



# Bedfordshire Amateur Swimming Association

## Minutes of the AGM of Bedfordshire A.S.A. held on 19 November 2020 held via Zoom

### Officers and Section Secretaries

President	Su Felce
Secretary	Phil Pelling*
Treasurer	Pat Dowsett*
President Elect	Sandra Grant
Age Group and Championship Secretary	Jo Stalley*
Competition Secretary	Chris Haden
Development Secretary	Pat Dowsett*
Disability Swimming Secretary	Sandra Grant
Diving Secretary	
Masters Secretary	Paul Clarke
Officials Secretary	Louise Mackie*
Open Water Secretary	Sandra Grant
Synchro Secretary	Jo McKeown
Water Polo Secretary	
County Welfare Officer	Su Felce*

### Past Presidents\*

Rosemary Currell  
Dave Metcalf  
Gerry Metcalf  
Bob Outtram

### Delegates

Central Beds SS	Sam Ferguson
Dunstable SC	Paula Ellison
	Marie Murray
Flitwick Dolphins SC	Mark Hickmott
Leighton Buzzard SC	Anna Hewitt
	Ryan Currell
Modernian SC	Jayne Ward
	Alison McCulloch
Putteridge SC	Jeff Zorn
	Lesley Batson
Team Luton SC	Lindsay Wright

Other affiliated clubs were not represented.

### 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Joan Wheeler and Phil Winder

### 2. MINUTES

The minutes of the Bedfordshire ASA AGM held on 22 November 2019 were confirmed as a correct record.

### **3. MATTERS ARISING**

None.

### **4. RECEIPT AND APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR 2017/8**

The audited accounts for 2019/20 had been circulated prior to the meeting, showing a profit of £5,945.88 and reserves of £37,444.79.

I would like to thank Stephen Fleming for continuing to act as Auditor and for offering to continue in that role if needed.

There were no questions and the Accounts were approved unanimously.

### **5. OFFICERS' REPORTS**

#### **a) Secretary**

The Secretary Phil Pelling reported that the Executive met on 8 occasions plus the brief meeting following the 2019 AGM and a 'Catch Up' meeting in June.

He had dealt with a range of correspondence mainly from either Swim England or the Region almost entirely by email.

With two exceptions, all Executive Posts had been filled, the exception was Water Polo Secretaries.

With the pandemic, this year had been like no other, with its impact on the Aquatic sports being felt by all.

The association will continue to support the clubs on items relating to the pandemic, as it's effects are likely to continue well into next year.

The county association has been available to assist all clubs with any issues that they have had, this includes the setting up of a 'WhatsApp' site to enable experiences to be shared.

The Association has continue to support the continuation of the English Pathway albeit via 'Zoom' this year as pool time was not possible.

The County Championships were once again delivered to exemplary standard, although unfortunately we were unable to hold the Junior Intercounties event due to the pandemic.

The team has started to plan for next year's County Championships which given the current circumstances will be different to previous years, and proposals will be put forward to the Executive for consideration at the appropriate time.

On a sad note we lost one of our past presidents, Steve Pullen this year.

Phil would like to thank all members of the Executive and the wider Bedfordshire Aquatics community for the support they have given him throughout his first year as Secretary

#### **b) Treasurer**

Pat Dowsett reported the following:

Along with everyone else I have found this to be a strange year, but financially it has proved relatively simple.

- The income from the Junior Inter-County competition almost exactly equalled the costs which were bundled into the figures for all inter-county team events last year but still managed to give us £30 in hand. But perhaps we ought to disregard the carried over income which would reduce the net profit to Nothing.

- The County Championships paid for themselves and contributed around 75% of our net profit for the year, or 100% if we exclude the income from the Junior event.
- This leaves the major expenses of the year as the development programme of which the primary costs are the coaches' and TM fees and water time for the 2019-20 stage 2/3 camps held in the autumn and the costs of this season's virtual camps has been trivial. However, we have purchased Professional Zoom for the County but as yet no claim has been made.

