



Bourne End Swimming Club  
John French – Club Secretary  
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# Swim Section 2008 A.G.M. MINUTES

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DATE: February 2, 2008

VENUE: Bourne End Club, New Road, Bourne End

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## **Attended by:**

Peter Sones, John French, Andy Ruler , Tina Rhymes, Clare and Martin Donlon, Lorraine Couves, Grace and Chris Grego , Guy Tomlinson, Claire Wotherspoon, Andy Tillotson, Matt Vance, Sally Lawrie, Jacqueline Ravenscroft, Chris O'Connell , Tracy Cubitt, Paul Lewington, Andy Roberts, Roger Keir, Tricia Hylton, Judy and Roger Pantridge

**Apologies:** Neil Bailey, Sharron Bartlett, Keely Hammond, Karen Saunders, Marlene James, Nick and Helen Brown, John Bartlett, Kate Newberry, Phil Odds, Frank Ravenscroft

## **Minutes of the 2007 AGM**

Minutes of the 2007 AGM were distributed and in a unanimous vote it was agreed they were an accurate account of the meeting.

**Matters Arising:** NONE

## **Chairman's Report: Peter Sones**

Good Evening Everyone.

Thank you for attending the Swimming Section AGM.

My first duty this evening is to thank all those parents who have supported our club throughout the past year:

- Our Coaches
- Our Teachers
- Our Lifeguards
- Our Poolside Officials & Helpers
- Our Shop Administrator
- And all of our other helpers and Administrators

.... and indeed some non-parents, particularly Chris O'Connell, who has been a real stalwart over the years and even came back to the club having lived abroad for a while.

None of our helpers are paid yet all of them give freely of their time for the benefit of our swimmers.

Thank you all for your time and energy spent in support of our swimmers. It's great to see so many actively involved.



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This is my third (and last) year as chairman of the Bourne End Swimming Club and in that time I have had the pleasure of representing the club at ASA meetings, County Executive Meetings, County AGMs, WDSAG meetings and Bucks County Sports Partnership Meetings. I have also had the pleasure of representing the club in various guises at innumerable galas, open meetings and other competitions. It is great to see swimmer who you have known, taught and coached over a number of years develop as both swimmers and individuals .... even if I don't always recognize them in normal clothes - minus their swimming hats and goggles!! We have a club and a bunch of swimmers to be proud of.

Once again this has been a year of significant change within the club, the extent of which only really fully hit me when I came to prepare this report and reviewed last year's minutes. I feel that generally the club has continued to pull together, even if there is a tendency for the same faces who volunteer.

In the last year we have lost the assistance of a number people who have helped and supported over a number of years:

- Juliet O'Donnell who has helped out in a number of roles and finally ended up qualifying as a swimming teacher loved it so much that she is now working as a science teacher.
- Stephen Eastmond (Oonagh's father) had been the treasurer for a number of years, and before that seems to have done most of the other roles in the club. Stephen has handed over to Tracy Cubitt in the last year and seems finally to have escaped.
- Clare Harper, who's daughter Georgina has swum for Wycombe for several years now, but who still did the dual roles of Championship and Fixtures Secretaries has now handed on to Kate Newbury and John Bartlett.

Our thanks to them all - they will all be greatly missed, and indeed already are.

We have as ever, however, seen a number of new helpers and coaches including Tricia Hayward and Marleen James.

All of our coaches and teachers are ASA qualified, but they all just started out by helping out poolside. If we can do it you can!!

Just less than a year ago 8 swimmers and parents went through the process of training and as lifeguards. Seven of them successfully qualified and are now to be seen guarding the lives of our swimmers, resplendent in their very fetching yellow and red outfits. They may be volunteer parents or swimmers, but they all hold exactly the same qualifications as any other lifeguard in the country. Avid readers of our Newsletter will have seen the intrepid team in the spring Baywatch feature.

Which brings me onto the perennial problem of volunteer-run clubs. The need for volunteers! Every coach, official, and helper gives freely of their time for the benefit of our swimmers. We currently have gaps in a number of key roles and I strongly urge you to get more involved in our club to help ensure that we are the best club that we can be. The specific gaps are:

- Membership Secretary
- Marketing / PR Officer
- Swim 21 coordinators(s)
- Social Secretary

None of these roles are overly taxing. All are within the capabilities of every single person in the room – and I urge each and every one of you to get involved – In the word of the old proverb “Many hands make light work” – or to put it another way: time passes much more quickly at swimming events when you are actually doing something!!

... and of course if the azure tops of a coach or the canary yellow of a lifeguard is your calling .....



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Throughout the last year and for some time before Andy Ruler has been performing role of Senior Coach, aided and abetted by others. This is the third year of this arrangement and I believe that the quality of coaching and leadership here compares very favourably with any equivalent clubs. I will not steal Andy's thunder by going through the competitive year – but suffice it to say that it has been a very busy year.

But that's not enough for Andy - he has also created and maintained our magnificent website. I would like to pay tribute to Andy for his dedication and commitment throughout the last year.

Which brings me to Court Garden.

