

MIDDLESEX COUNTY AMATEUR SWIMMING ASSOCIATION



NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE
ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING

WILL BE HELD BY ZOOM
on
THURSDAY 26th NOVEMBER 2020 AT 7.00PM
TO TRANSACT BUSINESS AS PER AGENDA HEREWITH

Dated this twenty-ninth day of October 2020
Florence Barnes, Secretary,
293 Bilton Road,
Perivale,
Middx. UB6 7HH.
e-mail: secretary@middlesexswimming.com

Club delegates must email to the Secretary prior to the meeting to verify the qualification to vote.

NOTICES

REPRESENTATION

Clubs are entitled to representation to the council meeting as set out below.

Over 250 members 3 delegates

50 to 249 members 2 delegates

Under 50 members 1 delegate

Club Secretaries, unless delegates from their Clubs, are not allowed to vote.

I would ask you to forward the enclosed Notice of Meeting to your delegates.

AGENDA

1. Notice convening the meeting.
2. Apologies for absence.
3. Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Thursday 21st November 2019
4. Report of the Executive 2019/20.
5. Accounts 2019/20
6. Election of Officers, Office Holders and Executive 2020/21
7. Constitutional Amendments
8. Appointment of Independent Examiners.

Middlesex County Amateur Swimming Association

(www.middlesexswimming.com)

Minutes of the Annual Council Meeting held on 21st November, 2019

Gillian Neal (President & Sea-Byrds/Hillingdon), Brian Kapp (President Elect & Haringey) , Florence Barnes (Secretary, PP & Ealing) Phillip Prentice (Treasurer & Barnet Copthall) Gerry Gillespie (County Head Coach) Ralph Shortland (PP & Ealing), Frances Prentice (PP & Barnet Copthall), Tony Burton (PP & Brent Dolphins), Ian Woollard (PP & Barnet Copthall), Colin Jones (Sea-Byrds), Leah Pullen (Ealing), Tasha Coupland (Harrow), Suzette Mohammed (Harrow), Samantha Whitmore (Ealing), Jeanette Edmiston (Teddington), Pam Crofts (PP & Haringey), Zak Andrawos (Harrow), Erol Baduna (Hackney), Minju Kim Al-Hajj (Ealing) Saranya Ramasamy (Ealing) Gary Davison (Hounslow Jets) Anna Dunn (Hounslow Jets) Marc Ballot (CSCSC) Sue Dyer (Hillingdon), Ann O'Leary (Hillingdon) and for the Presentations – Isabella Kraft & her family, Fleur Lewis & Annette Lewis , Sharon Austin (Haringey) 8.30pm for Presentation Edward Whittles and Sofia Marcal Whittles

1. Convening the Meeting

The President, Gillian Neal, opened the meeting.

The President then welcomed everyone to the ACM. The President then presented Fleur Lewis with the Girls Van Beets trophy in recognition of her achievements in speed swimming during the year and to Isabella Kraft the Ron Turner Trophy for Water Polo's most improved player for 2019.

The President then presented the President's Plate for 2019 to Sharon Austin in recognition of her invaluable service as Team Manager for the Middlesex County Teams both home and abroad.

8.30pm As a rider to the meeting Gillian Neal donned the chain again to present the Boys Van Beets trophy to Edward Whittles for his outstanding achievements in speed swimming during the year.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Wayne Hirst, Trevor Hyde, Jo Martin, Fred Willey, Susie Breslin, Karin Vazarini, Andy Woska, Bob Bloomfield , Norman Edwards and Taj Randhawa

3. Minutes of last Council Meeting — November 22nd 2018

Adoption of the Minutes was agreed with the amendment to the date of previous minutes which should read 23rd November 2017

Proposed by Jeanette Edmiston and seconded by Erol Baduma

Unanimous

4. Report of the County 2018/19

The President commented on her year as President which had been eventful but satisfying and she had enjoyed having the chance to visit other disciplines which she would not usually see. She encouraged everyone to visit and support the other disciplines.

Each report was open for comments and/or questions.