I would like to thank Stephen Fleming for continuing to act as Auditor and for offering to continue in that role if needed.

**c) Age Group and Championship Secretary**

Jo Stalley reported the following:

- This years County Championships were held in January and February prior to the lockdown.
- Jo thanked Su Felce and Lindsay Wright for their assistance in organising these Championships.
- This year the Mixed Relays were introduced into the event and the feedback was positive.
- The reverse 800m and 1500m events were once again included in the Championships.

Finally Jo thanked all the technical and non-technical officials for their help during the Championships.

**d) Competition Secretary**

Chris Haden had no report this year as all events had been cancelled due to the pandemic.

**e) Development Secretary**

Pat Dowset reported the following:

We successfully held Stage 2/3 camps in the autumn of 2019, but while we were preparing for the Stage 1 camps Covid-19 struck. So, in September our new Stage 1 Head Coach, Louise King, led our swimmers in a pre and post pool training camp via Zoom which was very successful in keeping the participants involved and enjoying their efforts.

I am working on a costed review of the Development Plan for the past four years and in parallel am preparing a new plan for the next period. I hope to have these ready for the January meeting of the Exec.

**f) Disability Secretary**

Sandra Grant reported the following

I attended a zoom meeting of the Swim England East Region disability committee on the 16th of November.

Many things were discussed and amongst these included setting up and arranging competitions, training and classifications. It is all on going and a work in progress and we are monitoring very closely the situation on the pandemic in the country and the possibilities that will open up in relation to booking swimming pools in 2021 and making all the arrangements to get back onto an even keel with regard to training, competing and classifications.

The Swim England East Region Disability committee would like to extend to all the clubs within the county and the region our sincere best wishes and would like to assure all the swimmers and everybody involved in disability and para swimming, in all the clubs across Bedfordshire County and the region, that we are working tirelessly to further the possibilities for disability and para swimming within the Bedfordshire County and the East Region. Could all the clubs representatives please disseminate that message to your club members and remind them that if they have anything they would like to discuss or would just like a chat, that they can contact either their Disability Secretary at their own clubs or myself. It is very important that we stay connected and that disability swimmers are assured that, once the pandemic situation eases, we are still here for them all.

With that in mind each of the SE ER Disability committee members were allocated a piece of homework! So much has happened during 2020 and quite a lot hasn't happened as well, but there is light at the end of the tunnel in all regards and once we're able to really get going on organising events, we want to hit the ground running. With that in mind we feel it's appropriate to do a survey questionnaire to ascertain the retention levels of disability swimmers in the county, and other important information, so that we have the information ready to hand once we can get things organised and are fully updated across the county and region.

Therefore could I please ask every single club in the county to respond to me with the following information:-

- Please confirm how many disability swimmers you have in your club?
- Please confirm the names of your disability swimmers in your club?
- Please confirm whether they have been classified, have a certificate of disability or are on a waiting list for classification?
- Please confirm how much pool time you have been able to provide to those swimmers since the pandemic. A brief narrative just to confirm that they have been able to attend regular sessions in the pool would be very helpful. We would like to gauge a picture of how disability/para swimmers have been able to train through the year.

Finally, if you have not yet appointed a disability officer at your club, could you please try to arrange to have one even if it's somebody who doubles up in another role. This is of vital importance if we are to promote and encourage disability swimming in the county, even if you do not currently have any swimmers that would fall under the umbrella of a disability swimmer. I would really like to report back that all the clubs in Bedfordshire have a specifically appointed disability secretary, it is not just so they can support any disability swimmers at your club, but a point of contact for the County in the event of seeking any support or assistance with events for disability or para swimmers and for me to have a point of contact to update the clubs on disability and para swimming. If each club does not embrace disability and para swimming, that does send out the wrong message as a county and I am eager that we fully apply the ethos of inclusivity in swimming.

#### **g) Diving Secretary**

No report

#### **h) Masters Secretary**

Paul Clarke reported the following:

Very little has changed during the year, so this report is similar to last year's.

