

Minutes to Bushey Amateur Swimming Club EGM 7.30pm 26th September 2010, held at Bushey Grove Leisure Centre.

Chaired by: Derek Swannick – vice chair

Apologies: Jane Willis – chair

Committee Members present: Judith Charman, Andrea Fraser, Lisa Taverner, Alan Brown, Jon Wood, Janet Wood, Richard Jones, Julie Rose, Kevin Binns, Caroline Shermer, Clare Marett, Howard Willis.

Agenda:

1) Welcome

2) Motion – proposed by Kevin Binns and seconded by Janet Wood.

The meeting is to approve modification of the annual membership fees and regular swim fees as laid out. The fees are to be effective from 1st January 2011, with initial payments becoming due in November 2010.

3) Discussion

4) Vote

5) Result

1) Welcome

1.1) Derek welcomed all to the meeting, discussed the agenda then outlined the BASC vision “To inspire and develop a passion for competitive swimming”.

2) Motion

2.1) The Club constitution requires that any changes in the club’s financial structure must be voted by members.

Currently the clubs expenditure is higher than its income. This is due to several factors, the main ones being:

- a) Number of members has decreased
- b) We have increased pool time to provide more swimming for a larger proportion of members
- c) Last year the club held its fees and absorbed many additional costs (eg time trial and club champs fees) this had been achieved by using cash reserve instead of income and was therefore not sustainable
- d) Pool costs have risen above inflation

2.2) A finance subgroup met during the summer to discuss the best ways to address the shortfall and reported their finding to the Executive Committee and Committee. The best two immediate options were:

- a) Increase membership costs
- b) Decrease the amount of pool time.

2.3) The Committee unanimously agreed that to decrease pool time would go against our core values as a swimming club.

2.4) The need to hold an EGM and the motion were communicated to members by letter, e-mail, and SMS text message. The motion was displayed during the EGM and vote.

2.5) A table comparing BASC proposed 2011 fees was shown against current 2010 fees from several local clubs (these other club fees are probably due their own annual increase in 2011). This showed BASC proposed fees to be very competitive.

	Current Annual Cost 2010	
	From	To
CoStA	£320	£560
Verulam	£299	
Cheshunt	£243	£297
Hemel Hempstead	£201	£402
Berkhamsted	£220	£315
Watford	£255	£855
Bushey – proposed 2011	£285	

2.6) A pie-chart was presented which showed that most of our costs are pool hire. BASC teachers, officials and Committee are all unpaid volunteers.

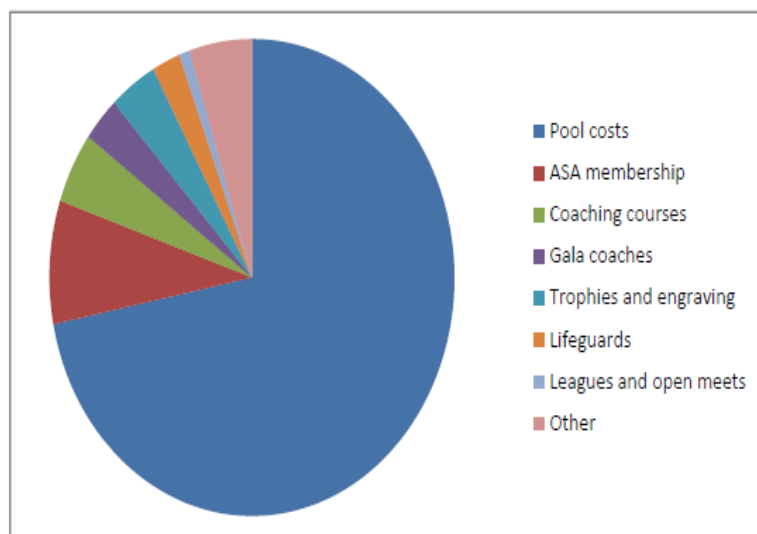
Bushey Amateur Swimming Club Cost Analysis

These are the expected costs for FY11. They are generally as for FY10, except pool costs which have been increased by 3%

		% of total
Pool costs	£33,486	71.86%
ASA membership	£3,900	8.37%
Coaching courses	£2,250	4.83%
Gala coaches	£1,410	3.03%
Trophies and engraving	£1,785	3.83%
Lifeguards	£1,050	2.25%
Leagues and open meets	£400	0.86%
Other	£2,319	4.98%
Total costs	£46,600	

	Current	Proposed
Annual membership cost	£205	£285
No of members required to breakeven (We currently have 158 full members)	227	164

