

Woodchurch SC



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2024 Agenda Tuesday 28th January 2025 at 7:00pm via Teams

Attendees : Gillian Brearton, Carl Craig, Jo Foggo, Alan Gately, Caroline Gavin, Sarah Jones, Hazel Nicholls, Jean Taylor, Andrea Thomas & Lucy Smith

Apologies : Jenny Findlay & Helen Milnes

Minutes:

1. Apologies for absence

1.1 Apologies were noted, as above.

2. Previous Minutes (2023 AGM)

2.1 The minutes were read, approved by Sarah and accepted by Andrea.

3. Matters Arising

3.1 There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

4. Chair's Report – Sarah Jones

4.1 Introduction

2024 has been a year of significant growth and development for the club in many areas. The number of swimmers has increased, the number of volunteers has grown, and the club's overall presence and image have been enhanced. While a small number of older swimmers have left to focus on their studies or university, a fresh group of younger swimmers have joined, helping the club maintain momentum. As of this report, the club has 100 active members.

4.2 SwimMark Accreditation

Carl Craig and Alan Gately took charge of the club's SwimMark accreditation renewal, ensuring the club remains up to date with Swim England's required annual submissions. Their dedication ensures the club's continued success and alignment with required standards. Formal accreditation for 2025 is awaiting final confirmation of revised Constitution (section 6).

4.3 Training sessions

WSC has maintained consistent attendance across all training sessions over the past 12 months, demonstrating the swimmers' commitment and the club's stability. WSC continue to operate training at three locations, providing 9 hours of training spread over 5 sessions each week:

- Caldy – Monday: Coaching for swimmers.
- Leasowe – Monday and Wednesday: More experienced swimmers are invited to swim.
- Bebington Oval – Friday and Saturday: Open to all swimmers.

In response to the influx of younger swimmers, plans are underway to expand the Friday and Saturday sessions at Bebington Oval. These will be split into two separate sessions: one for younger swimmers, followed by a second for older more advanced swimmers.

4.4 Competition

The year saw further progress in rebuilding the club's competition program, following the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic. A full MDJSL League was held, and we saw the return of both the Peninsula League and Development Galas. The club celebrated many great swims, with an impressive number of personal bests (PBs) achieved.

- **Licensed Galas:** The club saw an increase in participation at various licensed meets, including: Holywell Summer Sprints, Conwy Meet and the Liverpool & District Championships. Several swimmers earned medals and posted outstanding performances, setting new PBs along the way. One of the best-attended events was the Metro Xmas Meet.
- **County Level:** This year, **five swimmers** have qualified to represent the club at the County Championships, which are taking place in January 2025 in Macclesfield. This marks a significant achievement for the club and is a testament to the growing talent within the team.
- **Annual Club Gala:** The year was rounded off with the Annual Club Gala. To further promote inclusion and encourage younger swimmers, the coaching team introduced additional shorter-length events, such as the 25m Freestyle and 25m Breaststroke. These events were specifically designed for the younger swimmers who joined the club this year. ***The invitation to compete in the gala was extended to all current members. This approach led to a positive and encouraging atmosphere,*** with many swimmers participating in their first gala. The club will review this format to improve and build on it for future events.

4.5 Teachers, Officials & Helpers

WSC maintained a strong and dedicated group of helpers over the year, with several poolside helpers advancing their qualifications. Notably, **Helen Milnes earned her Level 2 coaching qualification**, a great achievement for both her and the club. **The club remains committed to supporting any volunteers who wish to pursue Level 1 or Level 2 Coaching qualifications.**

Current volunteering staff includes:

- 5 regular Level 2 coaches, along with several retired coaches who assist when available
- 3 Level 1 coaches
- 4 regular poolside helpers
- Several dedicated "behind the scenes" helpers contributing to administration & event planning

We are proud of the enthusiasm and energy shown by our coaching team, who work diligently to ensure that our swimmers enjoy their training and continue progressing. A heartfelt thank you goes out to all our volunteers for their time, commitment and passion. The club is always happy to welcome new volunteers, whether they wish to assist poolside or behind the scenes.

4.6 Social Events

Throughout the year, the club has continued to foster friendship, community, and inclusion through various social events. These events not only allow swimmers to bond outside of training but also provide opportunities for families to become more involved in the club's activities.

This year, we **organized a bowling event**, inviting all swimmers to join in for a fun and social outing. This activity allowed swimmers of all ages to connect in a relaxed, non-competitive environment, helping strengthen the club's sense of community.

