

# Minutes of North Tyneside ASC AGM

26/03/2023, Lakeside Centre, 4.00pm

## Present:

S Hannant, G Dotchin, M Nanavaty, A Robertson, M Carson, E Barton, I Thompson, H Eastlake, A Anderson, V Hao, L Raftery, S Calderwood, S Renney, C Renney, C Attwell, A Butler, A Box, N Henderson, A Henderson, K Glynn, C Clark, G Hunter, D Carroll, L McLeod, S Soan, C Dotchin (26) K Jenkins joined later in the meeting after the voting had taken place.

## Apologies:

C Tibbs, J Crozier, G Dresner, C Soan, J Glynn, K Clark, I Dale, J Smith, P Telfer

- 1) Quorate confirmed as more than 1/10<sup>th</sup> of the Membership.

This afternoon's meeting was originally planned for Friday 17th February 2023, but was rearranged due to insufficient attendance. A new date was scheduled for today, Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2023.

- 2) Overview of Chair's Statement:

S Hannant welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the committee members in attendance. She gave an overview of the Chair's Statement from the Annual Report (Appendix 1) and confirmed she would not be standing for any Committee Roles in 2023.

- 3) Summary of Treasurer's Report:

Thanks were given to George Clark for his detailed review of the accounts, which have now been signed off.

There has been a levelling out of the Club's financial accounts – remedial action in early 2022 of reducing training hours and pushing a recruitment drive has prevented the Club from making any further losses and we are now in a position of seeing small monthly gains from Membership fees and longstanding fundraising efforts.

Additionally, G Dotchin thanked S Hannant for continuing her support for the Club in recent years and also commended our swimmers on their behaviour and conduct at a recent gala after some very positive feedback received from Committee Members at Gateshead & Whickham.

- 4) Overview of Head Coach's Statement:

C Tibbs had forwarded his Apologies to the meeting as he was required to Coach on poolside at the planned training session due to two other members of the Coaching Team attending N&D Teams Gala in Sunderland. The Head Coach's Statement can be viewed in Appendix 1.

- 5) Election of Officers:

The following Nomination Forms were received for Executive and wider Committee positions, all nominations were voted into office.

David Quinn – **Chair** – C Dotchin and A Box (25 votes, 1 abstention)

Graham Dotchin – **Treasurer** – S Hannant and C Attwell (26 votes)

Kieran Glynn – **Secretary** – C Attwell and G Dotchin (26 votes)

Gillian Dresner – **Membership Secretary** – S Hannant and C Tibbs (26 votes)

Jane Crozier – **Competition Secretary** – M Nanavaty and S Hannant (26 votes)

Claire Renney – **Welfare Officer (Non-voting)** – Stephe and Chris T (26 votes)

Vacancy – **Social/Fundraising Co-ordinator** – No nominations/Remains vacant

Malini Nanavaty – **SwimMark Co-ordinator** – L Raftery and G Dotchin (26 votes)

Andrew Robertson – **Website Co-ordinator** – G Dotchin and S Hannant (26 votes)

It was noted that Jane Crozier, Competition Secretary, will serve notice and resign from her Competition Secretary position of over 8 years on 31/07/2023. S Hannant, the outgoing Chair expressed great thanks to J Crozier for all her hard work and dedication whilst in the role.

Thanks were also given to all those who have volunteered with Committee positions and who carry out essential roles such as Team Managers and Poolside Helpers. It was communicated that the Club always needs more volunteers and the new Committee will continue to encourage parents in supporting the Club.

6) Any other Business:

\*C Attwell asked whether there were spaces for new swimmers within the Club – S Hannant explained there were some spaces in A, B and C Squads. Stroke Development Groups are generally full and well subscribed with a constant stream of enquiries and trials taking place rather than holding a waiting list as done in previous years. The spaces in A, B and C Squads have allowed for progression of the Stroke Development swimmers so that we can accept new starters on a regular basis.

