



HERTFORDSHIRE SWIMMING LEAGUE

Founded in 1979 by Roy Rogers

Affiliated to ASA East Region

[Visit our website at: <http://www.hsleague.org.uk/>]

Minutes of 2016 AGM held at Hertfordshire Sports Village, Hatfield On Tuesday 4th October 2016

Attendance:

Attendance representing 19/24 membership clubs

Berkhamsted, Bishops Stortford, Bushey SC, Broxbourne, Buntingford, CoStA, Harpenden, Hatfield, Hemel Hempstead, Hertford, Hertsmere Flyers, Hoddesdon, Letchworth, Potters Bar, Royston, Stevenage, Watford, Verulam, Welwyn Garden

Ian Mackenzie HASA Representative

Absent: Cheshunt, Hitchin, Tring and Ware

1. Apologies for absence

Kings Langley, James Clarke, Jackie Harvey, Maria Hunt, John Sutton, and Andrew Lowdon HSL committee members

2. Minutes of previous AGM held on

Minutes were accepted as true record of the meeting

3. Matters Arising from Item 2

Noted error in item 6 Derek *Hill* should read Derek Hughes

4. Treasurer's Report

Attached files Statement of Accounts as at 30Sep16 and 2015-16 Pool Income and Expenditure

The League has almost broken even this year, I know the figures shown are **£5066.95** in the red, but with the knowledge that the League has paid out £4750 in club grants you will understand what I mean.

Gates have been disappointing this year only once, the last round of the Peanuts, did we manage to exceed the hire costs at the most costly hire, The Venue, and then that was only by £3.32 and at one round of the Major Leagues we lost over £500.

There is still a healthy balance in the accounts of over **£25000**, but one should not get carried away that this is by anyway excessive, with pool hire increasing year upon year the League needs to have a healthy balance to be able to guarantee future years. When the pool hire invoices start rolling in and that will happen very soon now, the accounts will reduce rapidly by around **£16000** and then we have to rely on those ever diminishing gates to survive.

Response from membership: Query from Stevenage SC is there standard pool hire prices within the SSL (Stevenage Leisure Limited) whether HSL could work with the area manager to enable leverage for block booking of the pools by the league at a reduced price. Management committee to review.

5. Officials Report

As in previous years it was a good season for Officials in the League. Every Gala was supported by a qualified Referee or J2S. I'd like to thank all those Club members who helped out as Starters or Referees

in the galas. I hope that those here this evening representing the Clubs will pass my thanks, and the thanks of all swimmers, supporters, coaches etc. on to these volunteer officials. Without their help these galas would not take place.

I'd also like to thank the League and the Clubs for continuing to allow mentoring and practical assessments for new Officials to take place at League galas. Without the opportunity to get real poolside experience we would not be able to continually generate the officials that we need to help run these and other galas in Hertfordshire. Herts Swimming League galas offer the perfect place to mentor and assess trainees – all strokes, relays and a decent number of reportable issues.

The rule requiring each Club to provide one qualified Timekeeper and one qualified J1 for each gala has really worked. I think it's fair to say that now there are really very few (if any) galas where we struggle for Officials. Can I encourage Clubs to continue to work towards encouraging and supporting their members (of all ages) especially Parents with young swimmers to volunteer to be trained as Officials.

Feedback: 1) An issue of results not being released in suitable time frame it would be nice to at least get times from the timekeeper. This can prove difficult with not having the club timekeeper overseeing the club lane. Reminded membership that there is no problem to requesting time from the lane timekeeper but this is NOT the official time.

2) Clubs are struggling to provide J1 officials and confirmed acceptable to provide TK qualified officials as the league is not licenced competition.

Graham Huggett reminded the membership that the club must register with ASA East Region Swimming Officials Co-ordinator Dave Metcalf (swimofficials@eastswimming.org) to organise course in Hertfordshire. Reminder there will be J1 and J2 courses being held at the HASA conference 18/19th February 2017.

