**GREAT BRITAIN DEAF SWIMMING CLUB**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 19TH MARCH 2016 AT 8.30AM**

**STUDIO IN SPORTS BLOCK, NOTTINGHAM UNIVERSITY**

1. **Welcome and domestics**: Brian welcomed everyone, and pointed out where the fire exits were in case of emergency. He especially welcomed the 2 BSL interpreters to the meeting. Those present were: Nigel Seamarks, Sam Chamberlain, Mel Davis, Martin Lee, Ashleigh Scott, James Joyce, Margaret Baxter, Brian Baxter, Rod Oaten, Sarah Tappenden, Rob Holdbrook, Phil Blacker, Catherine Blacker, and Elvire & Helen, the 2 interpreters.
2. **Apologies for absence** :Peter Noden, Lorraine Oaten, Amanda Kenny, Oliver Kenny

Noden, Emily Noden, Tom Baxter, Lucy-Emma Harris.

1. **Minutes of the 2015 AGM** were accepted by Nigel Seamarks and seconded by Jim Joyce, and there were no matters arising from the minutes.
2. **Report from Chair**. Brian explained that he had pulled together 1 report, with input from Margaret, Nigel, Jim, Sam and Mel. He thanked them all for their input. There were no questions relating to the report.
3. **Accounts for the year ended 30th June 2015.** These were significant because there had been no audited accounts prior to those for 2011/12 which were created with incomplete records. This was the 3rd set of accounts that had the auditor’s endorsement and therefore these put us in a stronger position to apply for grant, swim 21 accreditation and show us to be a competent club. Nigel praised the auditor, Joan Swain.
4. **Vote to accept the accounts and to reappoint JM Solutions,** our Accounts Examiner, proposed by Nigel Seamarks and seconded by Jim Joyce.
5. **Revised Constitution** and vote to accept or otherwise. Brian explained the background to the work that had been carried out: there were various versions of the constitution in existence and the document needed to be revisited. GB Deaf Swimming Club is an ASA club, and the expectation is that broadly speaking we should adopt the ASA’s model constitution, though we have some specific requirements. The suggested version with discussion points had been sent out to the committee ahead of the Reading weekend. Feedback had been requested but was limited. The committee ran out of time at Reading and another request went out for feedback with a timescale of a further week. The majority view from that feedback was used to produce the document that had been sent to the membership for agreement. Nigel’s objection was that the committee hadn’t discussed this constitution. For example, we had not adopted the suggestion that swimmers aged 16 or over could vote, and none of his suggestions had been adopted. Brian stressed that the majority view had been used. Specifically regarding the voting age, Brian had asked Amanda Kenny for her guidance as Welfare Officer. She consulted the ASA who advised that our swimmers are considered vulnerable adults and so the recommendation was that 18 was reasonable in the circumstances. Nigel and Rob Holdbrook felt that the ASA view was disappointing. Martin Lee felt that at 16 swimmers were early on in their career and they need to concentrate on their swimming development until they were 18. Rod Oaten felt that 16 should be the age to vote because there were so few swimmers over the age of 18 in the club. The majority view was that the age of 18 was right for this club, by a vote of 8 to 3, with 2 abstentions. Nigel said that swimmers had told him that they had no voice within the club, and suggested having 2 club captains: 1 each boy and girl. Mel Davis said that swimmers get some choices, such as with kit: Jim queried as to why Nigel was the person that swimmers told issues that none of the rest of the committee had heard about. Previously there had been 2 swimmers on the committee, and Tom in particular used to go to the swimmers for their views. However, one or two of the committee took such a hostile approach to Tom doing this that Brian had thought hard about taking the issue of the bullying of Tom that had gone on further (ie to the ASA) but had decided to keep the status quo. All those on the committee should have their voices, and those of whom they represent, heard. Jim said it was vital that the swimmers’ views were heard and they needed to invite them to put their views to any committee member. Margaret asked if it would be worth considering having an inbox for queries, on the website perhaps, but Catherine Blacker suggested that they be given time in future training events to get together. Phil Blacker said facilitating this was helping the swimmers in the process of growing up. The discussion then turned to whether all members should have had the opportunity to listen to Lee Dolby, as he had suggested, at the start of the committee meeting the following day. Brian agreed to ask Lee whether he would speak to the parents and swimmers for 10 minutes tomorrow (this was done at the pool at the end of the training session).

