**Okehampton Otters Annual General Meeting**

**26.03.2023 @1500hrs**

**YHA Okehampton**

**Attending Families**:

Barlow-Endecott, Bayles, Bradford, Carroll, Dymond, Ffooks, Graves, King, Pearce, Simmonds, Telling, Webster, Young.

**Apologies**: Karen Adams, Radford Family.

Introduction

Mark Pearce (MP) thanked everyone for coming and introduced himself as Club Chair.

Item 1. Chairperson’s Report

There were no comments or outstanding actions from the previous AGM.

MP thanked swimmers, coaches, committee and parents for their support of the Club. He stated that 2022 had been a good year for the Club with growth in membership numbers and excellent results at competitions, continuing into 2023 at the recent Two Counties Meet.

MP explained that we are attempting to grow as a club generally and invited input or questions from anyone within the Club either at the AGM or at any point in the future.

MP explained about the recent SGM and the approval of the new Club Constitution; the minutes and the new Club Constitution are both available on the Club website.

Item 2. Treasury Report

Alison Young (AY) reported that we have moved to a new finance package , Xero, which will make running of the Club finances easier, and will provide a much better audit trail. This system also links seamlessly with the current Go Cardless payment system.

We have paid pool hire fees up until end of July and the Club is in a healthy position with c. £10k in the account.

MP added that we have recovered to a steady state following Covid and are now in a position where we can start to reinvest in the Club. One of the options being considered is for the purchase of new diving blocks , though these are expensive. We also need to factor in increases to pool hire charges and any increase in fees, so need to be mindful of these factors, but our aim is to keep membership costs as low as possible.

Claire Graves (CG) invited swimmers and parents to feedback on what additional things they would like the Club to offer (e.g. land training, more pool hours). No suggestions or requests were raised by attendees.

Jess James (JJ) reported that we are looking at introducing a morning training session from 7am-8am, day to be confirmed but initially considering Friday. A request has been put to the Leisure Centre.

Item 3. Coaching

MP reported that we continue to actively recruit for a new Head Coach but so far have been unsuccessful.

MP invited parents to get involved as coaches or poolside assistants. The Club will pay all training course costs.

Item 4. Committee

It was proposed by CG and seconded by JD that the Committee would stand as is, with the only change being that MP would take on the SwimMark role in addition to Chair. There were no objections so this motion was passed unanimously. Furthermore, there was a need to recruit for a new Welfare Officer; Alison Bayles said that she would be interested and would contact the current Welfare Officer for more information (Action AGM 23/01).

MP explained that this role should stand outside of the Committee and outlined the responsibilities: responding to Welfare issues and coordinating DBS checks which need renewing every 3 years. The position requires a full day online training.

CG invited help in any form, the swimmers and Club are always grateful for any support poolside or otherwise.

Item 5. Communication

MP confirmed AGM minutes will be added to the Otters website and reported that we are now regularly updating both the website and Facebook (Action AGM 23/02).

MP asked attendees if they had any feedback on communication methods and frequency. The attendees did not raise any issues or wished for any major changes to the current process.

Item 6. AOB

* Jo Dymond (JD) reported that the Club are looking into the option of club towel robes with Otters logo and will send an email to register interest (action AGM 23/03).
* JD reported that the club are considering a Club WhatsApp group and invited input from any parents / swimmers. No feedback given at AGM so this will currently be put on hold.
* CG talked about club competitions and invited any swimmers to take part in these. The Devon Developments and Summer Sizzler are forthcoming and swimmers should speak to coaches if interested. JD will circulate details by email (Action AGM 23/04).
* Anna Telling thanked the club for their work and reported that her daughter was happy in the Club.
* Matthew Ffooks talked about Otters presence at competitions and reported that as a Club our swimmers have great team spirit and always appear to being enjoying the events. He recommended that any swimmer should have a go and enter an event.

MP closed the meeting at 1600hrs and once again thanked everyone for attending.