

Scottish Water Polo Annual General Meeting

14th May 2020

Zoom Conference Call, 18:00 – 20:00

Minutes (version 1_0 – issued)

Attendees

- Alan Anderson (AA) – Chair & Secretary, Portobello
- Ross Elder – Life Member & Vice-Chair
- Sharon MacDonald (SM) – Director of Development, Scottish Swimming
- Helen Toole (HT) – U18 Boys TM, Stirling Swimming
- Kostas Christou – Aberdeen
- Doris Shum Seward – Aberdeen
- Alasdair Campbell – Dunfermline
- Ann Farrell - Dunfermline
- Alexander Johnstone (AJ) - Dunfermline
- Caitlin McRobbie – Dunfermline
- Debbie McRobbie – Dunfermline
- Richie Metcalfe – Dunfermline
- Iain Thomson – Dunfermline
- Lorna Cherrie – Forth Valley
- Allison Smith – Kirkintilloch & Kilsyth ASC
- Alan Scobie - Kirkintilloch & Kilsyth ASC
- Nicole Morrison- Kirkintilloch & Kilsyth ASC
- Ed Grundy – Portobello
- Ian Melville – Portobello
- Steven Burgoyne – Ren96
- Craig Hutchison – Ren96
- Fraser Harris - Stirling
- Lesley Luke – CPO & league Co-ordinator, Stirling
- Neal Rayner (NR) –Warrender
- Nathan Sutcliffe - Warrender
- Ken Fussell - Western
- Tom Gebbie - Western
- Desmond Hopkins -

Apologies

- Andy Gray – Finance Manager, Stirling Swimming
- Gael Drummond – Events Co-ordinator, Portobello

Abbreviations used

SS – Scottish Swimming
SWP – Scottish Water Polo
SWPC – Scottish Water Polo Committee

Notes & Actions

1. Welcome and update – Chair

AA welcomed all to the 2020 AGM in unusual circumstances. With the Covid19 Pandemic closing down all water polo related activities since mid March 2020.

SM gave brief update on behalf of SS

Advised we are guided by SS in the matters of a Public Health Emergency, and that SS are directed by the Scottish Government. All statements are published on SS Web site and through Social Media channels.

In March, when the situation escalated SS advised that no events could take place before 1 September 2020 and that the licensing of meets after this date would be reviewed when the situation became clearer. Whilst there is still no timetable available to give an indication as to when we will be returning to competition, we are preparing plans for that time.

AA advised that as there was no water based water polo and no activities at a national level in the near future, and unlikely gatherings would be permitted in near future it was opportunity to hold the AGM at this point over video conference to allow for plans to be put in place for future activities.

AA advised the different time of year for holding this AGM, usually held in November, was as a result of SS re-aligning their financial (April to March) and operational year (AGM in September). It also made sense in aligning with the new end of the domestic water polo calendar which was now running August\September to May\June aligning with the academic year and European water polo season.

The meeting was run using the slide deck "**SWP Club Meeting May 2020 AGM Final.ppt**" which accompanies these minutes. Only key points of discussion, including from the Zoom Chat, are detailed in these minutes.

2. Apologies Approval of minutes from 2018 AGM and matters arising - Chair

AA advised apologies had been received as noted above.

AA advised minutes had been circulated post the 2018 AGM and reviewed at the initial SWPC meeting, no comments received.

AA advised there had been regular monthly committee meetings in 2019-20 with the minutes published on the SS website at <http://www.scottishswimming.com/compete/water-polo/important-documents/committee-information.aspx>

3. Domestic Competitions – Chair

In absence of Domestic Co-ordinator the Chair presented the update.

NR asked in the remaining games of Girls U16 league could have been completed.

AA advised that as no outright winner had been identified in any of the 6 leagues for reasons of consistency it was decided to void all leagues.

KF asked in the Scottish Cup 2020 could be played in Q1 2021 if it was not possible to complete in 2020. AA advised that would be a decision for the SWPC in consultation with the clubs once competition restarts.

4. National Squads – Helen Toole

There were no significant matters raised.

AA thanked HT for all the work done in establishing the framework for our Age Group squads, Ann Farrell also offered thanks.

5. Finance Report – Chair

The Chair presented the Finance Report in AGs absence.

The updated reflected the situation presented in forecast in February. While there was some discussion as regards League fees, Entry fees it was agreed to retain them at the same level for 2020-21, the league fee would only be requested if there was a league competition.

6. Technical Officials – Chair & AJ

AA advised that without a Technical Officials co-ordinator since 2016 and the constant issues this caused, that it was agreed to pay for work to be done to re-establish a framework. As such a Tender to establish a framework was put of in Q3 2019 and Alistair Johnstone was engaged to do the work. AJ then presented to work undertaken and proposed a way forward.

There was suggestion of creating on-line courses for Technical Officials, referees and table officials. Also the suggestion that online tutors could be engaged, which would open up the opportunity to engage officials from abroad. AJ noted the table officials had recently been done in England.

7. Development Update

A few points were made

- Water polo membership numbers appeared less from 2019 to 2020
Action: Work to be done to understand the reduction in numbers
- Request for a formal Level 1 coaching course, could the theory be done on-line, conference call?
- Request for seasonal (on-line) meetings of coaches
- Need to re-establish Development tournaments for U13, U14
These to be picked up by the SWPC going forward in partnership with SS

8. Scottish Swimming Report - SM

There were no significant matters raised.

