

Minutes from the 49th Morpeth Amateur Swimming Club Annual General Meeting

The meeting was held on 26.04.2018 at 7.30pm at The Cygnet lounge, White Swan, Morpeth and was chaired by Simon Watson.

1. Apologies for Absence:

Present: J Belton, Simon Watson, H Seymour, C Logan, A Leja, M Glossop, M Aitchison, K Howe, L Henderson, V Butterworth, C Dawson, K Murray, L Howe, E Howe, Sarah Watson, F Blacklock, B McGuire

Apologies received from: W Pallett, J Butterworth, L Garland

2. Acceptance of minutes from 27.04.2017

The minutes from 27.04.2017 were accepted.

3. Matters Arising

Nothing to discuss

4. Report from the Chair – S Watson

Morpeth ASC – Chair's Report April 2018

Another year has just flown by and I have the near impossible task of summarising all the amazing things we have done in this one short report. I have tried to pick out the highlights but I also acknowledge that there are lots of other things that happen each and every week that make running this club possible that do not get a mention here, they are all very much appreciated and on behalf of the committee I want to thank each and every volunteer for all their hard work over the past 12 months.

Before looking at all the achievements over the year though, I have to start by mentioning Peter Rushworth who passed away last year. Whatever we have achieved over the last year and whatever we go on to achieve next year we should remember that these are only possible because of the hard work and determination that Peter put into the club over 40 years ago. I know how hard it is to run the club now when we have a huge team of volunteers, I cannot imagine how much work it must have been in the early years when he started with only a very few people helping.

One tradition that we will always associate with Peter is the annual competition with Portabello that he began many years ago and continues to this day. Also, this year we renamed the club handicap race the 'Peter Rushworth memorial Handicap race' which is a great touch and will ensure Peter may be gone but will not be forgotten.

Highlights

This is the first full year with our Head Coach Becki leading the poolside team and she has started to put her mark on things. She has the great advantage of having two 'ex-head coaches' on her team as well as the wider team of other coaches, poolside helpers and volunteers. It is Becki's first role as 'Head Coach' but she is already

looking like someone who has been doing it for years. We now have a clear structure and criteria in place which has proven to be a very useful tool in running the club, providing clarity to swimmers, parents and coaches.

There have been many highlights in the water this year, retaining the Portabello cup was an early one and then throughout the year at local gala's, through to County championship, Regional and National competitions Morpeth is now well represented and has become the leading club in Northumberland at many of these events.

Outside of the pool there have been a number of changes and things we should be proud of. We shouldn't lose sight of the fact that the club is mainly run by volunteers. These people are the lifeblood of the club and it was great to see a new face on the team this year and even more joining next year. A special thanks to Andreas who took up the role of treasurer. By his own admission he knew very little about the role but has put in a huge amount of effort to find out what he needs to do. As well as dragging us into the 21st century with online banking he has also achieved the impossible and actually made accounting quite

interesting – it is now a high point of every meeting and has allowed good debate about club funding which will no doubt continue into the next year.

I would like to also thank the club captains this year for their hard work, they did a lot of work to raise money in memory of Peter Rushworth and have been involved with many things poolside as well.

Every year my personal highlight is the club gala and the presentation evening. I think it is the perfect event to showcase what the club really is about. There are always some great swims, year after year new records are set but more than that it is a great, fun event. It involves a lot of volunteer's time organising it, sorting out entries, programs, official's poolside and then the presentation evening brings in another lot of volunteers to organise cups, medals and food etc. It must be the one event of the year that really involves just about every member of the club.

Finally, I would like to thank two members of the club who are stepping down from their positions this year. Jennie Belton, the club secretary, has been a member of the club for many years. She is a perfect example of what the club is about, she swam for the club as a junior, continued as a Master and has then spent many years on the committee – truly someone who has become a 'swimmer for life' and MASC has played an important part in that I am sure.

Another person who is stepping down from a role is Lindsey Henderson, she is stepping down as the membership secretary but will still spending many hours poolside and has also promised she will help train her replacement in the wonderful systems that she has learnt to contend with over the years!

Many thanks to you all once again for your help, everything, however large or small plays an important part of running this club and I am looking forward to another great year for MASC.

5. Report from the Treasurer – A Leja

The clubs accounts have been verified and are available to members through the treasurer.

6. Report from the Head Coach – B McGuire

Morpeth Amateur Swimming Club – Head Coach Report May 2017 – April 2018

Over the last 12 months MASC has established itself as the top club in Northumberland in terms of results and in the number of swimmers regularly competing. The most significant changes made over this period to the club were the introduction of squad criteria and restructuring the squads. I strongly believe the success the club has had at many different levels (Junior League to British Championships) is a measure of how successful these changes have been.

Morpeth have become a prominent club within N&, taking over 30 swimmers to many competitions over the last 12 months. There have been many highlights for the club and individual swimmers. I will try to include as many as possible to illustrate the success we have enjoyed over the last 12 months.

