

Notice is hereby given that the 72nd Annual General Meeting of the Ware Swimming Club will be held on Saturday, 19th November 2011.

Venue: Wodson Park, Ware

Time: 7pm

A G E N D A

- 1.0 Chairman's Opening Remarks
- 2.0 Apologies for Absence
- 3.0 Minutes of the 71st Annual General Meeting
- 4.0 Matters arising from previous minutes
- 5.0 Committee members reports
- 6.0 Financial Report
- 7.0 Club Constitution
- 8.0 Election of Chairman, Officers and Committee for 2011/2012
- 9.0 Any Other Business

The 2011 AGM papers will be published on the Club's website.

MINUTES FROM THE WARE SWIMMING CLUB 71ST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY 20 NOVEMBER 2010 AT WODSON PARK

Jacqueline Backhaus opened the 71st AGM at 7.10 pm by welcoming those present.

1.0 Apologies for Absence

- 1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Theo Kyriakou and Inna Boyko, Derek Matthews, Alex and Mrs. Smith

2.0 Chair's Opening Remarks

- 2.1 JB reminded all present that the protocol was that matters raised at the meeting would be minuted and therefore not replied to until the next AGM. However, any issues can be taken up with any members of the Committee at any time during the year.

JB thanked Keith Ian for their continued support of the Club. She also thanked the coaching team for their continued hard work as well as the parents for their support.

JB thanked the swimmers for a successful year, and encouraged them to keep training hard for the future.

JB indicated that Mike Suckling (Head Coach) would be addressing the meeting regarding a possible change to the current training schedule.

3.0 Minutes from the previous meeting

- 3.1 As these were available on line as well as at the meeting they were taken as read. The minutes of the previous meeting were proposed as a true copy by Libby Williamson and second by Anne-Marie Williams

4.0 Matters Arising From the Previous Meeting

- 4.1 The accounts have now been reviewed.

There were no other matters arising.

5.0 Committee Members' Reports

- 5.1 JB reminded the meeting that the Reports were available in the AGM pack on line and invited Mike Suckling to outline his Squad Proposal.
- 5.2 MS briefly described his plans for a new system in training which would increase the hours a swimmer trains. There being no comments from the floor, he invited members and families to contact any coaches or Committee members with any future questions or concerns.

6.0 Financial Report

- 6.1 The Accounts were presented in draft form. KP reviewed the Treasurer's Report which had been circulated, and indicated that Wulfrath cost more this time as we had hosted them.
- 6.2 There being no comments from the floor the accounts were proposed subject to audit by Anne-Marie Williams and seconded by Janice Keen

7.0 Club Constitution – Proposal to amend Rules 7.1, 8, 11.1, 14.1

- 7.1 AE explained the proposed amendments to the rules which had been Circulated in advance of the AGM. . It was agreed to amend the rules en bloc.

The proposal to amend Rules 7.1, 8, 11.1, and 14.1 was proposed by Janet Pinfold and seconded by Matt Edmonds

8.0 Election of Chairman, Officers & Committee for 2010/11 Committee

- 8.1 The 2010/11 Committee was elected en bloc
Proposed by Libby Williamson and seconded by Matt Edmonds

Chairman - Jacqueline Backhaus

Club Treasurer - Joanne Clarke

Club Secretary - Mrs Rix

Girls Team Manager - Jon Pinfold

Boys Team Manager - Will Osterburg

Fixtures Secretary - Chris Buck

Welfare Officer - Frank Backhaus

Social Secretary - Audrey Byron

Membership Secretary - Mrs Bates

Minute Secretary - Jenny Matthews

Trophy Secretary - Claire Matthews

Volunteer Co-ordinators - Janet Pinfold

C Matthews

M Suckling

Swim21 Co-ordinator - No nomination

General Committee (2 Members) - Kris Pringle

Mrs Manser

JB informed the meeting that Kris Pringle would be standing down as Treasurer, and presented him with a gift on behalf of the Club. She also presented Ron Keen with a gift as he was retiring from the Committee after over 12 years as Membership Secretary. Finally, gifts and a vote of thanks were given to Anne Edmonds who was resigning from the Committee after 22 years of service.

