also finish 3 rd (Hannah Pountney, Fay Smith, Eve Smith and Erin Atchison). Both the Girls and Boys 200 Medley teams finished 2 nd (Ruby Swarbrick, Erin Atchison, Jess Watson, Hannah Pountney, Sam Tate, Matthew Eke, Dominic Anderson and Richard Butterworth). Sam Tate also achieved a new NER QT.

April: Sunderland National Qualifier - A smaller group of 13 swimmers competed at the Level 1 Sunderland National qualifier in March. This competition provided swimmers with experience of a much higher level meet than some of them are used to. There were some good swims over the weekend and a lot of Long Course PB's. However the competition also highlighted that to be able to compete Long Course (50m pool) some swimmers will need to become more committed and diligent in training.

April: South Tyneside Spring Meet – This competition was one of the meets targeted at swimmers in AA/A. A number of swimmers did not enter who would have benefited greatly from attending this competition and their training programme had been 'geared' towards. One area I will need to look at improving is parents/swimmers understanding of the competition calendar and structure to ensure swimmers are attending the right meets going forwards. However the 14 swimmers who did attend swam very well. There were PB's in 80 % of swims over the weekend, plus medals for half the team. Kate Kennedy, Niamh Atchison, Jake Hewitt and Sam Tate all won gold medals at this meet, whilst Richard Butterworth, Fay Smith and Hannah Eke were also in the medals. Sam Tate also recorded another two qualifying times for the upcoming NER championships. It was clear from this competition that the hard work has started to pay off for many of our swimmers who attend training the most and have worked on technical aspects of their swimming.

Diddy League – Morpeth ASC have started the 2017 Diddy league season well,

finishing 3rd and 2nd in the first two rounds. Valda Butterworth has done a great job with all of the paperwork behind the scenes before I started in January. I have been assisted on poolside so far by Lindsay Henderson, Michelle Robinson and Holly Smith. Sign up has been very good with over 50 swimmers expressing an interest in competing for Morpeth ASC. After a slightly 'rocky' start with a few parents expressing concerns that their child was not given enough swims, the team has started to come together quite well. All of the concerns have been addressed and parents offered the chance to speak to me about Morpeth's participation in Diddy League. The aim of Diddy League (as per the rules of the league) are to 1) Introduce young swimmers to competitive swimming 2) Find the best Junior League team in Northumberland and Durham.

We will continue with Diddy League in the upcoming seasons, using the early rounds to introduce swimmers to competitive swimming and choosing a team based on speed and merit for the later rounds and final, fulfilling both aims of Diddy league.

Morpeth is currently in Division 3, the goal is to be promoted to Division 2 either this season or next.

Mini Time Trials/ Speed Awards – I have introduced ‘Mini Time Trials’ for our youngest swimmers in Minnows, Development and B squad. These Time Trials will be held approximately every 6-8 weeks and give swimmers the chance to put what they have been doing in training into practice! It also gives swimmers the opportunity to achieve ASA speed awards, an awards scheme which will be introduced at the next Mini Time Trial in May. Turn out for the first Time Trial was good with almost 60 swimmers attending. It was also great to have so many poolside helpers (parents and Aquatic helpers!). The next one is scheduled for 14th May and this will also act as a ‘Diddy Swim Off’ for the Diddy final.

Northumberland Hub - has continued this year with N&D qualifiers being invited to attend. Kay is still taking the lead role on this. Swimmers recently attended a Long Course training Session at Sunderland Aquatic Centre which gave them a great opportunity to train Long Course!

Land training – Was introduced prior to my arrival in January. This has continued and is currently been led by Fiona Blacklock on a Tuesday evening. This is an area we will need to continue to develop as our swimmers progress in age and standard!

Aquatic Helpers – The club continues to have a very strong group of swimmers helping out on Friday and Sunday evenings with Minnows. The Group organise themselves to arrange cover and are a great asset to the club. I am hoping to assist the Aquatic helpers to further develop their knowledge and hopefully many will go on to become good Level ½ teacher/coaches.