Neil Bailey is Head Teacher at Court Garden, and has provided his report, which will be read out later this evening. But I'd like to take this opportunity to thank and praise Neil for the tremendous job that he has done there and indeed for the other work that he does for the club. This is very much building on the long-term team effort of coaches past. The involvement of the older swimmers (some now ex swimmers) at Court Garden in teaching the younger swimmers is one of the things that makes me proud to be associated with the club. I said it last year and I'll say it again now: I know of no other club where so many senior swimmers put so much back into their club.

I could give a name-check to all helpers, but will resist the temptation as we've only got an hour, I'd still probably forget somebody!

I believe that we have been able to cover all sessions with teachers and lifeguards in the last year. While it has gone to the wire on a couple of occasions, we are consistently providing suitable teaching and life-guarding. This is about organisation, dedication and commitment. Thanks to all for working together to achieve this. This is much improved from the position a couple of years ago.

Our membership is as high as I can remember it (and I have been involved with the club now for 8 years). We have approximately 170 swimmers split more or less evenly between the learn to swim programme at Court Garden and the main club based in Wycombe. This means that the swimming club is currently financially sound, which makes a very pleasant contrast to the situation a few years ago when the parent sports club had to support us to the tune of several thousand pounds a year.

At this point can I just implore all you lucky UK taxpayers to fill in and sign the gift aid section on the membership forms. The club is able to claim back 28% more from Mr Darling and all high rate tax payers can even claim the difference back from the Treasury: So help us to help you!!!

Our swimmers continue to train at Handy Cross and the Abbey School Pool. Our training schedule at the School has been reduced and changed from what it was in the past. We are fortunate in that we deal with a Centre Manager who likes our Club and speaks positively on our behalf at School governors' meetings – some of the pupils even train with us.

However, usage is dependent on our behaviour and following the specific conditions of usage – PARKING, ACCOMPANIED SWIMMERS, NON-COMMUNICATION WITH PUPILS, CLEAN CHANGING ROOMS, ETC. They are all featured in the welcome pack.

Unfortunately this year's Easter Camp at ARETHUSA has had to be cancelled due to lack of numbers – we had 13 swimmers signed up, but need a minimum of 20. We would like to run this fantastic trip next year and could really do with a volunteer to co-ordinate it. This is not as massive a task as it sounds and could be your opportunity to learn a new skill!!!. Any help in this area would be gratefully received.

Bourne End Swimming Club is the swimming section of Bourne End Junior Sports Club  
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Our thanks go to Sally Lawrie for editing and “encouraging” individuals to provide content for the newsletter. It is everyone’s newsletter, so I would encourage everybody to provide articles to Sally.

The involvement and participation of parents and senior swimmers in the operation of the Club is essential, from coaching to life-guarding, time-keeping, judging, announcing or even just helping out at social events. The Club always looks to ensure that all volunteers are provided any necessary training and they are all great ways of getting involved in the club, meeting new people and enjoying yourselves. If you are able to help in any way at all, please contact me or any other member of the Committee.

Please either volunteer here this evening when we come to the elections, or if you are shy or it is more appropriate come and talk to me or one of the other committee people to discuss how best you can get involved.

There is a recurring theme here. And your chance will come in a few minutes!

I apologise if I have missed anybody from the roster of those to thank – we are all human and all make mistakes.

As a final point, on behalf of all of our swimmers I would like to record their thanks to all who have helped at our Club, both in the last year and the previous 2 years of my Chairmanship, and by so doing provided the competitive yet friendly environment that they obviously thrive upon.

I look forward to watching the club grow from strength to strength under the stewardship of the next Chairman.

**Thank you.**

## **Competitive Section Coach’s Report – Andy Ruler**

### **Summary of 2007**

Once again this year we have had a busy competition calendar with the majority of our swimmers taking the opportunity to compete in open meetings and team galas throughout the year. A number of swimmers left the club in September and these numbers have been swelled by a steady stream of younger swimmer from Court Garden and, pleasingly, a number of swimmers from elsewhere.

We have been regularly moving swimmers up through the squads by assessing their efforts in training and in competition and have seen several swimmers move into the senior squads over the last year where they have adjusted well to the more intense training programme we run at the top end of the club.

Our swimming calendar in 2007 included 10 open meetings and 5 team galas which will see our swimmers taking part in a total of 20 days of competition and which will involve most of our competitive section swimmers through the year.

In 2006, 86 swimmers successfully competed in a total of 1474 events producing 887 personal best times between them, which is 30% more PB’s than last year. We are looking forward to continuing this in 2008 and have made a good start by achieving 125 qualifying times for Counties this year compared to 106 last year.



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### **Highlights**

The Chiltern League saw us going twice to Milton Keynes with our final at Stoke Mandeville. We had high hopes of an improved performance from the previous year but with some key swimmers unavailable, we achieved third place in division 3 of the league above some notably larger clubs than ourselves.

At the 2007 Counties several coaches approached me remarking on how well we were doing, with several swimmers making finals in the sprint events and Tommy Ruler attaining two first places in 200m Free Style and Back Stroke on his way to second place in the under 9 boys overall competition.