Any Other Business

JB reminded parents of licensing laws for evening and requested that children remained in room during the event.

CB requested that people pay for their tickets if they had not already paid.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.31 pm

CHAIRPERSON'S ANNUAL REPORT

2010/2011

FOR

WARE SWIMMING CLUB

I write this, my second annual report as Chairperson of Ware Swimming Club, to update the membership with a brief synopsis of the events, successes and changes that have taken place throughout this last year in the life of the Swimming Club. In terms of swimming successes these are detailed in both the Team Manager's Report of 2011 as well in our Head Coach's Report and I therefore do not intend to repeat those facts in this Report save to say we maintained a very creditable performance in the Herts Major League this year finishing fifth in Division Two of the League. Additionally, the Peanuts Team again enjoyed competitive success finishing eighth overall in Division Two not only maintaining their place in that division but also winning the third round of League with great success.

The early part of the year was once again taken up preparing and planning our visit to the Turnerbund Wulfrath Swimming Club in Germany. The week-long visit in April is a highlight of the Swimming Club year and our German hosts provided generous hospitality and a very enjoyable week was had by all those who were fortunate enough to travel to Germany. Once again this week would not run nearly so smoothly if it were not for the very hard work of Chris Buck; her experience in organising these trips and the hard work she puts in, made the week an undeniable success and that cannot go unmentioned. Our thanks to her for putting in so much time and effort on behalf of all of the Club.

Unfortunately, success was not ours to be had this year. The winner's trophy remained in Wulfrath; however, the Turnerbund Wulfrath will be returning to England in April of 2012 and clearly the ambition of the Swimming Club is to regain the trophy on home territory.

The membership of the Committee changed significantly last year with long standing committee members taking their leave, making way for new parents to join the Committee.

Karen Manser took over the onerous task of Treasurer and has done an outstanding job in keeping our accounts in order and my thanks go to her for all her hard work. Equally, Kate Bates took over the task of Membership Secretary and put in a substantial amount of work bringing our data into order and ensuring that membership fees were collected promptly keeping our accounts in good order. Kate has also brought the system up to date in terms of ensuring all data is retained electronically and as you will no doubt be aware invoices are coming out by email which is reducing the amount of paperwork needed and also

reducing postage fees for the Swimming Club. Having established an extremely well-functioning system, Kate has been lured away from the post to assist with other activities in which her two girls are involved. She has therefore resigned her position as Membership Secretary of the Swimming Club; my thanks however go to her for the outstanding work she undertook on our behalf. Fortunately, Maureen Broughal has agreed to take over that position and we welcome her to the Committee this year.

Nicola Rix kindly took over the function as Club Secretary and this was no easy task as this position was previously occupied by Anne Vanner for approximately 20 years. Anne of course gave Nicola a superb handover and Nicola has continued to provide excellent support in this position over the course of the last year. You will shortly be seeing new membership packs coming out from Nicola via email and those packs need to be completed and returned to us to ensure all of our data is up to date in terms of the membership within the Swimming Club.

My thanks also to Audrey Bryon for her work as Social Secretary. Audrey, as you will know has hosted a number of quiz evenings which have raised substantial funds for the Swimming Club and we look forward to further evenings and events during the course of the coming years. She also has arranged the AGM this year with Chris Buck and is involved with the organisation of the next Wulfrath visit.

My thanks also go to Janet Pinfold for all the hard work she undertook during her time on the Committee; it was with great personal sadness that I learnt that for personal reasons she needed to resign her position as a Committee member and also from the coaching team. Having been a swimmer with Janet many years ago, it was always good to have her support on the Committee and I personally valued her views and contribution. However, another Pinfold has stepped valiantly into her coaching shoes and it is great pleasure that we now have Josie Pinfold as part of the coaching team.