Additionally, **the club maintained its tradition of the Christmas Awards event.** This event is a highlight of the year, as it brings everyone together to celebrate achievements and the collective spirit of the club. It's a chance to recognize the hard work and dedication of our swimmers, coaches, and volunteers, while also enjoying a social evening together.

These events have been integral to maintaining a positive and welcoming atmosphere within the club, **and we look forward to building on these traditions in the future.**

4.7 Conclusion

The success of the club is due, in no small part, to the efforts of the committee members, coaches and volunteers, who work tirelessly to keep everything running smoothly. Their dedication and hard work ensure the club's continued success and their efforts are greatly appreciated.

In conclusion 2024 has been a year of growth, achievement, and community for the club. The dedication of our swimmers, volunteers, coaches, and committee members has ensured that we remain on an upward trajectory. As we move into 2025, we look forward to continuing this momentum, developing our swimmers further, and maintaining a positive and inclusive environment for all. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the club's success this year.

Chairman's report accepted by Caroline Gavin and seconded by Jo Foggo.

5. Treasurer's Report

In common with other Clubs, WSC is still striving to increase membership levels and this may take some time to recover to pre-pandemic levels. Whilst recruitment has been good this has only been at a slightly higher level than departing members. There have been quite a few new members join after the financial year end and we have seen some busier sessions at the Oval and Leasowe are quite full.

WSC has maintained reduced pool hire during school holidays. Calday sessions are cancelled and the Calday swimmers are permitted to swim at Leasowe on Mondays. The hours at the Oval are reduced in school holidays. The pool utilisation has improved.

WSC subscriptions were increased to £35 (from £32) per month from 1 June 2024. This followed an increase of the Council's pool hire charges for training from 1 April 2024 by 5% without warning. The result for the year did however give rise to a deficit of £4,814 of expenditure over income. This appears to be reasonably sustainable for about 3 years given the Club's reserves, until the membership levels hopefully increase. However, any future increase in the Council's pool hire charges will likely need to be passed onto members in their subscriptions.

The main accrual is for pool hire: as at 31 August 2024 the Council had not invoiced for 5 months of sessions, giving rise to a high creditor balance.

Independent review of the accounts to be completed in mid-February by Rachel Monks

6. Constitution Matters and Rule Changes

Secretary informed the Committee of the updated Constitution as required for SwimMark affiliation and the version accepted by Swim England was circulated prior to the AGM.

the updated Constitution contained no rule changes and modifications were due to the revised Swim England template required in completion.

However, the Chair wished it to be noted in the minutes that sections 3.4, 15 & 16 - relating to Paid individuals, Borrowing and Property respectively - whilst retained, do not apply to the Club.

7. Election of Executive Officers and Committee

No new officers were nominated for election - all Committee members to continue in their existing roles:

Post	Name
Chair	<i>Sarah Jones</i>
Secretary	<i>Alan Gately</i>
Treasurer	<i>Andrea Thomas</i>
Vice-Chair	<i>Jean Taylor</i>
Head Coach	<i>Carl Craig</i>
Social Event Co-ordinator	<i>Helen Milnes</i>
Recruitment Co-ordinator	<i>Caroline Gavin</i>

8. Co-opted Members for 2025

Four additional co-opted members were added to the committee for the calendar year 2025.

All hold a current Coach or Assistant Coach position within the Club:

Lucy Smith, Gillian Brearton, Jo Foggo & Hazel Nicholls will be able to assist in taking forward plans for structured coaching sessions - necessary with the increased number of swimmers attending.

9. Any Other Business

9.1 Formal AGM matters:

Treasurer requested the need for Annual Club Gala monies to be transferred to accounts – Caroline to arrange with Andrea after meeting.

9.2 Ongoing matters:

Sarah Jones indicated that she was currently working on an updated Handbook that in addition to the website required some overhaul.

Jo Foggo indicated that as an inexperienced coach more assistance (not just SE guidance) would be welcome in setting training plans.

Caroline Gavin raised the need for the following:

Goal setting for swimmers: intends to create a template that we can have poolside with our swimmers.

Session planning: needs to account request from Jo

Swim Club Strategy: to address key areas - financial viability / optimum numbers / new & additional coaching support, as well as qualified Judges

It was agreed that these latter points were to be taken forward for discussion to the first Ordinary Meeting of 2025 (before end February).

Meeting closed at 8:05pm