Rod Oaten asked, returning to the issue of the constitution, whether deviations from the ASA model contract could be shown in red type. Mel advised that a copy of the revised constitution should be sent to Bryony Gibbs of the ASA SER.

There was then a discussion led by Nigel about whether we should have included Ulster in the document. Brian explained that we are an ASA club: Swim Ulster is part of Swim Ireland, and that we should not have jurisdiction over Ireland. Therefore we cannot include in our constitution that we will take swimmers from Swim Ulster if they ask to join us: if a swimmer does, he/she becomes a member of the ASA. **Action:** Chair to discuss with UK Deaf Sport and British Swimming the issue, then contact Irish Deaf Swimming. The constitution should then be amended if necessary.

The election process was discussed, with Nigel expressing disquiet that nominations weren’t received by some committee members, and that we had vacancies. He suggested that it would have been better to send out a note 7 days before the process to highlight vacancies. Margaret stated that the process was clear and fair and that in one instance a reminder was sent to a committee member who had said he was going to stand and had not done so. The nomination was still not received by the closing date, apparently due to a computer error. However, it was possible for those who still wanted to be on the committee to be co-opted onto it the following day. Catherine Blacker said that it often happened in swimming clubs that there were vacancies, but these could be filled by nominations at the AGM.

The lack of a Treasurer was highlighted, although It was acknowledged that the work was being covered. Nigel wanted to have an Executive of 4 people, to include the Vice Chair, but Jim said he had no wish to be a member of the Executive and Brian said that 4 was a bad number as it would be difficult to get a majority view. Mel said that Jim was overseeing Finance and Jim confirmed that he would do so until a new Treasurer were found.

Those present voted for the new constitution to be adopted, subject to the amendments agreed with 11 for, 1 against and 1 abstention

1. **vote for new committee**:

Nominations received:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Post | **Nomination** | **Nominated by** | **Seconded by:** |
| Chair | Nigel Seamarks \*Brian Baxter\* | Martin LeeLucy-Emma Harris | Alison SainesJames Joyce |
| Club Secretary | Margaret Baxter | Lucy-Emma Harris | Mel Davis |
| Treasurer | Brian Baxter\* | Mel Davis | Margaret Baxter |
| Vice Chair | James Joyce | Margaret Baxter | Brian Baxter |
| Assistant Coach |  |  |  |
| Membership Secretary |  |  |  |
| Team Manager | Melanie Davis | Brian Baxter | Tom Baxter |
| Welfare Officer |  |  |  |
| Committee member  | Sarah Tappenden | Nigel Seamarks | Helen Seamarks |
| Committee member | Ashleigh Scott | Brian Baxter | Margaret Baxter |
| Committee member | Tom Baxter | Mel Davis | Brian Baxter |
| Committee member | Nigel Seamarks\* | Helen Seamarks | Alison Saines |
| Committee member | Lucy-Emma Harris | Margaret Baxter | Brian Baxter |
| Committee member | Lorraine Oaten | Rod Oaten | Sarah Tappenden |
| Committee member |  |  |  |

\*Nigel Seamarks is standing for Chair. If he is unsuccessful, he would like to stand as a committee member. Brian Baxter is standing for Chair. If he is unsuccessful he would like to stand as Treasurer.

All those who stood for committee posts were successful, and the vote for Chair was carried for Brian, with 21 votes for him, 8 for Nigel, with 6 abstentions and 11 absentees who didn’t respond to the process.

The meeting ended at 10 30am.