In terms of the Coaching Team, Mike Suckling has continued to lead our team but due to work commitments has enlisted the help of Claire Matthews over the course of the last few months to jointly run the coaching of the Swimming Club. Claire has put a significant amount of extra time into the Swimming Club these last few months and we owe her our thanks for that. Claire, along with a number of other young teachers, has ensured the on-going commitment and quality in terms of coaching of the Club members. My thanks to Mike, Claire, Lydia, Ryan and Katrina for their work over the last year and going forward my ongoing thanks to those younger swimmers who are now coming through and completing level one teaching courses and assisting with the training at the Swimming Club. Not only is this good for the Club that our swimmers are graduating as qualified teachers, but in terms of their own personal development, the qualifications they are receiving are inspiring and stand them in good stead for their own development and careers in the future.

This year's Swimming Club championships took place in early October and once again ran over the course of two weeks. Having given some consideration to form of the championships, we, as a Committee have decided that for 2012 the Swimming Club Championships will be held over the course of one weekend only taking place on Friday evening, Saturday evening and Sunday afternoon. This year's championships were organisationally difficult, in particular seeking to obtain officials for a vast number of evenings proved a logistical nightmare. Additionally, we have received comments that the events were too late in the evening, in particular for our younger swimmers. Going forward, we hope to be able to condense the number of evenings to one weekend and a task force is already in place planning the programme for 2012. The dates will be announced early in 2012 for your diaries.

We had some outstanding results during this year's Swimming Club Championship with Swimming Club records being broken in particular by Jessica Portch and Kathy Ruddock. As set out in our Team Managers' Report, these new records along with those numerous records set in 2010 by current swimmers, show the strength of our swimmers particularly in the younger age groups. Once again we were supported last year by Keith Ian Estate Agents at our prize giving ceremony and we thank them for their continued support of the Swimming Club over the course of last year.

During last year, an investment has been made through the purchase of software to assist with the management of galas and gala results as well as swimmers' times. The software allows our team managers and coaches to remain on top of progress and assists with the team selection process. Will Osterburg has been leading this initiative and along with Nicola Rix they hope to improve our processes in this area. We hope, going forward, that the use of IT will allow us to optimise selection procedures and keep on top of performance and progress of our swimmers.

In terms of Team Kit, you will be aware of the new team kit that is now available to order on line via HT Sports whose link is on the Club website. The kit is available to try on at the pool should sizing ever be an issue. Moving forward, we have asked HT Sports to also provide training kit in the terms of kick boards, pool buoys and bags and these are also now available on the website. We will also now be looking to have our Club costumes and jammers available to order on the website as Julie Suckling has stepped back from undertaking this task for us at the pool. Our thanks go to Julie for all her hard work in terms of the Club Shop which has been operational now for many years at Fanshawe. Moving forward, Swimming Club hats will still be available for purchase at the Club and please speak with either Chris Buck or Karen Manser should you require hats in the future. Otherwise, all kit will now be available on the website for order.

In terms of swimming times and fees, we had to raise fees at the beginning of the year to cover the annual increase in pool hire fees. We have sought to ensure that the fee increase remained at a minimum. Moving

forward it is likely that the pool will once again increase pool hire fees next April and we will then need to reconsider our position in terms of fees to ensure that we can cover our outgoings in that respect. You will be notified in advance by email of any changes in that regard.

Mike Suckling last year at our AGM put forward a proposal for squad structures within the Swimming Club. Although these have not been formalised, progress has been made in moving swimmers up into higher groups as they have improved and progressed. In this regard a task force has now been put together to see how we can best progress this area as there is a desire to make better use of the pool time that we have available and pay for; providing more pool time for no significant fee increase is the objective but we are a little way from having an identified strategy in that regard. A different structure in terms of fees may well be an option to try to facilitate this but you will be informed of any changes proposed in advance.