We held a first Junior Sprint meeting with the Wycombe District junior swimmers, giving our swimmers an extra opportunity to post a 50m sprint time. This was a great success with our swimmers winning many top three places. We hope to repeat this in 2008 once the wall has been repaired as we need to run normal training at the other end of the pool.

We ran the club Home Gala this year after the disappointment of not being able to do so the previous year. Abingdon Swimming Club won the new shield in a very close fought competition.

Many of our swimmers entered the Abingdon Summer Open meeting last July, with Jack O'Donnell, Joe Lawrie, Matt Saunders, Sian Wotherspoon and Tommy Ruler achieving 10 first places between them in a large field of swimmers. Sian won the award for Best under 10's girl with two first and two second place finishes.

### **Developments This Year**

This last year we have put four coaches through the new ASA UKCC coach training programme. We are always looking for more parents to join us poolside so please come and talk to one of the coaches if you feel you can contribute to our club in this way.

We continue to run a Tadpoles session as part of the Monday evening swimming at the Wycombe Abbey School, which allows younger swimmers to maintain their continuity of swimming from Court Garden up to Main Club.

### **Developments**

The swimming club website is now the main source of information regarding training and competition. We hope that you are using the web site regularly and that it suits your needs as parents and swimmers.

Please visit the site, it is there for parents and swimmers and will hopefully provide all of us with a full picture of what we are doing in the club.

### **And Finally**

Thank you to all the coaches and life guards who work together to provide a consistently high standard of teaching and training for our swimmers and well done to all of our swimmers for training hard and achieving so much.



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Our club is entirely volunteer run, all of us on poolside having come into the sport with little or no experience of the roles we have taken on in our swimming club. We are able to support new teachers with poolside experience and training courses so if you would like to become involved poolside, please come and see me and hopefully you will discover as I have just how rewarding it is to work with our children.

## **Court Garden Report : Head Teacher : Neil Bailey**

Apologies - I will not be able to make it as I am a leader on a school ski trip.  
My report is as follows:

1. We have around 86 children at court garden -believe we have never had more
2. Combination of word of mouth, reputation and previous marketing efforts have ensured we are now becoming massively over subscribed
3. We have great adult helpers - Chris, Juliette, Andy, Peter - they are a real asset
4. We have some fantastic helpers in and out of the pool they are a credit to modern youth
5. This year we need to formally train most of the helpers
6. We have no adults training at present
7. ASA and training teachers appears to be a shambles - we may need to dump ASA teacher training in the long run and visit STA instead - present ASA teacher training strategy has gaps all over the place
8. I believe that we make sensible financial surplus regardless of gift aid position
9. Special thanks to Marlene who has done a tremendous job providing bookings and register management
10. We really need to supplement me as at present we are no longer running two senior teachers for the whole session and this is a risk

## **Financial report: Tracy Cubitt**

The Treasurer reported that although she has had limited time to date to get into the new role she welcomed the opportunity and felt capable to do the role in the future.

Based on last year's Accounts ending Aug 31, 2007, it was reported that Income was £37k and outgoing costs was £41k creating a small deficit of £4k. However including the contribution of Gift Aid the total view was break even.

The Sponsored swim organized by Oonagh Eastmond in Nov 07 raised £400.

It was queried whether we could get a reduction in our fees for the HX rental based on that the facilities were poor , ie:

- due to the pool barrier being stuck in the down position it has affected our training
- PA system very poor

The Chairman commented that this has been discussed in Committee and WDSC has made a similar claim to WLL however the response to date is that we would have to prove that we have sustained a loss of before compensation was granted. It was commented that if WLL settle with WDSC then we could possibly get compensation as well.

It was noted that in terms of the new facility to replace HX , our club has made a formal response via the Wycombe District Swimming Action Group, together with WDSC, as Neil Bailey is the Chairman of that Committee.



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## Appointments of positions for 2008-2009

Chairman :	Claire Donlon
Vice Chairman:	Peter Sones
Secretary:	John French
Treasurer:	Tracy Cubitt
CG Admission & Admin.:	Marleen James
Officials secretary:	Claire Wotherspoon
Trophies and Awards Secretary :	Gail Smith
Membership Secretary :	Grace Grego
Marketing/P.R.	OPEN
Child Protection:	Jacky Ravenscroft
Swim 21 Coordinators:	John French, Clare Donlon
Competitive Section Head Coach :	Andy Ruler
Court Garden Head Teacher :	Neil Bailey
Social secretary:	Carmen Hostetler
Training Coordinator:	Peter Sones
Swim Shop :	Tina Rhymes
Newsletter Editor:	Sally Lawrie

## Any Other Business :

- Sally Lawrie commented that a Wheelchair Basketball tournament was coming up in April for ages 12+ . Adults welcome too. Contact Joe Lawrie for further details.
- Sally Lawrie commented that Gavin could help with the club web site
- Lorraine Coves commented that her daughter was organising an Action for youth afternoon games event for ages 10-12 where BEJSC swimmers were welcome.
- It was noted that BEJSC Junior Committee was an excellent vehicle for all swimmers to get involved with.

Meeting closed at 7:55pm