Swimming Committee — noted & accepted

Masters - noted & accepted

Diving — Only one club can now offer diving therefore Richard has stepped down from the committee but has offered his help if required.

Synchro — Only one club is offering synchro at the moment. The swimmers are entering Regional competitions. Charlotte is liaising with Debbie Harris (London region) for future plans.

Swimming Officials — noted & accepted

Water Polo — Fred is willing to help but may not attend every meeting.

Open Water – Noted & accepted

Para swimming - Brian commented that, as a County, we are at the forefront of organising para competitions for swimmers who cannot usually have the opportunity to compete for medals etc. Report noted and accepted

Welfare – Busy year but no issues

6. Financial report 2018/19

The Annual accounts were available for comment

The Treasurer commented that it had not been an easy year and we had made an overall loss mainly because of the cancellation of one day's competition which resulted in added expenditure of pool hire and many refunds.

The accounts have been formally inspected by the Accountants.

The accounts were approved - Proposed by Sam Whitmore, seconded Tasha Coupland

The President acknowledged the amount of work the Treasurer has to do and thanked him on behalf of the County.

7. Election of Officers, Office Holders and Executive for 2019/20

The President then installed Brian Kapp as President for 2019/20. The new President then presented the Past President's Jewel to Gillian.

The new President asked for the meeting to show their appreciation for all the work Gillian had dealt with in her year as President.

The new President then took the Chair and took charge of the gavel.

There was one nomination for President Elect — Pam Croft proposed by Gillian Neal and seconded by Florence Barnes.

Pam Croft was duly elected President Elect for 2020/2021

There had only been one nomination for the following posts and Gillian read the list: Secretary — Florence Barnes (Ealing)

Hon Treasurer — Philip Prentice (Barnet Copthall)

Assistant Secretary — Gillian Neal (Seabyrd/Hillingdon)

Assistant Treasurer — Norman Edwards (Heston SC)

Swimming Competitions Co-ordinator — Leah Pullen (Ealing SC)

Secretary Masters Committee — Ian Woollard (Barnet Copthall SC)

Secretary Swimming Committee — Jeanette Edmiston (Teddington)

Secretary Swimming Officials Committee — tba at the first meeting of SOC

Secretary Synchronised Swimming Committee — Charlotte Lea/Debbie Harris)

Secretary Diving Committee — vacant

Secretary Water Polo Committee — Fred Willey (Enfield Water Polo)

Secretary Disability / Open Water Committees — Brian Kapp (Haringey SC)

Welfare Officer — Maria Abrams (Ealing SC)

Advisor Health & Safety- Ralph Shortland (Ealing SC)

Advisor Medical - Dr C Woollard

Trophies Secretary— Frances Prentice (Barnet Copthall)

Medals & Rosettes —Jo Martin (Ealing SC)

These were agreed and elected 'en bloc'
Proposed by Gillian Neal, seconded by Pam Croft

The following were re-elected to the Executive Committee

Colin Jones (Sea-Byrds), Suzette Muhammad (Harrow SC), Tasha Coupland (Harrow) Karin Vazirani (Ealing), Erol Baduna (Hackney), Taj Randhawa (Hillingdon), Zak Andrawos (Harrow), Jo Martin (Hounslow), Susie Breslin (Barnet Copthall) Samantha Whitmore (Ealing), Bob Bloomfield (Brompton) Sofia Marcal Whittles (C & W).

Proposed Pam Croft seconded Jeanette Edmiston Agreed

As Ralph and Richard have stood down this year from the Executive.

(Ralph is still entitled to attend as a Past President)

There were 2 new nominations - Minju Kim Al-Hajj and Saranya Ramasamy both from Ealing

Proposed by Gillian Neal , seconded Ralph Shortland

They were accepted.

9 Appointment of Independent Examiners

It was unanimously agreed that Smith Malhotra Limited be appointed as the County's Independent Examiners for the forthcoming year.

Proposed Phillip Prentice, seconded Pam Croft

Carried unanimously

10 Constitutional Amendments

There was one amendment to change the name of the Disciplinary committee to the Disputes and Disciplinary committee.

