

**Minutes of the ASA London Region Annual Council Meeting (ACM) held on
Thursday 17 September 2015 at
St Botolph's Church Hall, Bishopsgate EC2M 3TL**

Present

Voting Board Members Present

Jackie Bedford
Jean Cook
Norman Edgell
Dave Fletcher
Steve Folsom
Kay Grimshaw
Alex Harrison
Kathy Hook
Colin Robson

ASA Staff Present

Mark Burgess
Kelly Stannard
Gita Sheth
Esther Hill
Sophie Joinson

Divisional Business Manager
Divisional Office Manager
Divisional Administrator
Club Development Officer
Regional Club Development Officer

Clubs Present

Dive London Aquatics Club (1), Killerwhales SC (2) Romford Town SC (1), Beckenham SC (2), Bexley (1), Bromley (1), Barnet SC (1), Brent Dolphins (1), Ealing SC (3), Enfield Swim Squad (1), Teddington SC (1), West London Penguin S & WPC (1), Barnes SC (1), Borough of Wandsworth SA (1), Croydon Amphibians SC (2), Dulwich Dolphins (1), Kingston Royals (1), Merton School of Diving & Trampolining (1), Merton Swordfish SC (1)

Total number of club delegates present 24.

Club Apologies: London Borough of Hounslow SC

1. Apologies

Richard Whitehead
Christine Goodair
Steve Baker
Peggy Etiebet
Ann van Beukelen

2. Introductions

2.1 The Chairman made introductions and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2.2 A minutes silence was held in remembrance of Len Badcock, a stalwart of London Swimming, the former Southern Counties ASA, Middlesex County ASA.

3. Minutes of last Annual Council Meeting (2014)

3.1 The following amendment as to the accuracy of the minutes had been requested by Harry Braund (Barnes SC) via club member Nick McChesney.

*'Page 2 A: Richard Whitehead explained London Swimming Ltd had been created as a separate entity at a time when the region was undertaking commercial work. This was no longer the case. The balance of its assets had been transferred to the parent regional entity (**Harry had misunderstood the accounts in thinking that London Swimming Ltd had made a loss**). The Management Board thought it appropriate to keep the company as a dormant entity, given its name'.*

Harry requested that the line in bold be deleted as he did not believe that to be true. The Chairman put the request to a vote by the council And Council voted that the minutes were correct with the sentence included.

2.2 There were no other amendments or questions raised as to the accuracy of the minutes and Council unanimously approved the minutes.

Matters Arising

Question/Comment: Richard McGongle (Enfield Swim Squad), last year, a delegate had brought up the issue of the high cost of using the London Aquatic Centre being prohibitive to clubs and the region. Could the board update the council on the situation?

Answer: Mark Burgess (Divisional Business Manager) replied that the London Aquatic Centre was operated by Better (GLL), as a commercial operation and charges for use were out of the region's control. However the ASA and the Regional Management board continue to make representation regarding hire charges.

4. London Region Annual Report and Accounts

4.1 There were no questions or amendments raised.

4.1 Norman Edgell proposed that the report and accounts be approved, seconded by Kathy Hook. Council voted unanimously to approve the Annual Report and Accounts.

5. New Regional Website

The Chairman introduced and handed over to Alan Doyle the designer of the new regional website. Alan explained the design concept and the technology behind the new site. The website survey had brought up some common themes, including:

- users want more of the right information;
- users are interested in specifics;
- information should be easier to find;
- users do not want to be bounced off onto other sites; and
- people were not aware of the site.

A number of questions were asked:

- Could the site be easily updated?
 - Yes the site could easily be changed and updated as required, without having to change the content.
- When would the site be launched?
 - The aim was the end of the year but sooner if possible
- Would meet photos be displayed on the site?
 - The site would not host the photos from meets, they would continue to be hosted on other sites used by the photographers.

The Chairman thanked Alan and the team for all their work and looked forward to the launch later in the year.

6. Motion for the Amendment of the ASA London Region Constitution

The Chairman informed the Council that during an ASA audit of the Region's constitution, a number of required changes were identified, and the Region was found to be in breach of ASA Law as its constitution did not comply with the model constitution issued by the ASA. Council was asked to approve the following motion to empower the Board to complete a review and implement the necessary changes

'The ASA London Region Council notes that the Region's Constitution is not fully compliant with the 'ASA Regions' Model Constitution' issued by the ASA. It instructs the ASA London Region Board to make the necessary changes to the regional constitution in order that the Region is compliant with the Model Constitution, to publish and implement the constitution during 2015-16, and to seek ASA London Region Council's approval of the changes at the 2016 Council Meeting.'

