

## Swim England North West Limited

### Annual General Meeting – 11<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Annual General Meeting of Swim England North West Limited, Hybrid meeting held at Holiday Inn Express, Leigh, on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2023, commencing at 10.45 hours.

#### **1.23 Welcome and Introductions by the Chair**

1.1 The chairman opened the 2023 AGM of SENW Ltd meeting at 10.45 hours by welcoming everyone to the meeting, DB and attendees observed a one minute silence in memory of David Collins and Gordon Dacre.

#### **2.23 Establish quorum**

2.1 Quorum was established and confirmed by DB, confirmed we had received two proxy votes.

#### **3.23 Present**

3.1 A full list of the Members of the Company present is given at the end of these minutes.

#### **3.2 Apologies for absence**

A full list of the apologies for absence is given at the end of these minutes.

#### **4.23 Resolutions**

Simon Rothwell requested to speak with regards to not receiving paperwork prior to the meeting.

4.1 Annual Report - DB to receive and consider the Annual report DB – All accepted

4.2 Finance Report – Helen Whittle apologised and advised the finance report hasn't yet been distributed as the accounts are still with auditors due to the timing of year end and the AGM, HW advised for information only the pre audit loss for 2022 was £10,000 this may change when accounts finalised, currently have £300,000 in bank, HW has meeting with auditors on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2023 and hopefully accounts can be distributed first or second week in April following meeting with auditors – reports will be circulated to all members once received.

Simon Rothwell proposed the board be authorised to sign off the accounts Jim Wilks second the proposal. Keith Chisholm advised that it was anticipated that because the AGM was early the accounts may have not been available and within the Articles of Association of the company there is a facility for the Directors to send out the financial accounts at a later date once audited to the members of the company, the approval has to then be done by a director of the company once accounts audited, KC advised only voting on the Annual report and not the Financial accounts - Annual report accepted.

4.3 Elect Directors of the company – DB currently have three vacancies and have four nominations, Robert Thorpe, Janice Whittle, James Wilks, Shaun Winstanley – all votes counted and accepted.  
Elected – Robert Thorpe, Janice Whittle and Jim Wilks, DB advised will discuss Shaun Winstanley's nomination at the directors meeting.

4.4 Election of the auditors – DB advised Mitchell Charlesworth Mark Ralph proposed Brian Boyle second – All accepted.

4.5 Authorise the Audit & Investment committee to determine the Auditor's remuneration to determine the Auditor's remuneration – All accepted.

4.6 Elect the regional members of the Swim England members forum – 8 members  
The President – Carol Hughes  
The Chair of the company – David Burgham

The Finance Director – Helen Whittle

5 members – Keith Chisholm, Mark Davis, Diane Stafford, Lesley Fawkes, one place TBC – All accepted.

**5.23** Appoint President of Swim England North West – DB nominated president for 2023/24 to be Carol Hughes. Jim Wilks Swim England president congratulated the new president, Carol noted her thanks for the nomination, - Accepted.

Helen Whittle spoke on behalf of Garry Whittle to pass his thanks and wishes Carol all the best. Helen accepted the past president medal on behalf of Garry Whittle.

**6.23** Appoint President Elect of Swim England North West – DB nominated president elect for 2023/24 to be Mark Ralph, - Accepted.

**7.23** Any other business

7.1 Simon Rothwell asked in the light of recent items in the news what actions has the SENW board taken to censure Swim England over the abject failure to oversee and manage a judicial system and child protection and safeguarding within the association, DB advised that the board have appointed a new welfare officer with a vast amount of experience, all directors and counties are being invited to attend the Swim England safeguarding course of which the region are funding, with regards to censoring Swim England as the report has only just come out at present the directors haven't had chance to discuss, SR advised he hadn't seen the new report that Sport England have published but findings of the independent report stated that one of big issues they criticized was that clubs were required to appoint welfare officers whom had no experience and even after training this wasn't sufficient and should be a professional, DB advised the region have a professional Welfare officer whom is very experienced, with regards to Swim England it was discussed at the last chairs meeting that this is something they are now looking in to in light of the report, Swim England will have to submit a report by the end of the month.

7.2 James Collins asked the board to enhance the training available that the region offer (L1, L2, Team Manager 1&2, Safeguarding) as we have funds available to put these courses on, DB advised all the courses mentioned are circulated every week to all club committee members with all the courses available, the Regional office co-ordinator also advised they are available on website posted on social media emailed to club secretary's and all committee members each week and in the and in monthly newsletter, DB advised club officer will be visiting clubs and will promote, DB advised at this current time we have limited tutors available to deliver the courses, tutors they are selected by Swim England and have to apply directly with them. Bob Bolton advised the prerequisite of being a tutor is you have to have an educational qualification this can add a year on to the training of a new tutor, most regions are struggling for tutors, Sue Robinson has sent workforce survey to all clubs for requirements for next year.