Tony explained the reason for the change was that this year there had been some complaints which were not considered to be disciplinary matters and the new name would be more appropriate.

Proposed Sam Whitmore Seconded Leah Pullen

Carried unanimously

11 AOB No other business

There being no further business to discuss, the President closed the meeting at 8.25pm

Date of next ACM : Thursday, November 26th 2020

PRESIDENTIAL REPORT

What a year to be your County President!

Just one opportunity so far to don my Chain of Office when I had the pleasure of assisting Flo Barnes to present the medals and trophies at the County championships in February. The sight of so many happy faces is totally gratifying.

Unfortunately that was a while ago and I am conscious that presentation of both individual and club trophies has not occurred. The County Executive will be examining if there is a way of redressing this matter so that personal trophies can be acknowledged. You can be assured that all have been engraved with the correct recipient details.

Currently we are experiencing the worst possible conditions for our sport with a total lack of pool time. Even during the brief respite between the periods of lock down availability of pool time was erratic with some clubs finding their pools not reopening. Our Government does not appear to respond to the Swim England explanation the club training sessions are well disciplined within a chlorinated atmosphere.

The small glimmer of a return to some form of competition for our swimmers was proposed with "X" galas format from Swim England but this disappeared with the introduction of a further period of lockdown. We can only hope that the New Year will bring about a dramatic change with a substantial revision in the provision of facilities.

On behalf of the County Executive may I assure you that we will do all we can to provide as much help as possible to encourage our swimmers to return as soon as the facilities are available. As you can see from Gerry's report that outline plans have been made for camps and competitions as soon as the green light is received from Swim England.

May I take this opportunity to thank all the members of the Executive together with our Head Coach Gerry Gillespie who have worked tirelessly to ensure our county remains a viable organisation.

Trusting that 2021 will ensure that swimming in Middlesex returns to its former status.

SEASONS GREETINGS TO YOU ALL

**Brian Kapp
President**

Section Reports

SWIMMING COMMITTEE

I am sure you will all agree that the 2020 swimming season has been a very odd time. Up until we were locked down in March of 2020, the year was progressing well. In February of 2020 we staged our County Championships very successfully at the London Aquatic Centre (LAC) on 8th and 9th and 15th and 16th weekends.

That was probably the last feel of normality we had before the Covid 19 virus changed everybody's world! In spite of the effects of the virus, the Swimming Committee has met (or since March, Zoomed) regularly throughout the year to discuss the ever changing rules and regulations and to try and see whether any speed swimming or open water swimming events could take place within the County. My thanks to all members for their help and support; it has not been easy to keep abreast of what was happening and how it affected us all.

Events were planned then abandoned as the force of the virus took hold. We even tried to find ways to hold our development camps, but unfortunately these have had to be deferred. Sadly, since the County Championships, no swimming of any kind has been possible and this looks like it will most likely be the case well into 2021.

Together with our colleagues from the Executive, we have tried to disseminate all available information as quickly as we could to try and keep the members up to date and have been in regular contact with pools, Swim England and the coaches.

The support and help from our County Coach, Gerry Gillespie has been invaluable. Gerry has made a big impact since he joined the team in 2019. Obviously, it's been a challenging year for all of us and Gerry has remained positive and enthusiastic despite the unusual circumstances this year and lots of his hard work going to waste.

Some of Gerry's new ideas will have to wait until 2021 before they are revealed, so there are new and interesting things to look forward to.

The 2020 County Championships, held at LAC, seem like a very long time ago. The meets ran very well and both weekends were well attended. The mixed Youth and Ages Groups programme was well received and gave the younger swimmers a chance to see our older swimmers in action.

All presentations were made during the event and this was another change that was very well received. Once swimming resumes, there are still some tweaks we can make to help things run even better and ensure we have a truly prestigious County Championships event.

The standard of swimming had continued to rise within the County at all levels and we are sure this will continue once we are able to get back to competition again.

Fingers crossed for 2021!