6. Chairman Report

2016 was an extremely successful year for Hertfordshire Swimming League with many exciting galas in both the Major and Peanuts competitions. In Division 1, CoStA A was dethroned by Hatfield after winning two years in succession. Tring had a fantastic year winning Division 2 after coming 7th in 2015. This result came down to the wire with Tring pipping Cheshunt at the post by only 1 Gala Point. Division 3, which unfortunately only had four teams competing, was won by Broxbourne.

Peanuts League was just as exciting with Hatfield taking the double with Watford A coming second with only 12 gala points between them just ahead of Costa A in 3rd Position. In Division 2 Ware won the division with Hoddesdon taking the second promotion spot ahead of Hertford. The Division 3 title went too Broxbourne, runners-up were Buntingford.

The Senior Gala unfortunately did not take place this last year due to lack of interest. Graham Huggett, however has very kindly taken up this challenge and is looking to change it to a friendlier version with shorter distances to interest both non-competitive swimmers and parents so watch this space!

I have to admit that this year's league has run extremely smoothly. Compared to my predecessor who had to deal with Derek's resignation, luckily the committee has supported so much that my role has been in the main ceremonial. Graham Huggett stepped in last year to take over the official's role and we are very grateful for to him for continuing fulfil this extremely difficult role not made any easier by the shortage of qualified officials.

This year has seen the implementation of the automated compliance system developed by James. This has hugely streamlined the results process with any compliance issues being flagged up immediately. Thanks to the system we have had a very quiet year and I hope you have notice an

improvement in the length of time it takes to finalise the results. Thanks James for all your help and support with this.

In addition the league has continued to move into the future and now has all past and current documentation in the Cloud on a Herts League Dropbox.

As outlined in the treasures report, the league has almost broken even this year. The committee did decide due to the amount of reserves to offer a grant to all the clubs in the League to be used for PA equipment. We hope that the clubs appreciated this gesture and that equipment has been bought by all those clubs that needed it.

We have noticed a significant decline in gates income this year. This has especially been the case in the major league galas. We would hope that the clubs will encourage members and parents to support these galas.

We have had a fair amount of movement in the leagues for 2017. With Hertsmere Flyers and Potters Bar merging we thought we would not be able to run a Majors 3rd division. Fortunately with Watford, Stevenage and Bishops Stortford all entering B teams in the Major League this is not the case and the division will once again run with 4 teams. Buntingford will be promoted to replace Hertsmere Flyers in Majors Division 2. Stevenage B will be promoted to Division 2 for the same reason in Peanuts.

In 2017 we have needed to schedule Round 1 ahead of the County Championships on 7 Jan. We stress that clubs should notify their membership to diarise as early as possible as this date is very close after the Christmas break.

The League can only be as successful as its membership wants it to be, and on behalf of the committee I would like to thank all of the clubs for their support over the past year. I would reiterate my thanks to all the officials, coaches and team managers and all the other volunteers who give up their Saturday evenings to support our swimmers and host our galas.

Needless to say I want to thank the committee for its support over not only the past year but for many years. In particular I would like to thank Karen Huckle and John Sutton who fulfil the roles of League secretary and treasurer respectively. Their ongoing commitment to running the league cannot be underestimated. Special thanks to Caroline Holt who has stood down from the committee.

They and the rest of the committee all do a tremendous job and make the rotating role of Chair and Vice-chair so much easier because of this. I for one volunteered for this role with virtually no experience in swimming so thank goodness for all their support. Thank you.

I wish the new chair and vice chair all the best in their roles and thank all the teams in the league in advance for their ongoing support in 2017.

