

**Lordsfield Swimming Club**  
**Pool AGM and public meeting**  
**Sunday 26 February 2023, St Mary's Hall, Overton**

**1. Welcome and Chair of Trustee's report (Janice Stott)**

Janice Stott opened the meeting by thanking everyone for coming to the AGM and announcing this would be her last day as Chair of Trustees.

She summarised the Trustees annual report and thanked Janella Thow for drafting the content.

Janice thanked the other volunteers retiring this year – Jon Pritchard and Martin Lebentz as trustees and Polly White, Lauren McCann and Janella Thow as management committee members. She also welcomed Helen Forsey and Sally Kenny who will be job-sharing the management committee secretariat.

Janice encouraged meeting attendees to volunteer either as a trustee or management committee member.

Trustee annual report highlights:

- Regular training for plant operators, water testers, pool rescuers, first aiders and desk volunteers
- 7 new plant operators will be qualified by the end of May
- The following policies are available on the Lordsfield Club website:
  - Safeguarding
  - Complaints
  - Photography
  - Reserves
  - Code of conduct
  - Data protection
  - Health and safety
  - Volunteers
- Planning to start 2023 season on 29 April. All members will receive a renewal email.
- Thanks to Nicola and Sarah for all their work on challenges. 47 children trained and 40 challenges were passed.

Janice then handed over to Nicky Williams for the finance report.

## **2. Finance report (Nicky Williams)**

Nicky showed a series of slides detailing income and expenditure, grants and donations and the cash balance.

The club has:

Operating profit: £7,615.46

Net profit: £77,779.84

Grants and donations: £74,126.16

Available cash: £135,260.82

The finance report will be available on the website.

## **3. Grants, donations and fundraising (Mindy Noble)**

Mindy talked through the grants and donations received over the last year:

£10,000 - Basingstoke Voluntary Action

£1,000 - Hampshire County Councillor Juliet Henderson (plant operating training courses)

£2,500 - Hampshire and Isle of Wight Community Fund (pool rescuer and first aid training courses)

£950 – Borough Councillor Colin Phillimore to replace poolside furniture

£51,526 - Crowdfunder – working with Sport England to fund refurbishment project (320 individuals supported the campaign)

£10,000 – Sovereign Thriving Communities

£5,000 – Community Business Crowdmatch

£10,000 – Sport England

£20,000 – Sport England (pool refurbishment)

She also mentioned Editorial Office and DC Autos – two very generous local businesses.

Mindy reported that the support from Sport England seems strong, even though the project plan and budget is at a very early stage. Sport England have donated £20,000 as an interim amount, so the club can work with engineers on initial plans. Mindy closed with thanks to Toria Cowan, Alan Lamb and Tania Bridge and asked people to get in touch if they knew of any other grants the club could apply for.

Mindy and Toria also talked through a summary of other sponsorship and fundraising activities, from Christmas fairs, to sponsored cycles to grow a pound challenges and thanked everyone who had fundraised on behalf of the pool.

#### **4. Pool management elections – trustees and management committee (Janella Thow)**

Janella confirmed that Janice Stott, Martin Lebentz and Jon Pritchard were resigning from the trustees committee and invited new volunteers to come and speak to her and Janice at the end of the meeting. She also confirmed that the Charity Commission report would be on the club website, as it needs to be submitted within the next few months.

#### **5. Refurbishment plan update (Janice Stott)**

Janice reported that Sport England were very impressed by last year's crowdfunder and the community engagement. The club is also exploring a possible loan from the parish council and a potential expression of interest for a new government fund. It was acknowledged that it is difficult to apply for funding before we have a clearly defined project and budget.

Sport England has awarded a further £20,000 for investigative work and intend to remain committed to the project, although further grants will still be needed.

Janice explained that Alan Tombs has volunteered to project manage the refurbishment works on behalf of the club and he will be the contact for the consultants and contractors doing the preparatory works.

Thanks were given to Alan, Janice and Tania Bridge driving project and also Mindy on fundraising.

Janice then handed to Janet to speak about volunteering.

#### **6. Volunteers and training (Janet Evans)**

Janet reiterated the need for a succession plan in terms of volunteers and talked through some of the roles available:

- Pool rescuer – 2 needed per session (60 qualified but 40 expire this year)
- First aider – 1 needed per session (35 qualified, 20 expire next year)
- Pool plant operators and water testers – always a need for more!

She also thanked Sonia Rowe of Ashe, who has kindly lent the use of her indoor heated pool for training free of charge.

Volunteers over the age of 16 can also take on non-qualified roles, such as desk assistant (checking members in and taking payments).

She highlighted a fundraising disco on 11 March organised by Lin Parker to raise money for the club and Kingfisher. Tickets are £10.

## **7. Next season (Lauren McCann)**

Lauren confirmed the committee and trustees are hoping to open the pool at the end of April and run until the beginning of September. Fees are being reviewed but are expected to stay the same as the committee are mindful of the pool's ethos to keep swimming affordable, especially for young people.

## **8. Public question and answer session**

- There was a query about a £5000 grant which may have to be paid back:
  - It was explained this money was to fund a project manager for the pool refurbishment and there was now only six months left to spend the money. There was also a query over eligibility
  
- A query about becoming a trustee:
  - It was confirmed this role was about the strategic development of the pool's future and the current trustees would very much welcome others to join the team.
  
- Matt Rimmer asked when the refurbishment is likely to happen:
  - Sport England are keen for some consultant advice on the work. It is hoped the preliminary works and physical investigations will take place before we open at the end of April. The construction work would hopefully begin after the pool closes in September. It has not yet been decided whether the plant refurbishment and the pool liner replacement will happen as separate pieces of work, or together.
  
- Is heating the pool having an impact on operating costs?
  - Operating costs last year were actually down on the previous year. The committee acknowledge they had dropped the temperature by 1 degree to save money. This was possible because the weather was so good last summer. The renovation project will also look at an air source heat pump to back up the gas boiler and also considering solar panels on the changing room building. Committee is expecting a large water bill, as it's necessary to keep turning the water over.

Lauren McCann closed the meeting with thanks - to everyone helping in any kind of way and to the attendees for giving up their afternoon.

Thanks to those stepping down from positions – to Jon Pritchard for 12 years as a trustee, to Polly White for her work on members and to Colin Phillimore and the borough and parish councils for support. Also Martin Lebentz, Amy Mosdell, Lauren McCann and Sheila Wells.

Janice Stott and Janella Thow were referred to as 'stalwarts' and 'giants of the Lordsfield Swimming Club' who will be much missed. They were both presented with flowers and theatre vouchers as a token of appreciation.

ENDS