9. Great Britain – AA

There were no significant matters raised.

10. Summary of SWP in 2019-20

a. Scottish Swimming Matters

No changes to SWP Regulations had been proposed, they will remain unchanged and review date updated.

SM advised there will be no SS Awards Dinner this year, and no nomination for presentation of awards (as regards Junior and Senior Player of the Year_

AA gave a verbal summary of the year.

Domestic Competition

Noted a competition framework and season timings established and laid out for years to come. However, noted that concern as a sport has to be that, notwithstanding the abrupt cessation of activities, too few games were played in the Scottish National Leagues between September and March to give meaningful result in the year.

Scottish Cup - For 2019 - Held in Tollcross for the second time, and was a successful day. Thanked Gael Drummond for her organisation and establishing a good framework for future competitions. On a competition view it was great to see one of our newer clubs, Kirkintilloch & Kilsyth win their first national trophies in 2019

2019 Schools tournament, thank Tina Melville who organised them. And also note Tina had started arrangements for the 2020 event, which is now cancelled.

National Squads

Noted the presentation from Helen Toole there are 6 age group squads and to thank Helen for the incredible amount of work she has done to bring them into the shape and structure we have now. It is a little like spinning plates as coaches and manager can take on roles, and then stand down, leaving a raft of work to recruit and train up newcomers. We have tried to instigate some succession \ support networks to build in resilience

Our senior teams need fresh impetus and direction. The Men's team currently without coach or manager, and limited desire\resources from enough players to contribute. Our women's team is in transition with a number of senior players stepping down in recent years. Programmes will need to be re-established to facilitate the rebuilding of these senior squads.

Noted the passing of Brian Campbell who had been involved in Scottish Water Polo for most of his life and the contribution he made particularly with the junior boys squads.

Finance

Thanks to Andy Gray for his work over the past 2.5 years in post, and noted the strong stable and trusted position water polo had established with SS Finance. IN addition to working with the budget provided by SS, collections of fees was improved and the national squads banking arrangements were being brought into review by the SWPC, noting the majority of squad activity is self-funded.

Marketing & Comms

Thanks to Richie for running the SWP Twitter & Facebook accounts. As a sport there is the opportunity to do more if we have the desire and resource to make a difference, support from Lewis McKenzie, SS Digital Marketing Communications Officer

Scottish Swimming \ Scottish Swimming Office

We have continued to receive strong support from the SS staff, specifically: Sharon MacDonald – Director of Development; Deborah McGinniss – Finance; Mel Orr – provides general support. Also in the areas of: event support, marketing and Wellbeing and Protection, and in Disciplinary matters

I have not had any request for support turned down by Scottish Swimming, so perhaps our challenge is to be more demanding in order to drive our sport forward

SWPC & Volunteers

Thanks those volunteers; Gael, Helen, Andy, Ross who have stood on the Committee since the last AGM in November 2018. Also thanks to all from SWP, and for those who undertook national roles in 2019/20: For our SNL Mike Forster, Victoria Witko, Lesley Luke; Lesley also for taking on the Safeguarding Officer; and to all our coaches and team manager of our numerous national squads.

11. Election of Office Bearers and Management Committee Members

Position	Nomination	Proposed	Second
Management committee			
Chair	No nominations		
Event (domestic competitions coordinator)	No nominations		
Technical officials Manager	Alexander Johnstone	Alan Anderson	Neal Rayner
Finance Coordinator	No nominations		
Co-opted members			
Vice Chair	Ross Elder	Elected un-opposed	
Marketing & Communications	No nominations		
Events, marketing and comms	No nominations		
National Teams manager	Helen Toole	Elected un-opposed	
Governance and secretariat	No nominations		
Club	Named Representative		
Forth Valley WPC	Lorna Cherrie		
Kirkintilloch & Kilsyth ASC	Alan Scobie		
Larkhall WPC	tba		
Ren96	Steven Burgoyne		
Stirling	Fraser Harris		
Menzieshill	Andrea Baker (*)		
Aberdeen ASC	Doris Shum Seward		
Dunfermline WPC	Richie Metcalfe		
Portobello ASC	Ed Grundy		
Western Baths	Tom Gebbie		
Warrender Baths Club	Christine Braban		
Glasgow Uni	tba		
U of Stirling WPC	tba		
Edinburgh Uni	tba		

(*) - confirmed post meeting

While standing down and with no new chair nominated, AA received confirmation from the meeting that he would complete the meeting sitting as temporary Chair.

AA stressed the importance of having a full and active committee in order to properly direct, govern and manage Scottish Water Polo, and advised the lack of a SWPC could lead to the suspension of water polo activities until the situation was resolved. AA advised that in the absence of a functioning committee the governance of Scottish Water Polo would fall to the Scottish Swimming Board. The meeting agreed that was not a desirable option.

KF advised that a new chair did not have to be formally notified to SS until presentation to the AGM in September. AA acknowledged this but advised that he in standing down he would not be taking Scottish Water Polo forward from this point.

The responsibility to create a functioning SWPC lies with the clubs, if was agreed that a meeting with the named representatives of each club (one from each club) would be called in the immediate period to discuss a way forward. AA agreed to work with SM to facilitate this meeting.

The meeting concluded 19:45 with a vote of thanks to the Chair.