

DOSC
Minutes of AGM
26th November 2017

Present: Juliet Grimes - Chair, Amanda Hitter - Treasurer, Nikki Miller - Secretary, Bonamy Grimes, Dean Munnings, Jamie Rush, Scott Evans, Kirsty Nene, Ryan Waters, Helen Bachu, Theresa Tatum, Katherine Payne, Michelle Ellis

Apologies: Julie, Lee, Adam and Sally, Kellie, Claire, James

Welcome: Juliet welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the committee members. Minutes from last year's AGM had previously been circulated. These were approved as an accurate account.

Matters Arising from 2016 AGM:

No issues raised.

Annual Reports:

Chair's report:

This is my first year as Chair of our Club and I would like to thank all those involved in supporting me through the transition period. Having not even been a member of the committee prior to taking on the role, there was a huge amount of information to take on board to understand the workings that go on behind the scenes to ensure a swim club is able to run just the basics from enabling training sessions to go ahead to ensuring swimmers can attend galas. So, to all those who have taken on my role, or others who have been a committee member in the past, I am extremely grateful and had completely underestimated the commitment, time and enthusiasm required.

This year, Diss Otters will be celebrating our 30th Anniversary and we are planning to hold a special anniversary outing to the London Aquatics Centre at Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park in the Spring which we hope as many of our swimmers and supporters will join us. We hope it will inspire our swimmers to greater things in the future. More information on this will follow.

The people of DOSC really are the greatest asset that we have and it is incredibly important that we acknowledge all contributions no matter how small.

To The Swimmers

The Committee, Coaches and Supporters – we do it for you and whilst you continue to enjoy the training, competition and success there will always be a Club here to support you.

From those youngers swimmers who are just beginning to pick up your pace – we take great joy in watching your achievements in particular with those that attend the Great Yarmouth Mini Meets which are proving a great taster to the world of competitive swimming.

For the winning team at the Junior Fenland League – we take pride in your success.

To the individual swimmers who excel and are moving through feeder clubs to national level competition we wish them every success for their futures.

To the individual who swims for miles in freezing cold waters across the Channel to raise funds for YoungMinds, a fantastic charity supporting young people with mental health conditions – we salute you.

To the Masters who continue to train on a regular basis and to those who enjoy success in masters competition both at national and international level – we are full of admiration.

In September, we had to introduce a new training schedule for our swimmers as the pool management team look to increase their membership to assist in the balancing of their books. The junior squads were not affected too much but the Platinum and Elite have lost training hours and the Masters have had to move to later slots. We hope to continue the conversation with the pool management team to see if there isn't a more social time available – watch this space as the talks continue. We thank you for your continued commitment.

To The Coaches

To Jamie, Ryan, Shirley, Sophie and Helen – our thanks for your help and patience through the year.

In August, Shirley who has been involved with the club for almost 25 years, stepped down from her role as a coach as she focuses her efforts on her own swim school which now boasts its own premises. This gave us an opportunity to recruit some new coaches to the team and so in September we welcomed Sophie King and Helen Bone who join us with a great wealth of experience and knowledge and means that all of our training sessions now have an increased level of coaching cover.

During summer the coaches ran an alternative to the traditional summer swim camp – this year they ran a series of popular swim clinics focusing on starts, turns and strokes. Also over the summer, Jamie organised something a bit different for the training sessions first the Olympic Challenges and then The Heaven or Hell Challenges – does 1500m of Fly really encourage our swimmers away from their summer break into the pool to train? Surprisingly, yes it does and what a sense of achievement those swimmers enjoyed!

To the Volunteer helpers around the pool

Adam, Marcus, Doug (for Masters), Sharon, Scott, Kate and to our younger helpers as well, thank you. As always your coaching and enthusiasm about swimming are adding immense value to the club.

To the Committee

To the current committee a huge thank you for your wisdom and great depth of knowledge as we become ever more ambitious with our plans. In particular to:

Our Treasurer, Amanda Hitter, who has helped steer the club accounts to a very sound financial position

Our vice-Chair, James Button, who has overseen the delivery of our new club kit for both swimmers and officials as well as taking over the role of Officials Co-ordinator and proving a great right hand man on too many occasions.

Our Gala Co-ordinator, Julie Munnings, who stepped into the role at one of the busiest times and with her utmost efficiency makes this difficult role look like there's nothing to it!

We have tried to listen to all our swimmers and supporters throughout the year and keen to continue to do so, so please keep letting us know if there's things you love but equally if things aren't quite right and we can do our best to fix if possible.

Your committee made a huge contribution to the club with the delivery of our Club Gala at UEA Sportspark – there are always going to be moments when you worry if the swimmers will be coming but with the early application of our license and promotion of the event by Sharon King we ended up only just squashing everyone around the poolside!

So, my thanks to the committee for both your individual and collective contributions which make our club stand out.

To the Officials

We can't thank you enough for the support that you give to our Club. Please continue to get to the next level and even better persuade others to join you. We are keen to recruit a few more so that perhaps we can run our Club Champs as a licensed gala and all those personal bests can be recorded officially.

To our Sponsors

Thank you to you all.

A big thank you for the £550 sponsorship of the Open Gala from both Hughes Electrical and Kerry Foods. A thorough review of the Diss Open's success will be covered by the Treasurer's Report.

To the New Diss Leisure Centre Management Team

We have had a number of constructive meetings and reviews with the new team.

After the previous years significant increase in pool hire fees, this year we were given a 'break' but we can expect increases going forward as the pool needs to move to a firmer financial footing.

The current plant equipment continues to provide challenges to the maintenance team and plans for ongoing upgrades are in the pipeline.

Treasurer's report:

Current account: £20225.70

Deposit account: £13218.66

Total cash: £33444.36

Income £77495 from fees, open and other galas, club champs, ASA fees, kit and fund raising.

Costs £64862

Profit at end of year £12633

These figures have all been approved by the accountant.

This year more expenditure planned for the club, reflecting healthy financial situation.

Suggestions for this put forward - update computer system, electronic timing, increase in pool time.

Discussion re fee increase - need to assess when rise in pool hire known, if no increase could pose difficulty in future if need to increase substantially to cover cost of pool hire.

Full report available on file.

Head Coach's report:

Before I was a coach I was a swimmer and much like the vast majority of swimmers I thrived on competition, the silence at the start of a race, the pressure to perform and the feeling of satisfaction when you win or beat a personal best time. Training on the other hand, not so keen. It is hard work, it can be boring and it takes a long time to see the rewards. I, therefore get a great deal of satisfaction from seeing a large group of swimmers at Diss Otters turning up regularly to plod up and down that pool, mostly enjoying themselves, most of the time, pushing their minds and bodies to the limits frequently and achieving great things all of the time.

I wish to start this report with a review of what has happened in competition over the last 12 months as it is here that all the hard work really pays off. I would also like to thank Dean Munnings for committing to writing our newspaper reports over the last year – it certainly makes writing a round up for tonight far easier.

Every year we compete in a large number of events hosted by Norfolk County ASA. The biggest of these being the County Championships. The 2017 event is summed up in no better way than in the words of Dean Munnings – "Twenty six Otters took to the pool in a total of 173 individual swims which resulted in 39 podium positions first to third, 75 top

six finishes and 115 top ten finishes.

Times are the name of the game and the squad hit 137 new personal best times, and this is the real benchmark that the coaches look to as it shows improvement over a period of time.

Special mentions go to Joel Clarke who won four trophies in the 16 and under championship events, Cameron Day and Barney Clarke who won events in their age group categories and also to Matthew Munnings, Matthew Tatum, Dominic Boylan, Isaac Bachu as well as Barney and Joel who all qualified for Regional events which is the next step up the gala ladder.

Further County events in 2017 included the County Relay – Diss finished an exceptional 4th position overall helped massively by 2 gold medal winning performances by the girls 9/10 year age group (Rosie Munnings, Grace Greenhalf, Sophia Pickering and Lily-Anne Jones). Diss Otters won the Christine Copeman Cup in the Norfolk Junior League competition this year, achieving 16 individual race wins in the final. We also had a successful time this year at the County Challenge and County Development galas, referring back to Dean for the summary – “Some amazing swimming saw the Otters scoop an incredible 45 podium medals from only 83 individual swims. A further 18 of the remaining swims resulted in top six finishes. Many new pbs were attained as well with the development swimmers setting an unbelievable 37 new marks from 41 swims”.

As well as the County Development galas Diss Otters also had a very strong representation at a series of mini meet competitions hosted by Gt. Yarmouth Swimming Club. These meets have proved to be a great opportunity for many swimmers to step onto the competition ladder for the first time. Over the 3 mini meet competitions Diss Otters amassed a fantastic 247 individual swims resulting in 99 medals for top 3 finishes.

We have competed in many Open competitions around the Region again this year and to report on them all would definitely have you all dozing off. I do however wish to pay special thanks to everyone involved in the organisation of a very successful Diss Open this year. Not only was the running of the event a great success but to have over 50 swimmers of our own their competing in well over 300 individual events shows great commitment from everyone. Blame Dean if you are bored of the stats but here are some more - “Although the quality of the opposition was extremely tough Diss still came away with 60 medals (16 gold, 17 silver and 27 bronze), with a further 46 swims finishing in the top 6”.

This year we have also competed again in the Fenland League making the A final this time around and finishing a very credible 3rd overall. We held again a very successful Club Championships month back in September and hope to look again into licensing this event for next year.

Finally to finish on some of the biggest achievements from this year. Making it all the way to Regionals this year and representing for Diss Otters were Matthew Tatum, Isaac Bachu, Cameron Day and Matthew Munnings. Swimmers called up to compete for Norfolk this year include Sophia Pickering, Grace Greenhalf, Rosie Munnings, Barney Clarke, Matthew Munnings, Cameron Day, Matthew Tatum, Isaac Bachu, Joel Clarke and Dominic Boylan. Finally, a special mention to William Johnson who became the youngest Diss Otter club member to swim the English Channel which he did as part of an U16s relay team completing the swim in 10hrs 16mins.

Moving away from competition, 2017 has been an incredibly turbulent year for the club most notably with the re-structure of both our training sessions and coaching team. I am sure these both will be discussed and reported on in more detail than I will now I would like to just highlight that despite these challenges I feel we still hold ourselves in a very strong position moving into 2018. We have numbers in the upper squads that are extremely healthy with many swimmers really thriving in and around all of the trials that have been happening. It has been great to see. Whilst the loss of Shirley from the coaching team is a big one we have recruited very well and moved forward with our biggest team of employed coaches ever giving us great strength in depth in the team. Helen and Sophie have settled in well and we also have Scott up skilling by completing his level 1 qualification. My one concern right now is recruitment to the 1st squad – the Bronze Squad. We do need to bolster this squad to ensure success over the next few years in competitions

such as the Junior League.

This is my 9th AGM as head coach. I would like to finish my report this year with a round up of the previous 7 years reports (2009s is missing).

2010

Former Head Coach Katie Bull departed the Club's coaching team for real. Katie was pivotal in getting me where I am today. Diss pool got new lights!

2011

Return of the Diss Open. Four different County Champions. Liam Harvey and Caitlin Davy become Club Captains.

2012

Birth of Oscar Rush (future club record holder). Lost pool time, gained land training session. Liam and I both complete level 2 Coaching qualification and are successful applicants onto Active Norfolks Advanced Coaching Programme.

2013

First ever Summer Swim Camp. Emma Halmshaw and Sam Neal become Club Captains.

2014

Birth of Fraser Rush (future club record holder). Pool management refuse to put blocks in for all club sessions. Anonymous feedback forms distributed to members.

2015

Liam leaves to head coach position at Gt. Yarmouth. Ryan employed as assistant coach. Jamie reduced coaching hours, Katie returns to cover some of these then Katie leaves on maternity leave. Land training finished. Mike came and went. Club welcomes German Exchange student Justin Bott. Influx of swimmers from Stowmarket SC.

2016

Jamie back to full hours. Lauren Taylor introduces her very own 'otter award'.

2017

Finally I would like to thank our team of coaches over the last year, Shirley, Ryan, Scott, Adam, Helen, Sophie, Marcus, Sharon, Doug, Lee, Lauren, Matthew, Callum, Otilie, Lillias, Henry and to our Club Captains Matthew and Lotti and Vice Captains Joel, Matthew, Otilie and Lauren. With one final thanks to this years very hard working committee.

Master`s Report:

Membership stands at 26 which includes the three coaches.

- Two sessions, Sunday morning and Wednesday evenings are well supported.
- Wednesday night 9-10pm is not an ideal time and the restrictive limit of three lanes makes training difficult and is likely to discourage some Masters.
- There seems to be some take up for the Friday night session.
- It is important to establish a second training session for the Masters at a reasonable time and with adequate pool room. There is now a core of more powerful, faster swimmers who do need space. Without this membership is likely to suffer.
- Several Masters swim at competition level including county, inter-county, national and international level.

- Adam and Sally Lelean remain our most consistent competitors. Both remain as representatives for the Norfolk ASA.
- Other Masters compete in Open Water and Triathlon events.
- A huge Thank you to Adam Lelean and Doug Miller for their coaching sessions. We appreciate the time they both give to this. Thanks also to Jamie and Ryan who have covered some of the Friday times.
- We continue to enjoy our swimming and our club friendship.
- Thank you to Nikki Miller for hosting the Christmas social and organizing the hampers for Doug and Adam.

Questions arising:

Adoption of new constitution.

This has been re-vamped with the assistance of Chris Galer, and we as a club are compliant with this.

Lee proposes that this is approved, seconded by Helen. Copy signed by Juliet and placed on Secretary's file. **This does not mention the need to update swimmers details on an annual basis.** Agreed that this would be good practice but entails a great deal of work unless computer system updated to accommodate this.

Discussion around storage of information and confidentiality. To be explored in the new year.

Election of Officers:

Chair: Dean nominated Juliet, seconded by Kirsty

Vice Chair: Helen nominated James, seconded by Nikki

Secretary: Juliet nominated Nikki , seconded by Amanda

Treasurer: Nikki nominated Amanda , seconded by Kirsty

Election of Committee: Bonamy, Dean, Julie, Scott, Kellie, Kirsty, Helen, Lee, Claire, Theresa nominated by Juliet, seconded by Amanda

Appointment of Welfare Officers: Theresa Tatum (who will then have no voting rights as a committee member) and Angela Blair.

AOB

- Contact details of swimmers - need for coach attending galas with swimmers to have this ready to hand as opposed to having to contact Head Coach for this. Most manageable way of achieving this to be discussed within the coaching team. Safe area for charging electronic equipment at the pool to be looked into.

- Suggestion of setting up specific sub committees to organise galas and other events, to include non-committee members where appropriate. To be further discussed at committee.

Meeting closed at 17.40