7.3 DB thanked Mark Ralph for his help running the meeting Hybrid.

Meeting closed at 11.29 hours.

## Attendance Register

### Attendance Face to Face

David Burgham	Chairman/Director
Helen Whittle	Finance Director
Diane Stafford	Director
Lesley Fawkes	Director
Mark Ralph	Director
Bob Bolton	Director
Jim Wilks	Director
Bob Thorpe	Director
Mark Davies	Director
Carol Hughes	President Elect
Alan Boyle	Past President/Life Member
Brian Boyle	Past President/Life Member/Liverpool & District
Simon Rothwell	Past President/Life Member
Alan Stafford	Tyldesley SWPC
Barry Kealing	Winsford
Sara Warrington	Regional Office Co-ordinator
Sue Robinson	Regional Club Co-ordinator
Dean Sumner	Regional Club Co-ordinator

### Attendance via Zoom

Keith Chisholm	Director
Roger Boyer	Past President
Martin Tickner	Past President/Secretary Cumbria
Steve Kinloch	Water Polo Group Manager
Luke Brown	Penrith Swimming Club
Wendy Orr	Ashton Central Swimming Club
Bev Raistrick	Bebington SC
Andrew Daykin	Lancaster
Martin Howe	City of Manchester WP
Jon Ward	Leyland Barracudas
Maureen Appleby	Warrington SWPC
Paul Appleby	BCM Swimming and Water Polo Ass
Michael Jarvis	Poynton Dippers
James Collins	Wigan Best
John Endeacott	Hoylake

### Apologies

Garry Whittle	President
Janice Whittle	Director
Neil Booth	Past President
Alison Metcalfe	Prescot
Claire Gloyne-Philips	City of Chester
David Sandham	Cockermouth
Janette Ralph	Barrow ASC
David Broomhall	Past President
Shaun Winstanley	Workington

## CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

On the 1st January 2022 we commenced our first year as a company, Swim England North West Ltd.

We have seen our sport emerging from the shadows of Covid-19 which had a big impact on our lives and our sport. I am pleased to see the way Club's have continued to adapt and return to a new form of normality. We have all learned to think outside the box

Swim England introduced and updated the process required for clubs needing to achieve SwimMark or Club Affiliation. With the support of the regional staff, our Regional Club Development Officers continue to work hard encouraging clubs to achieve these standards.

It is with great sadness we acknowledge the commitment and dedication given to the region by two respected stalwarts who passed away during 2022. In August we celebrated the service given by Gordon Dacre, he raised the profile of Water Polo both within the region and nationally this is part of his legacy to the sport. In December we celebrated David Collins, he was a well-respected official, club officer, and an advocate for good governance supporting many clubs over the years.

In May Jim Wilks became the new President of Swim England. This is a great honour not only for Jim and the Region. I am sure he must have been extremely proud as we are to see so many of our athletes taking part in the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham. I am sure the remainder of Jim's Presidency will give him and Norma happy memories to look back on in the future.

One of the regions Life Members Simon Rothwell was honoured by LEN with Honorary Membership, Simon is only the third British and Englishman to receive this honour.

In August Swim England North West Youth Advisory Panel was fully established. The Panel consists of 8 members aged between 15 and 20, from various clubs around the Region. The Panel will become a voice for young people within the Region, forming part of a network of Panels around the country.

Swim England held their Annual Awards ceremony in November at the University of Birmingham's Great Hall. Dr Alan Boyle was awarded the Harold Fern Award which is given for making the most outstanding contribution to aquatics at Club, County, Regional, National or International level.

Winners from the North West Region were:

Swim England Club of the Year (Artistic Swimming) - Gold - Denton Artistic Swimming  
Swim England Club of the Year (Swimming) - Finalist - Wirral Metro Swimming Club  
Coach of the Year- Silver - Jessica Fletcher (City of Salford Synchronised Swimming Club)  
Volunteer of the Year - Bronze - Winifred Woodcock (Flixton SC)

There have been some staff changes within the regional office, Kiera left to take up a new role but continues to support the Region as a volunteer. In November we welcomed Dean Sumner to the team working alongside Sue Robinson as a Regional Club Development Officer

I must thank all the Management Board and discipline groups who give up their own time to support our Clubs and athletes. The Board members all have regional roles beyond being members of the Board and there is a Board liaison member for every discipline. We must not lose sight of the fact that the majority of activity within clubs is provided or supported by volunteers, and, without their help and support our sport would not survive.

I would like to end by stating how much the Regional Board are grateful for the expertise and dedication of our staff, Diane, Sara, Sue and Dean.

Lastly it goes without saying without the commitment and dedication of our athletes and their families we would fail to be as successful as we are.

David Burgham  
Chairman, Swim England Northwest Ltd

