



LEICESTERSHIRE & RUTLAND AMATEUR SWIMMING ASSOCIATION.

Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 10th December 2024

Present: Ursula Beck, Judy Leader, Geoff Robilliard, Ron Brewin, Lee Smith, Val Dunton, Paul Sippitt, Alan King, Trevor Hincks, Abi Crane, Angela Lake, Matt Graham-Brown, Sue Lander, Helen Bickerstaff, Kim Black (Leicester Sharks), Lee Garaghty (Leicester Neptunes)

1. Apologies for absence: Sue Wainscot, Jill Stidever, Jenny Beech

2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 9th December 2023:

Proposed by Judy Leader and seconded by Val Dunton as being a true record. All present in favour.

3. Presentation & Adoption of Reports:

All reports had been circulated prior to the meeting.

- a) **Chair** – Ursula confirmed that there were no additions to her circulated report. It was proposed by Val Dunton and seconded by Alan King that the report be accepted. All present in favour.
- b) **General Secretary** – In the absence of a County Secretary no report had been submitted.
- c) **Treasurer** - Judy gave a summary of the Accounts for 2024. She said she was pleased to report that the Independent Examiner of the Accounts had not found any issues. The reserve of £10,000 for projects during 2024 had not been used and had therefore been carried forward to 2025 with an additional £5,000 being added. There were a number of projects being discussed at the present time. The Report was accepted by all present in its entirety. Ursula thanked Judy for the work that she had done during the year.
- d) **Swimming** – Paul said it had been a positive year with the Clubs agreeing to the Memorandum of Understanding which had been signed by all but two clubs. This MOU outlined the process to be followed both by City of Leicester and the Clubs when moving swimmers into and out of City of Leicester. The County/City of Leicester Development Agreement had also been reviewed and updated with several changes having been made. The County had resurrected the Inter Clubs and the Young Teams Galas this year. Both had been a huge success. All present accepted the report. Paul was thanked for his support over the last year.
- e) **LASA Development** – In the absence of Sue, Ursula asked that the meeting accept her report. All present in favour. Ursula thanked Sue for all that she had done over the year and for sorting out the arrangements for the Inter Counties, Long Course training and for organising the Club Coaches meetings throughout the year.
- f) **Officials Report** – There were no further comments to make and those present accepted the report, Ron and Lee were thanked for their continued support. It was important, as stated by Lee and Ron that the clubs continued to encourage parents to become Officials, both at their own clubs and also in supporting the County.
- g) **Masters Report** – Alan said he did not wish to make any further comments, but it was noted that Leicestershire Masters had done extremely well during the year with the Leicestershire Masters Open Meet in September having to be closed early due to the number of entries. The Masters had again been sponsored

by Carter Jonas at their Open Meet which helped in providing prizes for the Meet. The report was accepted by those present. Ursula thanked Alan for the work that he had done which had culminated in huge success for the Masters.

- h) Rules Report** – A Special General Meeting had been held on 14th May 2024 to review and accept a number of changes required by Swim England. No further changes had been made. The Constitution would hopefully be reviewed again during 2025.

The full Annual Report to be placed on the LASA Website.

4. Other Reports:

a) Honorary Presidents Report - Judy Leader

I was honoured and delighted to have been nominated to take up the role of Honorary President for LASA. Many thanks to those who submitted the nomination and to those who voted for me.

My first duties were to host Sarah Richardson, East Midlands Regional President at our Age Groups & County Championships where we presented a number of awards to our swimmers and volunteers.

My next duties were to visit all clubs during their training sessions to present the LASACat trophies to their young swimmers. I was made most welcome by all and it was a delight to see the joy on the faces of the recipients as they received their award and for their achievements to be recognised and applauded by their teammates and onlooking parents.

I was invited to attend City of Leicester SC to share in their Celebration of Achievements evening. This was an enjoyable event and a pleasure to witness.

The Regional Championships in April was my next invite. I attended the first day in Corby which again proved to be an enjoyable day watching the talent of our swimmers and those of our neighbouring counties.