7. Election of Officers for 2016-2017

Proposed Officers

NB: Clubs in alphabetical order nominate Chairman and Vice Chairman

Chair: Andrew Lowdon – Hitchin

Vice Chair Peter Bays - Hoddesdon

Secretary Karen Huckle – Stevenage

Treasurer John Sutton – Broxbourne

Results/ James Clarke – Berkhamsted

Compliance

Members (Designated Tasks)

Officials Graham Huggett - Bishops Stortford

Host Packs Maria Hunt – Broxbourne

Pool Bookings Jackie Harvey – Hoddesdon

Non Committee Role

Webmaster: Alan Doyle – Hemel Hempstead

Vote to accept the committee: 19-For, 0-Against, 0-Abstain - CARRIED

2017-2018 Vice Chair representative will be from Kings Langley

8. Proposed Rule Changes

To be carried must have a two-thirds majority of voting delegates in attendance

HSL Management Committee

Section 5 – Management

Rule 5b) Propose no changes to:

Annual Subscription £40/team*

Late Subscription Payment Fee £50/team

Failure to attend fee £100

Spectator fee with programme Adult £4 (should programmes run out entrance reduced to £3) Children Free

Raffle Prizes refunded costs £15

Based on the treasurer's report with regards to spiralling costs of pool hire there was a discussion whether the team entry should be raised. The member clubs present **unanimously** agreed for an increase in annual subscription fees for Major League:

- Major League £60/team with late subscription payment fee £70/team*
- All other fees to remain the same

9. HASA Swimming Manager – Gala Draws Discussion

Reference to Rule 8. Gala Draws

a) ROUND I - In division 1 the top four teams from the previous year will be seeded, the teams finishing first and fourth in Gala A and the second and third placed teams in Gala B. All other teams in division 1 and the lower divisions are to be decided by a random draw, which will take place at the AGM. Any changes necessary due to the subsequent withdrawals or additional teams will be decided by the Management Committee

Bryan Thompson Herts ASA Swimming Manager suggested that the seeding of the top 4 teams in Major and Peanut leagues should be scrapped. Rational for this suggested change:

If you look at the leagues results over the last however many years the top 4 clubs rarely change. This might well be because they are the best teams, however they are given a massive boost by being seeded. In reality the best a non-seeded team can score in the first round is 3rd place (4 points) which immediately puts them at a disadvantage going into the second round. It also means in all likelihood the 4 seeded teams will never all be in the same gala for the second round - rather there will be 2 in one and 2 in the other.

I think it would make for more exciting racing and give more chance to other clubs to break into the top 6 or even the top 4 - there would be a possibility of another team scoring 5 or 6 points in the first round for instance and then being in a better position.

After discussion between clubs the management committee agreed proposal to remove the seeding of the Division 1 top four teams. Revised Rule 8a:

8 a) ROUND I – The draw will be random and take place at the AGM. Any changes necessary due to the subsequent withdrawals or additional teams will be decided by the Management Committee

Rule 8a AGM Membership Vote Result			
For	Against	Abstained	Outcome
14	4	1	Carried

10. AOE Proposal for discussion – Hemel Hempstead and Harpenden SC

Reference attached file for details.

Agreed to adopt the recommendation that AOE should be used where it is available and can be deployed without delaying the gala. If there are technical issues in establishing full AOE but timing pads are available that these should be deployed but not connected to help with backstroke starts.

There is no way of standardising facilities across the pools and no objections to the use of other pool equipment that member clubs may have purchased such as backstroke ledges if available and free to use. Clubs would need to work together and with the pool provider appropriately.

We would need to revisit AOE costings and Andrew Farrow (Hemel Hempstead) has agreed to perform a comprehensive analysis for the future adoption of AOE.

11. Draw and Dates for 1st Round of 2017 Major and Peanuts League

See attached file for 1st round gala draws

	Major League	Peanuts League
Round 1	7 th January	6 th May
Round 2	25 th February	10 th June
Round 3	25 th March	8 th July

12. Any Other Business

HSL secretary proposed date of 2017 AGM as **Tuesday 10th October**
2016 HSL AGM Meeting closed 9:45pm