Our congratulations as a Club go to Pete Kelleway for his continued achievements at national Masters Events and to Anthony Collier who has represented his country in the triathlon and is now a member of the Swimming Club and part of the coaching team. Our congratulations also to Lydia Backhaus who was awarded a national Aquaforce award by the ASA for all the volunteer work that she has undertaken both as a coach at the Club and also as a Level 2 Qualified official. Once again it is with great pleasure that we see our members receiving recognition for their efforts in the Swimming Club.

Finally, I pass on my thanks to all the swimmers of the Club who have worked very hard throughout the year in their training sessions and in the competitive events undertaken on behalf of the Club. My thanks also to the coaching team who give up a lot of their time free of charge and also congratulations to our Captains and Vice Captains who have performed their roles well throughout the year.

My thanks to all those on the Committee who give their time freely and assist in all the many tasks that are involved in running the Swimming Club. May next year be a good one for us all.

Jacqueline Backhaus

November 2011

Head Coach Report 2010-2011

This past swimming year has seen Ware SC take a big step forward both in the development of our swimmers and our coaching team.

Although it was disappointing to not retain the Ware-Wulfrath Trophy, our performance in Germany ranked as one of our best all season. The racing was very close and the second half of the gala - traditionally our weakest – yielded the most wins which is encouraging for the future.

2010 was rounded off with success at the Christmas Gala. It speaks volumes of our club when we were able to field two squads one of which went on to win. It is something we wish to repeat this Xmas.

Our Peanuts and Major League squads performed with great skill and determination with several of our younger swimmers performing with distinction.

It is our recent London Arena League performance in October at Harlow that proves just how far we have progressed. In finishing forth, we beat two teams – Clissold and Bushey – that have got the better of us over the past three years.

In order to get the most out of our swimmers, it is critical that our coaching team develops accordingly. A number of club swimmers have graduated to become Level Two Teachers and some have taken their first steps by successfully completing Level One Teaching. What is most encouraging – both for now and for future years – is the commitment shown by our younger swimmers in supporting the already very successful Sunday sessions. With my enforced absence due to work commitments, I'm very proud and humbled by the work Claire Matthews and her team have been doing.

For this coming swimming year, we want to push on again and be as successful as we can be whilst retaining the spirit of club. Our main focus will be to win back the Ware-Wulfrath Trophy and I would encourage all swimmers to work hard in their training and make selection for the squad their main aim.

In closing, I would like to thank our Team Managers – Will Osterburg and Jon Pinfold – for their efforts and to the Ware SC Committee for their hard work.

Wishing you all a safe and happy Xmas and New Year.

Best Wishes

Mike Suckling

Head Coach

Ware Swimming Club

Team Managers' Report for 2010/2011

Another successful and enjoyable year comes to an end. The swimming year started in victorious fashion where for the first time, Ware entered two teams against Hertford, Hoddesdon and Broxbourne in our own Christmas gala. This was a bit of an experiment but we wanted to allow as many club swimmers to participate as possible and enjoy the gala atmosphere. Team Holly won and Team Ivy also did very well, putting up a close fight with Broxbourne. We plan to repeat the format this year.

In this first phase of the season the club competed in the Arena National League which was as tough as always. This year we came 17th out of 20 teams in Division 2 of the London Region; this compares with 19th out of 24 in 2009. In the first gala we came a creditable 4th but then suffered in subsequent galas from unavailability and struggled to be competitive. This year, the league has been split into 3 divisions which, while still providing our toughest challenge, should enable us to challenge the top half of the table.

After Christmas we moved into the Herts Major League where we qualified for the top 6 gala finally finishing 5th in the league out of 12 teams, securing our place in division 2 for 2012 and a pennant for the trophy cabinet in the process.