\*One of our newer parents asked how those new to the Club could be supported to access galas if they weren't sure what events and meets were appropriate – S Hannant advised that the Coaching Team would be the first point of contact to discuss which galas and events would be suitable and also advised that she had been approached by C Attwell who has offered to review the information given to new parents on joining regarding training session, equipment and galas etc.

\*K Jenkins asked if the Club could review the channels of communication currently used as some parents do not access Facebook – S Hannant advised that there was a decision several years ago that the Club's Facebook Page would be used for main communication updates and at short notice but advised that this could be scheduled as an agenda item for discussion by the new Committee.

\*Several parents asked about Club Clothing – S Hannant advised that the Club has a corporate shop with Moette Clothing; details of which are on the Facebook page. S Hannant and G Dotchin also advised that it has been suggested that the Club should be 'rebranded' to promote ourselves to potential new members and raise our profile at swimming events. Some enquiries have been made regarding this and information will be shared with parents by the Committee in due course.

\*In advance of the meeting several parents asked for an update on which galas would be attended over the rest of the season – this has been included in the Annual Report (Appendix 1).

\*Club Presentation Evening – TBA – S Hannant advised that Swimmer Appraisals are currently underway and the Committee will provide information once a date/venue is arranged.

\*Several parents enquired about the Annual Club Treat which has not taken place since before the Covid-19 Pandemic Restrictions – Historically the Club has held a paid for Treat event for all swimmers once per year; S Hannant and G Dotchin advised that this has not been able to go ahead of late; initially due to Covid-19 restrictions but also over the last year due to the financial position, however as things are levelling out the Committee would be willing to look at this again in terms of feasibility and potentially requesting a contribution towards this if necessary.

\*Some mentioned the Kingswood Adventure Weekend we ran at Dukeshouse Wood in Hexham in 2019 – S Hannant advised that this had been a great success and is definitely something which could be scheduled on the agenda for the new Committee.

\*On behalf of the parents, C Attwell thanked all of the Committee for their hard work and dedication over the last year in order to keep the Club afloat.

7) Meeting closed at 5.00pm

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# North Tyneside ASC

Annual General Meeting Report

26<sup>th</sup> March 2023  
Lakeside Centre, Killingworth



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# Chair's Statement

Stephanie Hannant



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The Club has seen several years of significant challenges. The Covid-19 Pandemic, with its associated pool closures and restrictions produced unprecedented times in terms of training activity, competitions, membership and finances for the whole of the swimming world. Many UK pools and consequently clubs, did not recover from this and the legacy goes on in general, particularly with the threat of pool closures continuing in some areas of the North East. Looking back, we have been lucky at North Tyneside ASC to have navigated through these challenges and remain in operation. The last year has seen a stabilisation in terms of both membership numbers and finances however this has not been without some difficult decisions.

We have successfully re-established a workable squad structure based on progression and commitment of our swimmers. Our Stroke Development Groups at the entry stage of the Club are well subscribed with a constant stream of enquiries, trials and new members. There are still gaps within the Lane Squads however this has allowed regular movement of swimmers up the lanes to allow for the steady stream of new members.

We have retained a core Coaching Team and attracted a new volunteer in Ian Dale who is now undertaking Level 1 Coach Training, to be completed in the near future. I

hope you all agree that Ian has been an excellent addition to support our fantastic swimmers.

We have successfully expanded our cohort of Team Managers, who do an amazing job of supervising and organizing on poolside at both home and away galas; we simply couldn't function without you. I would ask that all parents consider how they might be able to support the Club in these or similar roles; there is a significant shortage of people training to become Officials who are pivotal in the success of any gala.

Our Junior League swimmers retained their position in Division 2 at a very exciting Final in September last year. Many thanks to Coach Gillian Dresner and her Diddy Support Team for making that possible. I wish you all the very best of luck in this year's competition!