Question: Trevor Hyde (Ealing SC) could the Chairman please outline the areas of changes required?

Answer: Chairman replied that due to the way in which the current constitution was written that would require more time than the Council had that evening.

Comment: Nick Hallam (Croydon Amphibians) – would this task not have been easier if the board had tracked changes to the ASA Constitution on a regular basis?

Answer: Chairman – Yes, although the ASA Model Constitution had not been amended for some time. The board would ensure that in the future the region was kept informed of any changes/amendments.

Council voted unanimously to approve the motion.

7. Inauguration of the President for 2015 – 2016

Kathy Hook recalled details of her year in office and then inaugurated Colin Robson as the new President. Colin Robson on behalf of the Region thanked Kathy Hook for all her work during the year.

8. Election and inauguration of the Vice President

There had been one nomination for Vice President and therefore Ralph Shortland was elected. Colin Robson inaugurated Ralph Shortland as Vice President.

9. Election of the Members of the Regional Board

9.1 The Chairman advised Council that 3 members of the Board were stepping down this year and 4 nominations had been received. The results of the ballot were that Kathy Hook, Norman Edgell and Ralph Shortland were elected onto the Regional Board.

9.2 The Chairman thanked Stephen Baker and Christine Goodair for all their work on the board.

9.3 Christine Goodair would continue to work on the development of the new website.

10. Election of the Region's Delegates to ASA Council

There had been ten nominations for nine places, and results of the ballot were that Richard Whitehead, Jean Cook, Kathy Hook, Dave Fletcher, Norman Edgell, Steve Baker, Colin Robson, Alex Harrison and Paul Finch had been elected as London Delegates to ASA Council.

11. Appointment of the Independent Examiner of the Accounts

The Council voted unanimously to appoint D J Clark as the Independent examiner of the Accounts.

12. ASA 2015 Council (including the Annual Report & Accounts and any motions for a change to ASA Law).

The Chairman introduced the report and asked for any questions. The following questions/comments were made:

Question One

Norman Edgell, Board member - The ASA Report does not report on how school swimming is progressing and the ASA needs to be pro-active about it.

Question Two

Ralph Shortland – In the report very little recognition has been given to volunteers and officials, after all without them meets would not take place. He felt that there should have been more acknowledgement of the work that they do.

Question Three

Steve Folsom, Board member - The report separates out lifelong swimming and adult swimming from masters swimming, is this how the ASA sees the situation as separate entities or should efforts be made to bring them closer together.

Question Four

Jean Cook, Board member - raised the question of the quality of this year's reports year and stressed that it was probably the worst she had seen in 46 years.

Question Five

Could the ASA justify the Group Board and clarify what it has achieved.

Question Six

A London club commented that they had found the Registration and rankings department to always be very helpful and courteous with any of their queries, which were always handled very professionally.

The elected delegates to ASA Council were asked to note the questions/comments that had been made.

13. Presentation of the Jeff Cook Salver, the Dave and Flo Barnes Trophies and the London Swimming Special Award of Merit.

The Chairman handed over to the President to make the presentations.

The Flo Barnes Trophy was awarded to Gillian Neal from Hillingdon SC.

The Dave Barnes Trophy was awarded to Tom Baxter from Kings Cormorants SC.

The Flo & Dave Barnes awards are for an individual (male and female) who has made an outstanding contribution as an official or poolside helper (this may include teaching, assisting with coaching or other poolside activities).

The Jeff Cook Salver was awarded to Norman Edgell for his outstanding service to the Region.

The London Swimming Special Merit Award was a new discretionary award introduced this year recognising exceptional achievement/s of an individual involved in any form of aquatic activity. This year's award winner was Vicky Miller. Vicky is a member of Spencer Swim Team and West London Penguin, a water polo player and swimmer. Vicky (28) recorded the fastest British channel swim crossing of 2014 in a time of: 11 hour 7 min and 51 secs. This is truly a remarkable achievement. She followed that by being a member of the four woman team that posted the third fastest women's team crossing of the Channel in June 2015. Lastly she became one of only ten women EVER to have swum the Northern passage from Ireland to Scotland. Completed in July 2015.

Congratulations to all the winners.

The Chairman thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting.