



**Devizes Amateur Swimming Club  
Special General Meeting  
Held at 7-15 p.m. on 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov 2010  
at the Town Hall, Devizes.**

**1.0**

**Present:**

**1.1 President;** Mr Ivor Sault

**Executive Committee Members;**

Tom Willis (Masters Rep), Stuart Barnes (Secretary), Angela Minns (Treasurer), Janet Johnson (Chief Instructor), Jenny Thomas (Parent Representative), Michelle Wells (Membership Secretary).

Marion Nixon (Fixture Secretary). Becka Wild (Welfare).

**Members** – There were 13 other members present including 6 that were representing 10 junior swimmers. (see list).

**2.0**

**Apologies:** None

**3.0**

**Welcome from the President- Mr Ivor Sault.**

**3.1** The President opened the meeting by thanking everyone present for their attendance at this meeting, which had been called in accordance with the Club Rules when 7 or more members call for a Special General Meeting. (These members were Tom Willis, Stuart Barnes, Angela Minns, Marion Nixon, Jenny Thomas, Michelle Wells, and Becka Wild.

**3.2** Whilst welcoming everyone present the President expressed his disappointment at the low turnout for such an important meeting. He apologised for the need to cancel tonight's swimming sessions but indicated that the future of the Club was at stake due to the lack of a chairperson, vice chair, sufficient numbers of poolside helpers, sufficient teaching personnel and other people to help carry out some of the behind the scene tasks. He thanked the committee and all the current volunteers who work so hard for the Club but reminded members that the Club needed new blood to survive.

**3.3** The current executive committee were invited to introduce themselves, which they did.

**3.4** The President then handed over the meeting to Tom Willis who had agreed to act as chairperson for this meeting only.

**4.0**

**Election of Chairperson and Vice Chair.**

**4.1** Tom Willis also thanked those present for coming to this meeting including a number of junior swimmers present.

**4.2** He confirmed that no proposals had been received to appoint either a chairman or vice chairman so therefore he asked all present how they

wished to proceed and invited proposals from the floor.

- 4.3** In answer to questions put to the Chairman the challenges facing the club were said to be as follows. Membership was said to be buoyant with well over 100 members and that there was a waiting list for some teaching sessions. The masters' session was typically attended by 10 to 20 swimmers and the sessions held at Dauntsey School were also providing an alternative venue for some pre-squad/squad swimmers.
- 4.4** The role of the chairperson and the vice chair person were explained. Also it was said that several teachers had served the Club for many years including some for over 30 years and that many helpers had joined the club when their children were being taught - but that their children were now adults and that it was unfair to rely on these individuals to carry on without more support from other helpers including more help from the parents of current junior swimmers.
- 4.5** The urgent need for the club to secure the services of a coach and a Level 2 Teacher as well as raise additional funds for training were also said to be a concern.
- 4.6** It was also suggested that the Club would benefit from a greater involvement by pre-squad/squad swimmers and the need to give more priority to the performance and achievement of swimmers and to celebrate our successes in the media.
- 4.7** Mr Greenwood commented that he had observed the Club compete at various county competitions and that he had noted how good technically the swimmers in the club were which he thought showed that they were being given excellent tuition. He also said he was willing to help out on a single 'project' basis at a time of need.
- 4.8** It was suggested that our website should be urgently improved.
- 4.9** A question was raised about the Club's insurance cover including property insurance. The treasurer said the Club pays approximately £149 for insurance. The chair of this meeting proposed that the Club gives further consideration to its insurance requirements at a subsequent meeting and this was accepted without a vote.

## **5.0** **Proposals from the Floor.**

- 5.1** Sam Wellington indicated a willingness to assist the executive committee but not in the role of chairperson/vice chair. He proposed Myles Palmer as chairperson and Jonathan Ashbridge as Vice Chairperson. Mr Ashbridge agreed to second Myles Palmer as chairperson and Myles Palmer agreed to second Johnathan Ashbridge as vice chair. Both Myles Palmer and Jonathan Ashbridge have children who are current members of the Club.
- 5.2** Mr Tristan Best also volunteered to assist with teaching/coaching sessions but he was not sure as to the status of his current swimming

qualifications. This needs further exploration by the committee.

- 5.3** The chairman asked for those present to vote by a show of hands for Myles Palmer to be elected chairperson and Jonathan Ashbridge to be elected vice chair. This proposal was carried unanimously. Sam Wellington's offer to join the committee was also welcomed. (Under our rules this will need to be subject to a formal vote at the next executive committee meeting so Sam can be properly co-opted).
- 5.4** After the meeting ended the new committee had a brief informal get together for further introductions and to agree a date for the next meeting i.e. 18 November to commence 7-00 p.m. at a venue to be confirmed by the new chairman.

**Date of Next Executive Meeting**  
**Venue to be Confirmed**  
**Commencing 7-00 p.m.**

**Signed by**

Stuart Barnes  
Club Secretary  
Date 4<sup>th</sup> November 2010