At the start of the new season, I attended the LASA Inter-club Relay. What a fantastic event this was, great atmosphere, great swimming, great teamwork in and out of the water. Most enjoyable.

The LASA Masters Open Meet and Championship took place in mid-September and is generally a low key event at which dignitaries are not usually present. While my primary role was that of an official, I did carry out a couple of duties as Honorary President by meeting representatives of the sponsors for this event Carter Jonas. Leicestershire has a great wealth in Masters Swimmers, something that can be overlooked, forgotten or not recognised. We must continue to promote and support this group and raise their profile.

My last event was the SE Inter-counties Championship held in Sheffield. As with our own Inter-club event the Inter-Counties was filled with fun, joy, laughter, singing and air-horns! Not forgetting swimming, there were great performances in the pool from all teams and especially from Team Leicestershire.

I was invited to attend the Midlands Short Course Championship but unfortunately had to decline due to a prior engagement.

As I write this report I look forward to my final event, the LASA Young Teams Relay Gala due to be held in the coming days.

I am grateful for being given the opportunity to be the Honorary President. I have carried out this role with great pride; pride for myself representing Leicestershire ASA, and as importantly, if not more, pride in the achievements of our athletes and pride in the dedication and commitment of our coaches and volunteers.

Judy Leader

Honorary President 2024

Ursula thanked Judy for the support and work that she had done during the year as the County President.

5. County Records:

Trevor informed the AGM that Alex Casey and Jacob Mills had broken 16 records between them during 2024. As pointed out at the 2023 AGM there had not been any girls' records broken and this was the case again for 2024. The last girls record broken had been in 2018 with women's records for short course being 2021 and Long Course also 2021. It was to be hoped that this might change in 2025. The Records were accepted by those present and Ursula thanked Trevor for his continued support in maintaining the Records.

6. Vote of Thanks given by the Chair:

At a time when everyone has such busy lives it is always such a positive feeling knowing that our volunteers do so much for our swimmers. For quite a few of us within the County we have long continued to support the County even though our own children have grown up and it is the grandchildren who are now swimming.

It would be so easy for these volunteers to step back but they don't, and I am extremely grateful for the support that they give.

I would like to thank a number of individuals who continue to support the County, but I must at this point make it clear that there are many more who support, and I wish I could name them all.

I will start by thanking Judy who I have to say I would be lost without. Her constant support is second to none. She is an excellent Treasurer and IT Manager, and this year has also been our County Honorary President. Sue and Geoff also do so much behind the scenes, along with Ron, Lee, Paul, Abi and Alan. A big thank you to you all.

I say it every year, but a big thank you to the Club Delegates who support the clubs by attending the Executive Meetings.

My thanks must also go to the East Midlands Region staff who are always there to support the County and in particular Fiona and Helen.

Finally, we need to understand that the backbone of our clubs are the volunteers without whom we would not be able to survive, so a big thank you to them.

I will finish by saying that both Judy and I wish everyone a positive and successful 2025.

7. Election of Honorary President:

A nomination had been received for David Lander. Proposed by Geoff Robilliard and seconded by Ron Brewin. Ursula read out to the meeting the Citation received in respect of this nomination:

David is the type of volunteer every club and county treasures.

Always willing to assist others at any club and to support the county in a wide range of activities without many people noticing.

His affiliation with swimming started in Derbyshire back in 1971 until 1979 when he moved to Leicestershire.

Like many volunteers, David joined his local swimming club, Market Harborough, when his eldest son started swimming. Very soon he became a Timekeeper and between 1990 and 1995 he progressed through the Officiating ranks to become a Referee.

At the same time, he started to teach non swimmers and qualified in 1988, continuing to support lessons on poolside for around 36 years.

David also has a wealth of knowledge gained from fulfilling other club roles including Coach, Fundraiser, Team Manager and Committee Member including the Club Chairman and President.