*Organisational Activities:*

There are seven swimming clubs in Bedfordshire that support Master's swimming. There are only about 70 competing Master's swimmers. About half are women, and half men.

Beds ASA do not run a Master's swimming competition but run the annual Beds Masters Decathlon, based on results from the National Decathlon Competition.

There are about 60 swimmers on the Beds Masters newsletter mailing list. This has reduced from 300 last year. Three newsletters have been sent out this year.

A draft proposal about fairness in (all) Adult competitive swimming is being produced by the Masters Secretary who has been trying to find a metric, such as handicapping, to ensure fairness of results for all competitors of all ages, of all disabilities, of all genders, etc. Currently he is collecting sample swim data to support the proposal

#### *Swimming Activities:*

Beds swimmers competed in all the major Masters competitions in Britain.

Two Beds swimmers competed at the FINA World Championships in Guangju, S. Korea and their results were:- Christine Ayers (65-69) South Beds Masters: 4th 200M Breaststroke, 5th 100M Breaststroke, 5th 200M Freestyle, 7th 50M Breaststroke and Heather Patrick (55-59) South Beds Masters: 10th 200M Freestyle, 34<sup>th</sup> 50M Freestyle.

At the East Region Championships at Newmarket 27 Sept 2019, Beds had a good representation with swimmers from most Beds Masters Clubs.

At the East Region Heat of the Masters Inter-County Competition held at Bury St Edmonds on 10 November 2019, Beds came second of the four counties competing and 12<sup>th</sup>. out of 27 counties nationally.

During the year to mid-October swimmers set 34 Beds Masters Long Course records and 70 Short Course records.

#### **i) Officials Secretary**

Louise Mackie reported the following:

- J1 and J2 courses had been held
- Louise thanked all the officials who had taken part in the County Championships especially those who had stepped up for extra sessions.
- The J1 training courses had changed during the year and were now on line.

#### **j) Open Water Secretary**

Sandra Grant reported the following:

I attended an East region open water zoom meeting on Thursday, the 12th of November.

Obviously the work in progress now and the planning all relates to 2021 most specifically the open water competition that takes place in July traditionally each year. There has been some issue in relation to the dates being booked at Whitlingham, we are hoping that we've now been able to firm up for the 18th of July but of course all this is all subject to the Swim England calendar for competitions next year given that county championships may be moved on in the calendar for the year. We discussed the options if the competition had to be run under Covid restrictions. That will be reviewed in the New Year once the picture is clearer.

On the 1st of November, Phil kindly sent out a request for a response to some proposals on what to do with regard to the open water competition and the problems with regard to the venue being double booked. Thank you to those who replied. Of the clubs in the county I got replies from 3 clubs, one of which confirmed that they do not actively take part in any open

water swimming. That feedback was submitted to SEER on behalf of Beds County. It's always nice to at least receive a confirmation of receipt of a communication even if there is not a substantive response to an enquiry. As a club secretary, I would always respond to any communication received on behalf of my club and forward it to the correct person to deal with the reply. If there was an issue receiving communications from the Beds ASA Secretary, please confirm as it is always best when the clubs are consulted to get your feedback so that we are truly representing the voice of Beds ASA.

At the SEER Open Water committee meeting "Chip Timing" was discussed again and it's agreed that we will adopt chip timing for the next competition.

The committee is considering whether to look for sponsorship for example for the swim caps that are required for each of the competitions each year.

The budget was discussed as well as the SE ER Open Water Plan for 2021-2025 which was agreed based on getting back to a new normal at some point.

It was agreed that not much more could be arranged until the early part of 2021 when we hope we shall all have a better idea of the competition calendar for indoor competitions etc. and at that time the SEER Open Water committee will reevaluate the position and make decisions as appropriate at that time.

