

**Approved MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**15TH APRIL 2017, 10:00 GYMNASTICS SEMINAR ROOM, LOUGHBOROUGH**

PRESENT:

Jim Joyce, Paul Gotta, Rebecca Gotta (minutes), Sam Chamberlain, Martin Lee, Mel Davies, Nigel Seamarks, Jasmine Seamarks, Tom Baxter, Brian Baxter, Margaret Baxter, Colin Nisted, Luke Nisted, Anna McComish, Samantha Sharp, Ian Wright, Maria Wright, Grace McNIFF, Stephen McNIFF, Josephine Lighthowler, Vicki Hemsworth, Amy Curtis, Alison Saines, Polly Saines, Sarah Tappenden, Pauline Jordan-Caws, Jo Vickers, Nicola McConnell, Lorraine Oaten, Ashleigh Scott, Amanda Kenny, Rob Holdbrook, Lisa Young, Nathan Young, Steven Cain (BSL interpreter), Christof Niklaus (Chef de Mission)

APOLOGIES:

Louise Joyce, Lucy Emma Harris, Sharon Grainger

ITEM ACTION

1 Open meeting and Domestics

JJ opened the meeting, welcoming all attendees.

2 APOLOGIES

3 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes from the AGM dated 19th March 2016 were approved by NS and seconded by MD

4 CHAIRMANS REPORT

Chairman’s report up to 11th March 2017 attached

Acting Chairman’s report 12th March to date attached

Following the Chef de Mission inspection trip to Turkey MD updated the meeting on Deaflympics preparation. MD announced the TYR sponsorship of kit to the team with thanks to TB for securing this. JJ thanked MD for all her work involving the Deaflympics.

5 TREASURERS REPORT (attached)

PG emphasised the value of the full membership to the club and thanked those who have taken this out. BB confirmed that the alignment of our accounts and membership to run concurrently and over the calendar year falls in line with Swim England. BB also raised the subject of fund raising in particular through members signing up with ‘easyfundraising’. BB enquired whether there is still money to come from UKDS from Andrew Reese donation, JJ to make further investigations to UKDS.

6 ACCEPT THE ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2016 AND TO RE APPOINT JM SOLUTIONS AS OUR ACCOUNTS EXAMINER

Accounts were approved by NS and seconded by AS. MB proposed we reappoint JM

Solutions this was seconded by AS

7 RULE CHANGE PROPOSALS. CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS.

JJ thanked MB for revamping the constitution and making it more readable. JJ recognised the work done by the Head coach, assistant coach, team manager and outside organisations such as NDCS but asked the question to the members should they be members with full voting rights without paying membership fees?

NMc asked if the coaching staff were paid employees JJ explained volunteers with expenses only. Discussions followed on membership. ML spoke

about being totally independent with no children at the club, this was echoed by BB who spoke on the importance of independent members on the committee bought in for their expertise and impartial views. JJ agreed but they are on the committee to give advice. Should that entail full voting rights? JJ advised the meeting that the committee is open all members of the club whether they be from the development or performance squad, category A or B. PG stated the importance of new members coming in to the club and the financial value of being a family member and feared if we have non paid members of the club with voting rights would that have a detrimental effect on our family membership numbers? CH felt that younger members wanted to be identified as part of the club by wearing club hoodies etc. NS to look into this.

AMENDMENTS TO 4.1 AND 4.2 CHANGE OF DATE FROM 1ST SEPTEMBER TO

1ST JANUARY FOR ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION.

VOTE TAKEN CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

8 VOTING ON RESOLUTIONS AGENDA

VOTE 1: All specialised positions required to be elected from outside the membership such as, but not limited, to Head coach, Assistant coach and team manager upon appointment shall automatically become non paying members of the club and be eligible for election onto the committee.

VOTE TAKEN CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

VOTE 2: The Head Coach shall have no voting rights within the club

PROPOSAL NOT CARRIED 8 VOTES TO 2

Vote 3: The Assistant Coach shall have no voting rights within the club

PROPOSAL NOT CARRIED 9 VOTES TO 6

Vote 4: Team Manager shall have no voting rights within the club

PROPOSAL NOT CARRIED 8 VOTES TO 7

JJ accepted a majority vote as this is not a constitutional change but a clarification.

Vote 5: Outside agencies such as but not limited to NDCS involved within the club shall become non paying members of the club and eligible for election to the committee

VOTE TAKEN UNANIMOUS

Vote 6: Outside agencies shall have no voting rights within the club

VOTE TAKEN 12 TO 3.

VOTE CARRIED

Vote 7: Proposal by MB and BB regarding waiving membership fees to non parents on the committee. Voting not required as carried in vote 1. MB and BB happy with this.