Club Captains – Lauren Howe and Will Pallet were elected as our new club captains at the beginning of April. I look forward to meeting with Lauren and Will regularly and the Junior Committee. All applicants for the club captain positions had great ideas around fundraising, raising the club profile (social media!) and swimmers/parent engagement. I hope over the next 12 months I can support them to put some of these ideas into practice.

Coaching Team – As most of people will be aware I am still coaching at Tynemouth ASC and consequently cannot be at every Morpeth ASC session. I was a bit unsure about how this would work

when I came to Morpeth ASC in January but was reassured by Kay that there was a good team of coaches/poolside helpers who would be able to support me! She was definitely right! A big thank you to (sorry if I miss anyone!) Carol Dawson, Kay Howe, Terry Hewitt, Fiona Blacklock, Nicki Hewitt, Judith Cook, Gordon Dixon, Valda Butterworth, Jeremy Butterworth, Jenny Glossop, Michael Glossop and Helen Seymour, Leila Swarbrick, David Tate, Eve Smart, Joe Dobbins, Ed Syndercombe, Lauren Howe, Matthew Eke, Louise Summers, Lindsay Henderson, Michelle Robinson + all of the Aquatic helpers! The sessions would not run without their support!

I am looking forwards to continuing to work at Morpeth ASC and move the club forwards, two main areas that need to be addressed over the next few months and into the new 2017/2018 season include;

Water time – The club does not have enough water time currently to a) support the needs of higher level swimmers b) ensure there is enough space for all swimmers to complete sessions correctly, lanes are often too crowded. After 2 meetings with pool staff and a 3rd scheduled next week I have secured some additional water time. Details of which will be released in the next few days.

Restructure – After observing and coaching at Morpeth ASC for nearly 4 months, I am now in a good position to ‘restructure’ the squads at Morpeth ASC. The current squads vary to large degree in age, ability (physical and technical) and goals of the swimmers. This has made and will continue to make designing and implementing suitable training programmes and sessions difficult. The current structure has served the club well but to move forwards the structure needs to reflect and support all swimmers. This includes those who may no longer wish to compete, our young development swimmers but also swimmers who wish to pursue their swimming to the highest level. I am looking forward to introducing the new structure and squad criteria (how swimmers progress from one squad to another) in the next few days!

Finally Thank you to Simon, the Coaching Team and Committee for making me feel so welcome at Morpeth ASC.

K Howe added that courses will be running to encourage new aquatic helpers and a Team Manager’s course will be held at Morpeth to develop a coaching team at the club. A highlight from last year was a win for MASC against Portabello. Swimmers have been attracted to MASC from other clubs in the region and we have had a large number of Minnows joining the club.

L Henderson commented that the coaches and team worked well together and they are doing a fantastic job. K Howe has brought positivity back to the club for parents and helpers. Meetings with parents, coaches and children have created a new drive to be committed to the club. L Henderson welcomed B McGuire to build on the success of last year. M Aitchison stated that the club is lucky to have Kay and Becki as head coaches and that the mini time trials are beneficial with speed award badges providing something to aim for.

## **7. Election and Appointment of Officials**

All officials and committee members were proposed by J Belton and seconded by S Watson.

President – P Rushworth

Chairman – S Watson

Treasurer – A Leja

Secretary – J Belton

Gala Secretary – L Garland and committee member

Welfare Officer – A Tate (not a committee member)

Membership Secretary – L Henderson

Swim 21 Co-ordinator – H Seymour and committee member

Committee members - M Atchison, C Logan, K Howe, C Dawson

Appointment of Club Captains – L Howe, W Pallett

Appointment of Independent Examiner – Rycroft Glenton remains in post

S Watson thanked the outgoing captains E Syndercome & E Smart and welcomed the new club captains and committee members.

### **8. Any Other Business**

V Butterworth to update photographs for the club website and noticeboard.

### **9. Close of meeting**

Meeting closed at 7.45pm