May 2017

North East Regional Long Course Age Group Championships

Niamh Atchison, Sam Tate, Dominic Anderson and Jake Hewitt qualified and represented Morpeth ASC at these championships. They all performed well against some of the best age group swimmers in the country, setting new personal best times in 12 out of 13 swims.

June 2017

2 very successful team events, raising the club profile!

Northumberland and Durham Team Championships 10th June 2017. 23 swimmers represented Morpeth in 12 competitive team events. Nine Morpeth teams made finals, finishing in the top 10 teams in N&D. Morpeth's 9/10 year old teams enjoyed great success. The girls team of Holly Gillie, Keira Peck, Kate Kennedy and Maisie Sands had a fantastic swim in the 4 x 50 Medley event coming away with a BRONZE medal! Not to be outdone boys team of, Henry Brett, Ben Belshaw, Ben Hewitt and Jacob Light picked up a fantastic SILVER medal in the 4 x 50 Medley event!

Northumberland and Durham Junior League Division 3 final. (Diddy League)

After finishing 3rd, 2nd and 2nd in the 3 rounds of this seasons Diddy league and steadily improving Morpeth qualified for the Division 3 final on 11th June in 3rd position. Nearly 50 swimmers competed during the rounds this season and 33 swimmers competed in the final after earning their spot on the team. Morpeth won the 9, 10 and 11 year old categories. team also topped Morpeth also took home the 1st place trophy for the 8 x 25 cannon event. After winning 4/5 'age group' trophies Morpeth were crowned Northumberland and Durham Division 3 champions finishing with 223 points. In 2016 Morpeth finished in 5th position with just 129 points, Morpeth were promoted to Division 2. After a slightly 'rocky' start to the Junior league season I believe almost all of the swimmers and parents have now bought into the team aspect of Diddy League and swimmers earning their place on merit!

September 2017

Portobello. Morpeth competed at the annual Morpeth vs Portobello team competition. This was my first time coaching at an event like this, what a great competition to be part of!

Morpeth were the winners with final points score of MASC- 265 pts and Portobello- 188pts. There were some good swims from the 10 + Under age group right up to the Open boys' relays!

October 2017

Durham Medley Challenge. A team of 35 swimmers competed at the Durham Medley Meet. Swimmers competed in 'heats throughout the day on each stroke with the top 6 swimmers in each age group competing in a Medley final during the afternoon session. Swimmers who reached finals and placed were as follows:

Keira Peck, 9 (2nd), Holly Gillie, 9, Kate Kennedy, 10 (1st), Ben Hewitt, 10 (2nd), Sam Tate, 12, (1st), Niamh Atchison, 13 (1st), Dominic Anderson, 13 (3rd), Hannah Seymour 15+ (1st), Jess

Watson 15 + (5th) and Ethan Howe 15 + (2nd). Morpeth were also successful winning the Cannon at the end of the day (another nice trophy!). The winning team consisted of Holly Gillie, Daisy Cunningham, Kate Kennedy, Zac Cousins, Ben Hewitt, Dominic Anderson, Sam Tate and Niamh Atchison.

North East Regional Short/Long Course Championships. Niamh Atchison, Dominic Anderson and Sam Tate competed at the Age group event in Sunderland on 28th & 29th October. Swimmers competed well despite interrupted preparations due to being away over half term. Hannah Seymour and Lauren Howe competed at the Junior/Senior Championships in Sheffield. Again preparation was not ideal in the lead up and the competition set up had flaws with heat sessions lasting 5-6 hours. Both girls swam well with Hannah equalling her 50 Back PB and making the Final (7th). Hannah swam a PB in 50 Fly, just missing a place in the final.

November 2017

November saw the club hold its Annual Club Championships which was well attended overall. I would like to have seen a few more swimmers in 9+unders and swimmers in higher squads entering ALL events.

The awards were presented at the Club presentation evening. Also attached were the Swimmer of the year trophies:

Minnows – Gabrielle Penfold

SD1 – Lucy Leja

SD2 – James Finch

C1 – Jacob Light

C2 – Laurie Blacklock

JP – Ben Hewitt/Kate Kennedy

P – Niamh Atchison

Swimmer of the year – Sam Tate

Most improved boy – Jake Hewitt

Most improved girls – Daisy Cunningham

December 2017

Blyth Xmas Cracker

Over 40 Morpeth swimmers took part at the one day Blyth Xmas Cracker. Swimmers ranged from those in Performance to Skills Development 1. This was one of the largest (if not the largest) team Morpeth have sent to a competition, making us a prominent team on poolside. There were many PB's and chocolate Santas won for finishing first in heats. Swimmers collected 43 individual medals between them.

Scottish Short Course. Hannah Seymour, Lauren Howe and Ethan Howe competed at the Scottish Short Course National Championships in Edinburgh. All 3 represented the club well at this high level competition attended by a number of Olympic and Commonwealth medallists. I'm looking forward to taking a bigger team to this event in future.