Vote 7b: Head Coach to be elected for a further 5 years following the Deaflympics in Samsun.

VOTE TAKEN UNANIMOUS

MB raised that this is not a membership matter but a committee or executive matter. JJ felt this should be voted upon within the AGM, MD felt discussing the appointment of the Head Coach was inappropriate at this time before the Deaflympics and should be discussed at a committee meeting. This was noted. Discussions followed. Head Coach was appointed for a further 5 years and committee ratification was not required.

Vote 8: AMENDMENT TO 7.1 OF THE CONSTITUTION proposed by JJ. In the interest of the club, it shall be best practice that only 1 member of the same family serve on the executive at any one time, however if such circumstances arise then only 1 member of the family shall be entitled to vote on executive matters. On the occasions a decision cannot be reached by the executive then the view of the Vice Chair shall be sought.

VOTE TAKEN AND CARRIED 12 TO 2

Vote 9: This vote was not required as was agreed in vote 8.

Vote 10: AMENDMENT TO 7.3 any vacant and unprocessed position at the time of the AGM may be proposed and seconded on the day for immediate election. MB stated that this was agreed at the last AGM and minuted and should be inserted.

AC asked whether there is a job description for roles within the club as this would help new people in the club who may be interested in taking on a role. JJ advised this will be actioned.

Vote 11: JJ proposed AMENDMENT TO 7.4 should read any member of the executive not just secretary or chair should be able to call a committee meeting.

MB stated that we should be following the ASA model constitution JJ informed the meeting he has been in contact with the SE ASA and they have stated that it is our constitution and our decision. JJ explained to the meeting at present only the Chair or secretary can call a meeting, if there was to be a financial matter the Treasurer should have the power to call a meeting also.

VOTE TAKEN AND CARRIED 15 to 2.

Vote 12: proposed by NS to be inserted into the Constitution The Chairman shall not seek re-election after 3 years in the post of Chair. The expectation would be the Chair would nominate the Vice Chair for the role. Should the Vice Chair not accept the nomination or no other nomination has been entered then the Chair may stand for a further term when the process will be repeated.

VOTE TAKEN PROPOSAL DEFEATED 14 TO 2

Vote 13: proposed by NS, The club secretary shall inform the membership of nominations for committee positions 6 weeks prior to the AGM and again 5 weeks. Nominations for vacant posts shall be accepted up to and including the AGM. The secretary will advise the members as they are filled.

VOTE CARRIED UNANIMOUS

Vote 14: proposed by NS the Assistant Coach shall be elected for a period of not less than 3 years. Discussions took place.

VOTE CARRIED 11 TO 2

9 ACCEPTANCE OF ALTERNATIVE EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS

JJ spoke about the untimely resignations from MB and BB, so making the voting nominations for executive and committee positions a day late. JJ took advice from the South East ASA and UKDS who confirmed they were happy with the delay but advised to consult members. The proposals for the executive positions which were a day late are as follows:

James Joyce - Chair

Paul Gotta - Treasurer

Nigel Seamarks - Secretary

A vote was taken as to whether the membership accepted the nominations being a day late

VOTE TAKEN AND CARRIED 15 to 1

10 ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

JJ explained there were no contested positions for executive posts and committee posts. Vote was taken to accept the nominations as proposed:

Vote was taken to accept the new committee for the following year as proposed.

VOTE TAKEN AND CARRIED 12 TO 3

11 LIFE MEMBERSHIP

The club endorsed Vincent Dickson’s current life membership unanimously. JJ then spoke of Martin Lee’s commitment to the club and all deaf swimmers. Having competed himself in 3 Deaflympics and won 4 Gold medals, 1 Silver, 2 Bronze and 5 relay medals. From 2002 he has been involved with coaching at the club and he is developing a lighting system. JJ invited Martin to accept a life time membership of GB Deaf Swimming Club. This was warmly received by all members present.

12 A.O.B

AS from NDCS announced the Deaf Friendly Swimming Project, which is run by the NDCS was due to finish in July 2017 but after re-applying Swim England has extended the project until the end of March 2018.

JJ opened a discussion as to what to do with the club’s old trophies as new ones have been bought to replace. JJ suggested silver cups could be melted down for scrap value for club funds and for those who originally donated these trophies an honours board on the website could be set up. The club has nowhere to display trophies. BB asked if UKDS have a scheme to bring memorabilia back on display. A vote was taken to keep the trophies for possible memorabilia until after 2024 which is the centenary of the Deaflympics.

A special thanks was given to our BSL interpreter for the meeting Steven Cain and to Christof Niklaus the Chef de Mission.

13 CLOSE OF MEETING 12:00