



## **WELWYN GARDEN CITY SWIMMING CLUB**

### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**MINUTES: of the meeting of the Annual General Meeting of the Members of the Welwyn Garden City Swimming Club held at the Postino Lounge, 17-19 Howardsgate, Welwyn Garden City, AL8 6AL on Monday 9 March 2026, commencing at 19:15**

#### **1. APOLOGIES**

There were apologies from four members.

#### **2. MINUTES OF THE 2025 AGM**

The minutes of the meeting of the 2025 AGM were approved.

#### **3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE 2025 AGM MINUTES**

There were no matters arising.

#### **4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Chairman gave his annual report. The main points were:

- Membership has been steadily increasing, and we now have 101 members.
- We hosted the Goldstone gala and won the title.
- Club championships continued the combined format of a single Saturday and two Sundays.
- An excellent programme has been delivered by the coaching and lifesaving teams.
- More officials are required as we are thin on the ground for some events.
- There have been no documents to complete for SwimMark.
- There were 6 people remaining on the committee at the end of the year and there are 6 people standing for election this year.
- We currently have some vacant posts – details of the roles are on the website.
- Thank you to all those involved in Welwyn Garden City Swimming Club and welcome to the new Chairman Allan Warburton.

#### **5. HEAD COACH'S REPORT**

Victoria Francis gave her annual report. The main points were:

- Thank you to swimming teachers for their commitment, hard work and dedication.
- A quarterly training plan is followed by all the coaches and training is tailored around the events the swimmers might be involved in.
- Swimmers falling within the promotion criteria are promoted during April, September and December.
- We continued to attend galas and came
  - 8<sup>th</sup> in the Major league



- 4<sup>th</sup> in Peanuts
- 3<sup>rd</sup> (black team) and 6<sup>th</sup> (yellow team) in the Letchworth gala
- The Isabel gala was cancelled due to lack of interest.
- The Club champs and Clive Parker events went well, and some club records were broken
- No open meets were attended this year.
- Would like to see membership numbers increasing to reach our capacity (which is 120 swimmers)
- Vision remains 'swimming for all' to aid physical, mental well-being and great fun whilst doing it.

## 6. LIFE SAVING REPORT

John London gave the lifesaving report. The main points were:

- John and Stewart have been updating and improving their qualifications, which will enable them to offer more to the lifesavers and give our older members the opportunity to run their own lifesaving sessions.
- From 2 March there are new protocols for CPR to learn before this session can be delivered.
- A few members have been attending lifesaving as part of their Duke of Edinburgh award.
- The club took part in Drowning Prevention Week.
- The Frinton-on -sea day in September was great fun and swimmers learnt how to use paddle boards safely as well as doing various rescues.

## 7. TREASURER'S REPORT

Joss Stafford gave his annual report. The main points were:

- The finances have been healthier this year and we have made a profit of £4,533
- The Balance sheet shows we have £22,517 in cash reserves.

## 8. ELECTION OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Joss will ask the current examiner if they would be prepared to take this role next year.

## 9. CLUB MEMBERSHIP & SUBSCRIPTIONS 2026/27

There was a lengthy debate on whether we should spread all subscription payments over 12 months or keep to our current model of annual or over 10 months. The administration is substantially reduced if we spread payments over 12 months, but there is a risk to our cashflow and members stopping paying if they leave part way through the year. (The contract is to pay the full year's fees even if the swimmer decides to leave part way through the year)

**It was agreed that we would spread payments over 12 months and set up mandates for all members.**

Joss will circulate the new subscription rates to the committee members.



## **10. ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE FOR 2026/2027**

The following people were elected to the Committee

- Allan Warburton – Chair
- Kate Minikin – Treasurer
- Jane Ashton – Committee member
- Joss Stafford – Committee member
- Ricardo Rossetti – Committee member
- Scott Koronka – Committee member

## **11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There were various questions covering the following:

- RLSS Club check – this will be taken forward by the new Chair
- Publicity and Media Volunteer – Swim England best practice is to have this role. We don't have enough volunteers for our current roles, but the new Chair will take this forward.
- Welwyn Hatfield Schools Partnership at Ridgeway Secondary School – have we linked into this? – this will be taken forward by the new Chair.
- Peter will not be available as Welfare Officer in a few months, so we need the new person to step up into this role.
- Equipment at Monks Walk is being damaged – can we make it more secure? Monk's Walk have said we can't have storage so this is a difficult one, but we will consider what can be done.

## **12 VOTE OF THANKS**

A vote of thanks was given to James Consdanti – outgoing Chair.