Forecast loss for FY10 is ~£9k



Where your money goes

Proposed membership fee	£285.00
Pool hire and associated costs	£204.80
ASA Membership	£23.85
Coaching courses (teacher training)	£13.76
Gala coaches (transport)	£8.62
Trophies	£10.92
Lifeguards	£6.42
Leagues and Open Meets	£2.45
Other	£14.18

Notes:

Pool costs increase year-on-year
 ASA membership fees increase year-on-year
 Teacher training course costs have increased dramatically during 2010
 With the exception of lifeguards, all activities are undertaken by non-paid volunteers
 (We do not pay for any coaching)

3) Discussion

3.1) Jon Wood read out an e-mail from Richard Henson in opposition to the motion. The main reasons for objection were:

- a) That it was unclear whether the committee had considered other options including decreasing swim time? *(Response: It had been considered as one option but it was felt this went against our Vision and core values as a swimming club)*
- b) A failure to explain the benefit of a 30% increase in fee? *(Response: The proposed £15 termly fee rise is actually an additional £10 increase on the £5 that was already agreed at the AGM in January 2010. Increases in pool costs above the rate of inflation are factors beyond our control, we negotiate the best prices to hire the facilities.)*
- c) Whether the proposed financial model was based on the current level of membership or will we increase the number of members? *(Response: The current level of membership and proposed fees will enable us to meet our current overheads, but moving forward it would be beneficial to increase membership)*

3.2) Other points discussed were:

What were the reasons we have lost members? *(Response: Membership peaked at 230 when Watford pool was temporarily closed for refurbishment, this resulted in swimmers joining BASC that would have probably have joined Watford Swimming Club. Some BASC members have returned to Watford Swimming Club since Watford Central pool re-opened and Woodside pool has also opened. Watford Swimming Club also attract a proportion of the potential swimmers in our area. We frequently lose members when they go to senior school at 11 or when they leave school for university)*

3.3) Where is the extra pool time? *(Response: We started using St Helens when Bushey Grove was shut for maintenance, this session is now continued on Friday evenings. Watford Central pool is now used on Sunday for our widths classes – no other pool time could accommodate these classes which are full. All of our swimmers except those in level 3 and 4 are offered 2 swims per week and the majority benefit from swimming at least twice a week).*

3.4) What actions are we taking to recruit new members? *(Response: As part of the finance sub committee findings and September 2010 Committee meeting it was agreed that moving forward we need to find best practise methods of recruitment. It was also pointed out that the waiting list of 35 is mainly for low end width classes at Watford Central where we have no capacity. If all members could promote the club to schools, friends and family it would be appreciated)*

3.5) Which classes have the capacity to take new members? *(Response: There is availability in the Sunday 4-6pm lengths class. Classes from 6pm are full. The best age group to recruit are pre-senior school).*

3.6) It was pointed out by several members that the proposed annual cost of £285 still represents good value in comparison to both other clubs and public and private swimming lessons. The club offers:

- a) Competitive swimming,
- b) Value of being part of a club,
- c) Free 1500m swim and 200m IM swim
- d) Excellent teacher:pupil ratio – particularly for the lower end width swimmers who may only swim once a week and pay the same fee but the teaching ratio is high.
- e) When promoted up to higher classes and extra swim time there is no additional financial implication for them,
- f) Excellent quality teaching at all levels,
- g) Free ASA membership included
- h) Free time trials
- i) Free club championships competitions.
- j) The ability to swim nearly all year round not just during school term times.

3.7) It was agreed that if we could find a volunteer to re-introduce the newsletter this would help club communication to our members.

3.8) The issue of removing the family discount was discussed at length. Several members felt that the additional cost of membership as well as the withdrawal of the family discount could be too much for some families. Some members requested that the graduated fees or reduced membership for siblings should be retained. The Chair confirmed that the vote was required to be on the whole motion as tabled before the Club rather than on components of the proposal.

3.9) Hardship cases will continue to be considered on an individual basis.

3.10) At the AGM in January 2011, the Treasurer will present the forecast and plans for 2012.

3.11) Derek thanked everyone for their comments.

4) Vote

4.1) The vote was taken. As identified in the correspondence prior to the EGM the vote included those unable to attend the meeting and who had voted by proxy or by e-mail/text, members who elected not to attend or to vote by proxy were taken to support the proposal as tabled and as had been recommended by the Committee.

5) Result - Those voting in person, as a proxy, or before the meeting (by e-mail)

5.1) No vote cast (therefore accepting the committee decision) = 132

Reject the motion: 8

Accept the motion: 71

5.2) Total votes rejecting = 8

Total votes accepting = 203

5.3) Result: Motion carried.