January 2018

Sunderland & Derwetside/Peterlee New Year Meets. Morpeth swimmers entered the above meets in preparation for the upcoming N&D championships or in hope of achieving new N&D qualifying times.

Swimmers surpassed the target set of 100 N&D qualifying times from 20 swimmers. 24 MASC swimmers secured 107 qualifying times between them. For comparison in 2017 Morpeth was represented by 13 swimmers in 44 events at N&D's.

February 2018

Northumberland & Durham Championships. Please see attached for full details of the club success at N&D Championships

Durham Valentines Meet. Following successful N&D Championships a small team of Morpeth swimmers attended the Durham Valentines Meet. This gala provided opportunity for swimmers to swim events they did not qualify for N&D, try new events. The team recorded PB's in over 90% of their events and there were plenty of medals for the team. Daisy Cunningham had a very successful meet winning 10 Golds out of 10 events and swimming 9 PBs.

March 2018

British Championships. Hannah Seymour and Ethan Howe qualified for the Edinburgh International Meet which doubled this year as the 2018 British Championships. Unfortunately, Ethan missed out due to oversubscribed entries. Hannah's entry was accepted for her swim but due to the 'Beast from the East' was unable to travel up to Edinburgh. While neither got a swim this year it is still a great achievement for both to qualify for such a prestigious meet.

Junior League – Round 2 – Morpeth ASC competed at the 2nd Round of Junior League on 11th March at Haven Point, South Shields. A larger team was selected for this round to allow more swimmers the opportunity to compete. In only our second competition in Division 2 Morpeth came out on top. Morpeth finished in 1st place ahead of Darlington ASC by just 6 points.

Northumberland & Durham Team Championships. MASC competed at the N&D Team Championships on 10th March. Swimmers from SD1 up to Performance (including Seniors) took part in another great day for the club. We entered 17 teams and 13 teams placed in the top 10 making it back for finals! Some great racing and fast splits all round.

For the second year running MASC picked up medals at this event. The 13/14 year old boys team - Jake Hewitt, Richard Butterworth, Robert Cross and Dominic Anderson who won TWO BRONZE medals in 4 x 50 Free and 4 x 50 Medley relays.

Other business

Pool Time

We have secured 2 extra morning sessions and an extra hour on a Sunday. This relieved some of the congestion in lanes. I have recently met with the Sport Centre management for the 5th time in 12 months with the goal of making significant improvements to our pool time by September 2018.

Mini Time Trials

Overall these worked well and provided swimmers with an opportunity to try competing in a very relaxed atmosphere. Due to a very busy 4-5 months of external competitions I have not been able to commit the time to Sundays to host these as often as I would like. After a recent coaches meeting we have decided to trial something similar on a Friday evening from June 2018.

Squad Structure

The changes have been successful and will be further developed in the next 12 months with improvements to pool time accessed by the club and improvements in the standard of swimming in the club.

Link with Morpeth Swim School

I have attended a couple of lessons recently and invited swimmers along to try out the club. I am very keen to develop strong links over the next 12 months with the Swim School at the pool and other learn to swim schemes

Thanks

I would like to thank ALL of the poolside staff who have contributed to the success the club has enjoyed over the last 12 months. I rely heavily on many of them to cover sessions, the club is very lucky to have such a dedicated set of coaches and poolside helpers.

I would also like to thank the committee for their continued support of myself and of moving the club forwards and to Lauren and Will for being fantastic club captains.

Finally a big thank you and well done to all the swimmers who have been part of Morpeth ASC's progress over the last year.

Looking forward to an even more successful 12 months!

Becki McGuire. Morpeth ASC Head Coach

7. Election and Appointment of Officials

All officials and committee members were proposed by V Butterworth and seconded by S Watson.

President – No nominations. The committee proposed to retire the position of President in honour of Peter Rushworth. The motion was carried 11 votes for to 1 vote against.

Chairman – Simon Watson

Treasurer – A Leja

Secretary – K Murray

Gala Secretary – L Garland

Welfare Officer – Sarah Watson

Membership Secretary – C Logan

SwimMark Coordinator – H Seymour

Committee members – H Seymour, M Atchison, C Logan, K Howe, C Dawson, Nicki Hewitt, Lesley Kennedy, L Garland

Appointment of Club Captains – None interviewed at the time of meeting

Appointment of Independent Examiner – Rycroft Glenton remains in post

S Watson thanked the outgoing captains L Howe & W Pallett and welcomed the new committee members.

8. Any Other Business

The committee agreed that the 50th year of MASC should be celebrated.

A Leja commented that the club website needed to be improved visually. B McGuire added that although this may be the case it is updated very regularly and is functional. H Seymour proposed that David Mc is offered a payment for updating the website. K Howe to invite David to the next committee meeting to discuss the matter.

L Henderson raised the point that the new call parents emailing system is not easy to add or remove members. A free package is currently used, A Leja to investigate an upgrade to a premium package, which will have a cost implication. B McGuire to find out which system is used at Tynemouth ASC.

9. Close of meeting

Meeting closed at 8.28pm