Within Leicestershire David has supported the training and testing of numerous Officials and has consistently helped clubs with League Galas and local competitions.

David, along with his wife Sue, has officiated at County Championships and County Galas for many years. He is always happy to assist trainees develop their skills and knowledge and David is mindful that everyone is there to support the swimmers.

His support was recognised in 2006 when David was awarded his County Badge,

The nomination for LASA President is well deserved and further recognition of the support David has provided over many years.

All present were in favour of this nomination being accepted with David duly being elected as the Honorary President for 2025. Due to a prior commitment David was unable to be at the AGM to accept this position but Sue his wife was attending on his behalf. She said that David was very pleased and honoured to have been nominated as the President for the coming year. David had also sent his thanks (see below)

Madame Chair, Chair, Chairperson - Ursula.

Dear Friends – and other members of the committee.

I'm sorry I can't be with you at this 'working from home' meeting this evening. I am out helping the 3rd Market Harborough Scout Group to take Santa around the streets of Market Harborough. It's a prior commitment and I know that they are short of Rudolph drivers tonight – I can't let them down. This is what I'm supporting....

<https://www.facebook.com/SantaSleighMarketHarborough>

And this tracking site should tell you exactly where I am....

whereissanta.uk/public/SantaTracker.html?fbclid=IwY2xjawHE6fhleHRuA2FlbQIxMAABHdl-FVdeLFJaJr1itjkuFcaPlk5dFgde6RSIB9fGdqPtwy922Xq11wrzA_aem_t-zSTJbp4W8y3QcAOAaHlw

I'm told that this technology is similar to that used on criminals' ankle tags!!! (Don't rely on it)

I am honoured to be invited to be president of Leicestershire and Rutland ASA.

May I please recognise here the previous incumbent Mrs Leader who will be a hard act to follow - although I note that in anagrammatical terms, our surnames differ by only one letter. If there's an active member with the surname 'Lender', perhaps it's your turn next year?

Thank you, Judy, – I'll try to build on all that you have done before.

I joined swimming as a founding committee member of Rykneld Swimming Club in 1971. (Now the only surviving 'founding father') I have been a member of "The Amateur Swimming Association", "The A.S.A.", "the asa" – and now "Swim England", almost continuously since that time. I had a short break around 1979 – I'm sorry - babies intervened.

Now, in my twilight years, you bestow upon me this accolade to represent the County.

Forget please, for one moment, the competitive side of swimming, important though that is; how many LIVES have we saved by being there at the beginning of kids learning to swim? We all do what we do in swimming with a serious intent to do the job properly and in the best possible manner and, most importantly, to be fair to everyone. But we have to ENJOY what we do – it has to be FUN. There's no other reason why you all put in SO much time and effort to keep this sport going and supporting, mainly, kids encouraging them to grow up to be kind and useful adults.

It's only the fun element of what we do that will encourage others to take over from us and keep building upon the foundations we have created. Succession is vital and will be aided by demonstrating the enjoyment and satisfaction that we get from a job well done. Truthfully, none of us has ever used swimming to pay a mortgage – if not for what WE get out of it, why else would be involved?

I will continue to hammer home that message whenever I get the opportunity so to do.

When Sue Wainscot rang me to enquire whether I would accept the role, she said – and I quote – "There are no onerous responsibilities". I'm hanging onto that premise; I can't imagine anything onerous in company of this committee – and, knowing that I cannot be trusted, it would be unwise to give me any responsibility! However, I note that Mrs Wainscot promptly then took herself off to the Antipodes to avoid the official moment. Should I read anything into that?

We have all invested a lot of time into swimming, many of you much more than me – for myself, I have made a lot of friends. Some of the are still speaking to me.

I hope that Christmas brings everything that you would each wish for yourself – and I'll see you all in 2025.

David

8. Election of the Officers for Leicestershire & Rutland ASA:

As per the LASA Constitution nominations for Officers are accepted at the November meeting of the Executive.