The Gala programme across the County and Region is now getting back to a more normal format since the Covid-19 interruptions. We have attended galas hosted by Gateshead & Whickham, Derwentside, Chester-Le-Street, Durham and Newcastle as well as having qualifying swimmers representing the Club at both Northumberland & Durham County Championships and North East Regional Championships. According to Club Rankings, we gained times in approximately 800 short course events in the last year to date, compared to only 150 at the same point last year. This is a fantastic achievement to be celebrated by all. That being said, there are still a number of swimmers who have not participated in galas yet and we must do all we can to encourage them to join in with these achievements.

There were 10 swimmers who qualified for the recent Northumberland & Durham County Championships and 7 currently qualifying for the forthcoming North East Regional Age Group Championships in April and May. We also had a large contingent representing the Club at Short Course Regional Championships in November last year, which also saw parents and Head Coach Chris Tibbs continuing the longstanding tradition of a group meal out; something which I loved to participate in whilst my son was a swimmer and I hope continues well into the future.

I wish to thank those who have supported the Club over the last year as Committee Members; it is not always an easy job but is always rewarding when you see the progress made and the smiles on our swimmers faces. They are truly exceptional and work tirelessly behind the scenes to support our fantastic Coaching Team and Club as a whole.

I have remained on the Committee to support the Club long after my son chose to retire from swimming in July 2021; perhaps too long some may think. I have done this to ensure the continuation of the Club in the absence of sufficient numbers of volunteers to maintain it. We are however, fortunate that there is now a new contingent of parents with the vision and commitment to take the Club forward and I feel it is now the right time for me to step down.

In closing, I hope I have 'weathered the storm' of the last few years well enough for the Club; to keep it going and hand over in a reasonable state. With all my heart, I hope the Club continues on for the benefit of the most important people; our fantastic swimmers.

Stephe  
North Tyneside ASC  
Chair



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# Head Coach's Statement

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We are now back from Covid and steadily climbing back to where we should be.

For our return to pool, the Covid Return Cycle was laid out and did exactly what was written on the tin - designed to re-establish both the skill levels of the swimmers as they got back into their training routine and rebuild fitness levels to a point where the Full Competitive Training Programme could be re-introduced. Level X Competition and Galas attended on the Covid Return Cycle produced some very pleasing results; since then, we have been through a hybrid of the two programmes, progressing into the Full Competitive Training Programme at it is now, which has given us some amazing results as highlighted in the Chair's Statement above. Our supportive Coaching Team are the strongest they have ever been in terms of commitment to their learning and development and their support for the swimmers. Our amazing Committee and Team Managers equally so; their support and love for their swimmers is simply.....the best!

We can't stand back and admire things for long, however! Staying in one place while everyone else moves forwards means you will effectively be going backwards.

New challenges are required. No challenges = No change.

We have begun with a Sunday afternoon Land Training Session recently commencing. We are also planning to slowly expand the length of our Training Sessions, hopefully back to pre-Covid status in time; with a return to a 2 hour session on a Wednesday evening already in place. We are in the fortunate position to have a Psychology student called Erin; who wishes to help the Club with Performance Psychology for our swimmers to enable them to get the best out of their training and racing and develop the skills to deal with whatever challenges are placed before them.



Future Plans to push the programme on? ..... Expand the gala circuit – provide opportunities for exposure to different environments and situations, different pools and venues, different levels of competition, different cities, different countries!!

We will strive to get out there and get our swimmers (and Poolside staff) desensitised to competing and racing in all manner of settings. Ordinary kids producing extraordinary performances in sometimes less than ordinary circumstances!

Spread the wings.....

Doing this requires a lot of support. Stephe has continued her role as both Secretary and Chair long after her own swimmer retired. Our Competition Secretary Jane, in the same position and still supporting us – both also giving many hours to the Club as Team Managers and organising our own galas. We can't however expect them to continue this indefinitely and it is right that we now look to the current parents to support the Club in these and other crucial roles.

To paraphrase Kennedy..... Ask not what North Tyneside Swimming Club can do for you! But what YOU can do for North Tyneside Swimming Club!