It would be interesting to hear back from clubs as to whether due to the Covid restrictions they now have more swimmers who would be interested in open water swimming and I invite your club replies in that regards. That will help with planning for open water next year if we have an indication of retention and/or more interest than previous years. Open water certainly proved beneficial when training could not take place in the pool.

#### **k) Synchro Secretary**

Jo McKeown reported

- That little had happened during the year due to the pandemic, however the County Swimmers had in the limited opportunities available performed well.

#### **l) Water Polo Secretary**

No report

#### **m) County Welfare Officer**

Su Felce reported:

- It had been a quiet year and had involved mainly supporting clubs regarding the pandemic and being involved in the SEER courses.

#### **n) SEER Region Representative**

Phil Pelling reported:

- As the Beds ASA Representative on the East Region Management Board, he had taken part in 4 Swim England East Region Management Board meetings
- He had also attended the ACM in September and was part of the 'Awards Panel' which recommended the winners who received their awards at the ACM.

In his monthly reports to the Executive Phil had attempted to communicate to the clubs and others in the Association the key points of the Management Board meetings.

**o) Other ASA East Region Representatives**

No further reports

**6. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND SECTION SECRETARIES FOR 2019/20**

A paper had been circulated advising of the process for the nomination and election of officers and section secretaries and gave details of the nominations received.

**a) Election of Executive Officers**

The following officers had been proposed and seconded in accordance with the requirements of the Constitution and were duly elected unopposed for 2020/2021.

President	Su Felce
President Elect	Sandra Grant
Secretary	Phil Pelling
Treasurer	Pat Dowsett

**b) Election of Section Secretaries**

The following section secretaries had been proposed and seconded in accordance with the requirements of the Constitution and were duly elected unopposed for 2019/2020.

Age Group & Championship Secretary	Jo Stalley
Competition Secretary	Chris Haden
Development Secretary	Pat Dowsett
Disability Secretary	Sandra Grant
Masters Secretary	Paul Clarke
Officials Secretary	Louise Mackie
Diving Secretary	Vacant
Water Polo Secretary	Vacant
Open Water Secretary	Sandra Grant
Synchro Secretary	Jo McKeown
County Welfare Officer	Su Felce

**c) Vacant Posts**

Vacant posts were then discussed. The Constitution permits the Executive to fill any vacancy, subject to appropriate notice on the agenda for that meeting, and notes that retiring Executive Officers and members of the Committee shall be eligible for re-election (6.11).

No nominations were forthcoming for the posts of Water Polo and Diving Secretaries and accordingly these posts will remain vacant.

**7. DATES AND VENUES FOR EXECUTIVE MEETINGS FOR 2020**

Proposed dates and venues for Executive meetings for 2021 had been circulated with the agenda. It was noted that all meetings would be held via Zoom unless notified otherwise and would commence at 7.30 pm.

- 7 January 2021
- 4 February 2021
- 4 March 2021
- 1 April 2021
- 6 May 2021
- 3 June 2021
- 1 July 2021
- 2 September 2021

7 October 2021  
18 November 2021 (AGM)

This schedule was agreed unanimously.

## **8. Resolutions**

Three resolutions had been put forward for consideration at the AGM

### Resolution 1

The proposal to amend item 7.2 in the Constitution was approved.

### Resolution 2

When should Constitution changes be notified prior to the AGM.

The following amendment to the Constitution was approved

Reword item 9.5\* to state as below (change in italics), so that any proposed change to the Constitution has to be notified by 15 September.

\*The resolution put forward at the AGM referred to this as item 8.5 but following the changes to the Constitution to elect a Chairman the numbering order changed and the AGM item became item 9.0.

### Resolution 3

The proposal to consider that a Chairman should be elected to head up the County Association was approved.

## **9. CLOSING REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT**

Su Felce reported

- Due to the pandemic, it had been a quiet year although she was able to carry out the President's duties at the County Championships, unfortunately all other events were cancelled.
- Su thanked the President Elect, Sandra Grant, for allowing her to continue as President.

**The meeting closed at 8.20 pm.**