After being promoted in 2010, we competed in Division 2 of the Peanuts League in 2011. In many ways, these were the most important set of galas of the year as they allowed us to measure the strength of our younger swimmers and by implication the pool of talent we have coming up through the club. There were many great performances with many swimmers enjoying their first taste of competitive action. Round three brought out the best of the swimmers with Ware winning the gala which in turn led to an 8th place finish out of the 12 teams in the league. It should be noted however that we were unable to field relay squads in the youngest age group (9 years) and we would encourage all swimmers and parents to promote the swimming club, particularly at Junior School level.

One age group where we saw continued success throughout the season, and particularly in the National and Major Leagues were the under 16 boys. During these competitions the club medley and freestyle relay records, at both 4x25m and 4x50m, were broken frequently by teams consisting of Harry Burkenshaw, Will Byron, Will Osterburg, Charles Sinclair and Alex Smith.

In 2011, for the second year, we established 2 ASA 'B' level galas in our calendar and going forward we will continue this so that we can give as much opportunity as possible to all club swimmers.

The year climaxed with the 2011 Club Championships where once again we saw a multitude of PB's across all age groups. Particular mention goes to Jess Portch who broke the under 12, 50m breaststroke and 25m butterfly records and Cathy Ruddock who recorded a new club best in under 17, 100m breaststroke. These new records, along with those in 2010 set by Lewis Elliston (under 12, 50m freestyle), Holly Manser (under 12, 50m backstroke), Will Byron (under 14, 50m breaststroke) and Ben Ruddock (open, 100m backstroke), demonstrate a resurgence of form at the club and augurs well for the future.

We, of course, also visited Wulfrath and although we lost, we came very close to beating our German friends and will be in a great position to win when we welcome Wulfrath to Ware this Easter. Particular mention goes to The Ruddonator for overcoming Oliver in the over 17s backstroke

and to the girls for holding their own and more, in the 'orange juice' race. As always, a great time was had by all.

We would like to thank Mike Suckling and his team of enthusiastic coaches for putting the swimmers through their paces as well as our Captains and Vice Captains for their help and support. We would particularly like to thank all swimmers for making themselves available and parents/guardians for giving up their social life on gala Saturdays. We hope you continue to enjoy your swimming.

Jon Pinfold and Will Osterburg
Team Managers

Club Secretary's Report for 2010/2011

Throughout the year the Committee has completed work in a number of areas.

ASA Membership Fee

The ASA Membership fee, East Region and Herts ASA Affiliation fees (including insurance cover) were completed and returned at the beginning of the year. For further information on the Club's insurance cover, please visit the website.

Ware Town Twinning Association

The Club's membership to the Town Twinning Association was renewed in June 2011. In addition the Club provided memorabilia and information to support the Town Twinning Association exhibition held at The Priory, Ware in September 2011. Special thanks must go to Chris Buck for all her help and support with this event.

Swim 21

The Club is continuing to work towards the Swim 21 Accreditation and this will remain a focus for the coming year.

Meeting Attendance

I am pleased to confirm that Members of the Committee have represented Ware Swimming Club at the following meetings throughout 2010/2011:

- East Herts Forum
- Hertfordshire ASA Club Forums
- Hertfordshire ASA Coaching and CPD Forums

Ware Swimming Club has also continued to work in partnership with Chauncy and Middleton Schools throughout the year.

Fanshawe Pool

The Committee has worked very closely with the management at SLM and Fanshawe Pool this year and I would like to take this opportunity to thank Greg Sambridge and his team at Fanshawe for their continued support, particularly during club nights and galas.

Volunteers

Like most clubs we rely on parents/guardians giving up their time to help with the running of the Club and I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has helped with the running of the Club throughout the year, including the Club Championships and competitive galas. In particular I would like to thank Claire Matthews, Mike Suckling and all the coaching team for their dedication, enthusiasm and hard work in supporting and training the Club's swimmers.

The Committee is always happy to hear from anyone willing to help. We are particularly interested to hear from any parents/guardians who would be interested in becoming an official (timekeeper, judge, referee or starter). Please contact a member of the Committee or email info@waresc.org.uk for more information.

Nicola Rix
Club Secretary
Ware Swimming Club