Our Club and the sport in general, desperately require a new contingent of Gala Officials. Without Officials, competitions cannot proceed and we are increasingly seeing Gala Conditions that include the requirement for Clubs attending galas to supply a minimum number of Officials to operate. Committee Members and volunteers are always required to take up the positions of outgoing members so the club can function correctly.

We frequently hear..... "I'd love to help but I'm really busy at the minute!" "Yes, but you have skills and expertise that we and your swimmers desperately need!

My belief is, if you want something doing swiftly and correctly..... ask the busiest person you know!!

To consolidate recent results already achieved; we need to ensure that all swimmers are attending galas. At our most recent outing to Gateshead and Whickham NER Qualifier we had a team of some 30 swimmers, the largest grouping for a long time but alas, there are still many who have not yet participated in galas. Amid cries of "It's just not the right time yet! I would say.....there will never be the "just the right time" to do something. It doesn't exist! Our objective is for swimmers at North Tyneside Swimming Club to attend a gala every 2 months. By attendance we mean multiple races in several sessions. One 50m swim at a gala covering 2 or 3 days does not constitute a 'gala attendance'. For swimmers to progress optimally, developing skills in all strokes and minimising the chance of injury; all events should be undertaken across a season.

For exactly the same reasons and in order to ensure swimmers progress optimally and develop skills in all strokes whilst minimising the chance of injury, at least 85% of the available Training Sessions for a Squad need to be attended in order to achieve potential on this programme – this now also includes the re-introduced Land Training Session. The North Tyneside programme works and produces results, as demonstrated by the staggering figures on achieved times in the Chair's Statement. Parents and swimmers do have to bear in mind however, that no matter what level of talent a swimmer possesses, results and progression can only be achieved with a full commitment to training. The programme will not work for swimmers who only attend a minimal amount of the training offered.

In conclusion, a swimmer's life is a tough call ..... long hours, early mornings, training commitments on most days, lifestyle and nutrition commitments, planning of education and revision, general time management and organisational skills.....for swimmers and their parents!! And all of this with the realisation it's a blind date with destiny!

**"But what if I fall?" ..... "Oh, but my darling, what if you fly?"**

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# Forthcoming Competition/Gala Information

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April 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> – North East Regional Age Group Championships

May 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> – North East Regional Age Group Championships

June 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> – Derwentside Charity Gala

We have always supported this great gala; over the years it has been running, a huge amount of money has been raised in support of Cystic Fibrosis charities which are of particular relevance to Derwentside as a Club. This is the first time it has been able to run since 2019 due to the Covid-19 Pandemic and it would be fantastic if we could get a massive squad there. There are 2 charities that will benefit this year: Anthony Nolan Trust and again, the Cystic Fibrosis Trust.

June 17<sup>th</sup> - Newcastle Sprint Meet – to include skins events with cash prizes!!

July 9<sup>th</sup> - Newcastle Shrimp Meet

July 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> – Gateshead & Whickham – hopefully to include long distance events.

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# Membership Report

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All Swimming Clubs affiliated to Swim England are required to pay an Annual Membership fee for the Club as a whole and per swimming member or parent/member acting in a voluntary or paid capacity. The fees paid cover the necessary Civil Liability Insurance, Personal Accident Insurance and Legal Advice Cover required for the Club to function.

Our current charges for this Swim England element are:

- Club Train (Category 1) £40 per year
- Club Compete (Category 2) £25 per year
- Club Support (Category 3) – paid from Club Funds

In addition, we require payment of an Annual North Tyneside ASC Family Membership, covering all swimmers and adults in the same household, currently charged at £30 per family per year.

The club is now in a relatively healthy position from a membership perspective.

We currently have:

- 78 Swimmers
- 12 Workforce (paid/volunteers without swimmers) - There are other Workforce members (paid and volunteers) who are accounted for as parents as part of the Club Family Membership.
- All parents

Our Club Membership number is a total of these. At the point of calculating a Quorate number for the AGM, I calculated there to be 204 members (apologies if there are some who disagree with this) requiring 21 to be present as per the conditions of The Club Constitution 2019.