

London Swimming Management Board Minutes
Wednesday 15 July 2009
Southbank House

Attendance: Richard Graham, Vernon Davis, Richard Whitehead, Kay Grimshaw, Den Collen, Jackie Bedford, Christine Goodair, Colin Robson, Jean Scott, Kevin O'Brien, Colin Brown, Gita Sheth

1) Apologies for absence

These were received from Michelle Weltman, Jean Cook, Stephen Baker

2) Minutes of Board Meeting 23/06/09

3) Matters Arising

Kevin O'Brien pointed out that he had in fact sent an email to Colin Brown giving his apologies for the meeting on 23 June. This was noted and the minutes would be amended and show apologies from him.

Item 5 – Beacon Programme Presentation

The Board wished to express their disappointment regarding the Beacon Programme presentation that took place on 8 July. They were given the idea that Ron Philpot and Nick Sellwood would jointly give the presentation, and were not happy to find out that Ron was in fact not attending at all.

Richard W suggested that a date in Jan/Feb 2010 be set for an update on the programme by Ron to the board. This was agreed. Colin B to advise on dates.

Item 2 AOB – Disciplinary Committee

Vernon advised the board that it would be unwise for Richard G to be the Chairman due to a possible conflict of interest as he is an ex-officio member of the Swimming and the Events Management committees which are prosecuting these issues. David Barnes would now Chair this procedure.

4) Finance Report

Richard W went through the report highlighted a few aspects that the board should be aware of.

5) Board Composition & constitution matters

Vernon reported a number of points for the board to consider and decide upon.

a) It was recommended that the size of the board should be reduced to make it more effective in strategically planning and taking the Region forward. The recommendation was to reduce the number of elected members each year to a final number of 8 elected members by 2011. This should be done through a gradual process, whereby this year there would be four members retiring but only

two new members would be elected and the current vacancy would also be filled. In 2010 again 4 members would retire but only two would be elected.

There was extensive discussion about this matter and a vote was taken;

In favour 9 – against 0 – abstention 1. The proposal was agreed.

This year the following board members would be retiring: Kevin O'Brien, Christine Goodair, Jean Scott, Steve Baker.

b) The Finance & Administration committee currently existed under 21.1.1 and it was agreed that it should become a Standing Committee and its terms of reference extended to include the day to day management of the Region and that in future it should be known as the Finance, Administration & Management committee. This should be formally listed as a standing committee. This was agreed

c) The current constitution does not reflect correctly the situation in the region and some changes should be considered by the board in addition to that detailed in b). The Masters, Events, and Disability committees were currently sub committees of the Swimming committee and it was decided they should remain so. (In favour 8 – against 2). All Officers not currently listed should be shown in the Constitution and various 'housekeeping' changes would also be incorporated

d) The board was required to meet no less than six times a year but this year board meetings numbered ten. It was suggested that it would be better to reduce the number of board meetings to six a year and to give the F&A committee authority to make more of the management/day-to-day decisions, leaving the board to be more strategic in its planning. This was agreed with the proviso that the minutes of the F&A committee be circulated the entire board as soon after their meeting as possible. Colin R suggested that perhaps the board meetings should be on the same day of the week, to make planning ahead easier for people. Tuesday was suggested and enquiries would be made of the board members who were absent as to whether this would be suitable.

Vernon would draft the proposed Resolutions for the ACM and circulate to the Board.

6) Mayoral Pools Programme

Colin B updated the board on recent developments and reported that a school venue has been found for the September start. Investigations were still taking place for a community venue in London and with the help of press & publicity local people would be encouraged to nominate community venues that maybe suitable.

Applications for the vacancies had been received and interviews would be taking place next week. Funding would be paid into the ASA and ring fenced for London for this specific project.

7) Masters Swimming

Christine had prepared a report for the board which had been circulated. She reported that the masters sub-committee had not met for some time, although she had requested the chairman on numerous occasions that a meeting be called. Christine also informed the board that there seemed to be a lack of identification/distinction for masters swimmers between region and county. After much discussion it was agreed that Richard G would write to the chairman of the masters sub-committee and ask for an update on activities so far. It was also suggested that the idea of a London Masters event be considered to reinforce an allegiance to the region. Colin B would look at funding availability, and would liaise with Colin R and Christine over this. Christine to write a brief report on masters swimming in the London Region for the next board meeting.

8) Affiliations

2 affiliations were proposed. Sutton Female Swimming Club and St George's University Open Water Swimming Club. Both were agreed.

9) AOB

- a) Vernon reported that he contacted the ASA about procedures to solve disputes between regions without going through the complaints procedure and had been told that this was the only way. He asked the board if in relation to "Ortis Londinium" they wanted to go ahead with a formal complaint. After discussion the board decided that it would not be our interest to pursue the matter further.
- b) Kay reported that the Tri-nations competition was taking place at Crystal Palace on August 1&2 and that the swimming committee were running the swimming event. All members were invited to attend.
- c) A question was raised about the availability of Crystal Palace for club, county and regional galas, as there seemed to be some confusion about whether they could be held there or not. The recent region competitions held there were a great success. Colin B would check the situation with Ron and report back.
- d) Colin R informed the committee about the changes that were taking place with the ASA TSC. The board was also told that there were changes taking place with all the technical committees.
- e) Jackie asked about the situation with LS merchandise. Colin B informed the board that our supplier (SRS) would be contacted to see if we could use some of the free allocation from next year to order items this year, and if not what the costs would be.

10) Date of Next Meeting – Wednesday 2nd September