The following nominations had been received at the November Executive Meeting and had been circulated prior to the AGM and both nominees were duly elected by all present at the AGM.

Position	Name	Proposer	Seconder
Chair	Ursula Beck	Geoff Robilliard	Ron Brewin
Secretary	No nomination		
Treasurer	Judy Leader	Ron Brewin	Sue Wainscot

9. Election of Standing Committee Managers:

As per the LASA Constitution nominations for Standing Committee Managers are accepted at the November meeting of the Executive.

A nomination for Finance Manager had been received at the November Executive meeting and circulated prior to the AGM. A nomination for Rules Revision Manager was given at the AGM. Both nominees were duly elected by all present at the AGM.

Position	Name	Proposer	Seconder
Finance	Judy Leader	Ursula Beck	Ron Brewin
Swimming	No nomination		
Development	No nomination		
Rules	Paul Sippitt	Geoff Robilliard	Ursula Beck

Ursula said that the vacancies for Swimming and Development were to be reviewed as it was felt that with the changes that had been made within the County it may be better to revert back to having a Swimming committee which included Development. This to be discussed at the next Executive meeting.

10. County Badges:

Ursula said she was pleased to confirm that three County Badges had been awarded and would be presented during the forthcoming Age Groups. Citations had been received for Jackie Harrison, Pam Tilley and Richard Stock.

Jackie and Pam had been nominated by Geoff with the following citation.

They have over the years stood up to be counted on every possible occasion and always assist heavily at galas and like last year when Sue was away during Age Groups Jackie acted in her place and did a fantastic job. Pam is always prepared to help the county out with appearances on poolside and having no swimmer present either. Pam will assist referees if something needs doing and they are hard pressed for time. Both are huge assets around the county scene and even regional events and possibly the other side that most do not see is they both are diligent in training up the J1t's and J2t's to ensure they are fully aware of their duties on the pool deck.

Richard Stock had been nominated by Trevor Hincks with the following citation:

I would like to nominate Richard Stock for a LASA County Badge.

I can think of no better person to receive this award due to his involvement with Leicester Penguins, Masters swimming and the Leicester League over the years.

Richard swam competitively for Leicester Penguins at local, midlands and national level. He carried on into Masters swimming and still competes for Leicestershire in galas.

Richard has stayed loyal to Leicester Penguins and has even been Chair of the club.

He encourages swimmers to carry on into Masters swimming and played a key role with David Strachan, Alan King and Steve Crane in raising the profile of Masters swimming in Leicestershire.

My main reason for nominating Richard is because of his running of the Leicester League.

Richard was central in this league happening. Initially the Leicester League was seen as an alternative to the Arena League and gave local clubs and swimmers more opportunities for competitive swimming. It now attracts clubs from across the East Midlands and runs competitions alongside the Arena League in the Autumn and the Nuneaton Diddy

League in the Spring. It also runs the Leicester Winter League at the start of the year when there are no alternatives for competitive inter club swimming.

Richard holds the title of Secretary of the Leicester League, but basically, he runs it.

He arranges the dates, books the pools, sends out all the correspondence, deals with queries from clubs, collates the results, produces the League Tables, makes the draws for the next rounds – the list goes on.

If it wasn't for Richard, the Leicester League wouldn't exist.

I asked others for some information on Richard as I didn't really know him outside of my minor involvement with the Leicester League and got the following comments regarding this nomination.

"I cannot think of anyone more deserving to join the ranks of County Badge Holders."

"I consider Richard thoroughly deserves a County Badge."

Hopefully, you will endorse this nomination and recognise the work that Richard has done (and continues to do) for swimming in Leicestershire.

Trevor Hincks, Chair Braunstone Swimming Club.

11. Date of next AGM meeting:

It was confirmed that the date of the next AGM meeting would be 9th December 2025.

Date of the next Executive Meeting - 14th January 2025.

The Chair thanked all for attending the AGM and wished them a Merry Christmas and a Happy New year. The AGM closed at 7.35 pm.