Jeanette Edmiston
Secretary,
MCASA Swimming Committee

SWIMMING OFFICIALS COMMITTEE

As for most elements in life training of officials has been impacted by the Covid-19 virus. The new on-line training course for J1 officials was rolled out by British Swimming. However before anyone could complete the on-line course competitive swimming was halted and it was not possible for anyone to gain the required practical experience. Once competitive swimming resumes we look forward to working with the new trainee officials, at least 25 have now completed the on-line training and hopefully more will in time for the return of competitive swimming which we are all looking forward to.

During the early part of the year when competitions were being held the SOC focused on those on the 'old' J1 training and assisting as many as possible to complete their courses and become fully qualified officials before the July deadline when it would no longer be possible for them to qualify under the 'old' scheme, happily many did so. Due to the current circumstances the deadline has been extended so those who were on the old course can still complete their qualification.

A full training schedule for all the other levels of officials was published on the web-site. Sadly these sessions could not go ahead under the restrictions which were imposed. As it is still not clear when the restrictions will allow the workshops to proceed the SOC has decided not to publish course dates until such a time as there is confidence the workshops can go ahead. Following on from previous years we will continue using our 6 nominated centres of: Barnet Copthall, Perivale Community Centre, Camden Swiss Cottage (library) Xcel Leisure hub Walton-on-Thames, Southbury Road and Tottenham Green Leisure

Centre. Dates will be published on the web-site as soon as there is sufficient confidence the courses will go ahead and competitive swimming will be restarting.

The committee would like to thank Ralph Shortland and Andy Woska for all their input and assistance they have provided over the years and we are sure the committee will be requiring their input once again when life returns to a more normal setting.

Finally we would once again like to remind the swimming clubs that it is every club's responsibility to ensure they have a continuous and sufficient number of qualified officials to allow the club to run and enter meets. Clubs who have in place, a workforce coordinator to oversee the role of encouraging parents to train as officials, have the best results and the most registered officials. Once competitive swimming restarts we will still need the same number of officials to hold a licensed meet, as we are bound to see a number of officials not returning, it will be vital we replace these officials with new ones.

Wayne Hirst
Secretary
Swimming Officials Committee

MCASA ACM

Masters Report

November 2020

British Masters Record Holders

The Counties Masters swimmers have increased the number of British Records in both short course and long course events since last year and the current totals are as follows.

Short Course:- Middx swimmers hold 54 individual and 16 relay records

Long course:- Middx swimmers hold 51 individual and 15 relay records

Many of these records are also European and WORLD records

Congratulations everyone.

Inter-Counties Masters competition November 2019

Unfortunately, several counties failed to field teams for the 2019 competition. Middlesex was one of those who sadly could not field a full team and so withdrew from the South-East Regional heat. Only four counties competed. This was reflected across the country with a number of regional heats depleted. Perhaps because of its timing, it is always an issue coming in the calendar closely following Swim England Masters National at Sheffield in late October.

MCASA Masters Competition

Proposed for May 2020 – Barnet Copthall Pools

As all swim competitions were suspended from March 2020, our Masters County Competition was one of the many casualties.

Swim England Masters Competition. **Ponds Forge, Sheffield, October 2019**

Middlesex clubs were amongst the medals and records at Sheffield last year. A magnificent total of 64 GOLD, 64 SILVER and 52 BRONZE medals were won by our fantastic clubs.

Teddington, Otter and Barnet Copthall were among the larger contingents taking home the majority medals but many other clubs with slightly smaller teams contributed very well to the medal haul. Congratulations everyone.

Plans for 2021

Like everyone else, I'm sure, we will wait for some good news and hope to promote the County Masters competitions again next year.

Thank you for your support and assistance over the past year.

Wishing all swimmers, officials, coaches, clubs and supporters of Middlesex ASA greater success in 2021.

Ian Woollard
Secretary
Masters Section

WATER POLO

We had one success at the Inter-Counties Age Group competitions where the Under-19 Boys were Successful in winning their age group. Other groups acquitted themselves well. particularly the Girls who had a significant number under age which should bode well for the next time these competitions are held.

This will not be in 2020, however, as they have been deemed too difficult to hold.

Many thanks to Claudio Palumbo for coaching the teams.

We were unable to field a team in any of the Senior Age Groups.

Obviously there have been no competitive games since March and even Clubs trying to keep fit have Found that what is allowed for Over 18's is very prescriptive and little more than swimming.

Not sure about other Clubs, but our attendance at Enfield, once we were allowed back in the water, has been significantly down on pre-March levels and it will be a real struggle to get back to them.

Fred Willey
Secretary
Water Polo section/Enfield WPC

HEAD COACH REPORT

Good evening everyone,

I would like to start by thanking everyone involved with the committees of the MCASA for all of the hard work that they have done this year, in what has certainly been one of the most unusual and testing years that the swimming community at large has experienced. Without their tireless work behind the scenes swimming in the county would not be able to continue.

Although a distant memory at this stage the 2020 County Championships were a success. 22 of the county's clubs/organisations had swimmers enter the meet. A total of 756 individual swimmers competed with a total of 3554 individual starts. I do feel that we can still improve the running order and then reduce the amount of time that is consumed by presentations and the absence of relay events is also something that I would like to be able to reverse although with time restrictions we may not be able to have them during the actual championship event.

Shortly after the completion of the County Championships we were all affected by the Coronavirus Pandemic which halted any further swimming nationally until August with the suspension of competition until 2021 at the earliest. Swim England have since introduced the Level X competition which the county has supported as they were requested to. Unfortunately, the second lockdown period, which started on the 4th November has interfered with its progression. There were also a number of clubs within in the county who were unable to compete in this format due to a range of Covid-19 restrictions that have been placed upon them including unsuitable training pools, reduced hire of pool space/time, delayed restart of training due to operators, other initiatives that they are already involved with, segregation of training bubbles, this is not an exhaustive list.

We have decided to postpone the 2020 County Development Camp until a suitable date can be arranged in 2021. This camp will take place over 1 day and the swimmers have been selected based upon the 2020 County Championships and will be invited before the end of 2020. A total of 26 swimmers have been selected, which is a reduced number when compared to the 2019 camp but this decision was made to help the county enforce Covid-19 safe restrictions.

It is important, I believe, that the county is actively supporting the clubs who form its association during these difficult times and that we facilitate their needs to help ensure their futures in the sport as without their continued existence the county association will also collapse.

In 2021, as a county, we will also be following the recommendation from Swim England with regards to our development camps. This had been that plan for the 2020 series of camps but had to be adjusted because of Coronavirus. In 2021 we will be running 3 one day events spread throughout the year so that those swimmers involved will have a better opportunity to learn new skills and to work with their skills coaches. It will also allow us to tap into more Swim England resources which will also help to develop those coaches who attend.

Finally, I would like to say a big thank you to Leah Pullen and the swimming committee for all the work that they have done for me and the county during my time as head coach. Without the help and support of these individuals my role would be a lot more complicated.

Gerry Gillespie
Head Coach
MCASA

TREASURER'S REPORT

It can be seen from the attached accounts that the last financial year (2019-20) ended in a deficit. Although this deficit was not as great as for the previous year (2018-19) it does not mean any greater financial prudence; just that the Covid-19 lockdown stopped everything in its tracks. Otherwise, especially with the planned overseas trip, the deficit would have been just as high. The County does very good things for swimmers and needs a healthy bank balance to sustain these good things particularly now Swim England have added two more development camps per year.

Before the overseas trip had to be abandoned, we had been obliged to pay a substantial deposit for the flights to and from Portugal. We do have a voucher which lasts until June 2021 and after a recent contact with British Airways I am reasonably hopeful that the voucher can be extended into 2022.

This year (2020-21) will be a lean year financially with practically no income. Maybe by the last quarter, from June to August, it will be possible to hold normal competitive meets again.

I thank everybody for the for their participation and wish you all a merry Christmas.

Phillip Prentice
Hon. Treasurer