



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Wenona Swim Club (WSC) 1st Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 27 April 2022

Zoom webinar

Present

Dr Briony Scott (President)	Tom Hill (Secretary)	Andrew Leake (Treasurer)	David Cook (Senior Deputy Principal)
Michael Creighton (Head Coach)	Rhianna Dawson (Registrar)	Cristina Di Traglia (Assistant Coach)	Skye Cater (Race Secretary)

Apologies

Chris Zielinski
(Vice President)

Minutes

1. Welcome

Dr Briony Scott, President, declared the 1st Annual General Meeting open at 12:05pm.

2. Apologies

Chris Zielinski, Vice President, sent apologies for the meeting.

3. Confirmation of minutes from the most recent WSC Committee meeting

Moved by Tom Hill and seconded by Michael Creighton that the Minutes of the most recent WSC Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 9 March 2022 be accepted.

4. Committee Report

The WSC Committee Report for the 2020/2021 Season was taken as read by committee members.

Michael Creighton, Head Coach, commented on the growth of Wenona Swim Squads from 2019, outlining the predominant reasons for the growth as the transition to the new Athenaeum building in August 2020, the introduction of Wenona Swim Club in October 2020, and the employment of two full time Assistant Coaches in 2021.

Michael then provided a summary of the inaugural Wenona Swim Club season, 2020/2021. Key remarks included:

- Acknowledgement of the impact that the 2021 lockdown had on the club and not being able to compete in the 2021 Short Course season. Further, the lockdown prevented the club from participating in planned invitational meets with other swim clubs.
- Recognition of the key roles that Swimming NSW Technical Officials, Ben Choo (referee) and Anthea Conybeare (starter), played in the running of official club meets so that members can achieve official qualifying times.



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Dr Scott requested investigation into gaining more Technical Officials for the club by upskilling Wenona students and opening up these kinds of qualifications to young people.

Michael included an update on the aquatic facility and noted the continued improvements that are being made to the facility and its operations. Recognition was made that with the introduction of Wenona Learn to Swim, the facility is starting to open up to external students, including males. Moreover, externals are beginning to join Wenona Swim Squads and Wenona Swim Club.

Discussion took place about involvement with the Cerebral Palsy Alliance (CPA) and being able to offer CPA lane space at the Wenona Athenaeum pool. Wenona Swim Club already has connections within CPA and both parties are interested in CPA's involvement with the club.

Dr Scott mentioned association with companies such as the Sony Foundation would be a beneficial undertaking for the School and WSC and suggested looking into ways to increase access for special needs individuals. Upskilling Wenona Learn to Swim staff with qualifications such as the 'Swim Australia Teacher of Learners with Disability' was suggested in anticipation for any future involvement with CPA or the Sony Foundation.

Attendees agreed that specific Wenona staff members should be consulted about future involvement with the Sony Foundation and micro-credentialling for current Wenona students.

5. Financial summary of the Club for 2021

WSC Financial Summary for the period 1 January to 31 December 2021 was presented and accepted by the Committee.

The Secretary highlighted the following:

- The WSC 2021 Financial Summary was ahead of budget.
- WSC was audited as a part of the overall Wenona School audit, as brought up at a previous Committee meeting.

The Committee noted that there would be an anticipated increase of memberships in the last quarter of 2022 when the 2022/2023 swimming season commences on 1 October 2022.

6. Notices of motion

The motion to updated By-Laws, clauses 8.4 and 11.5, to reflect auditing of financial statements was approved by the Committee.

7. Confirmation of Office Bearers and other members of the Committee

It was agreed that all current committee members will continue in their roles, with Andrew Leake remaining as Treasurer. Michael Creighton will keep his role as Head Coach and Skye Cater, swimming coach, will commence the role of Race Secretary. Beth Oakley was approved and acknowledged as the new Publicity Officer, taking over the role following Mark Staker's departure.

The confirmed WSC Committee for 2022 is listed below:

- President – Briony Scott
- Vice President – Chris Zielinski



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- Secretary – Tom Hill
- Treasurer – Andrew Leake
- Publicity Officer – Beth Oakley
- Head Coach – Michael Creighton
- Race Secretary – Skye Cater
- Registrar – Rhianna Dawson

As Head Coach, Michael Creighton will continue to configure and confirm the overall coaching structure of the Wenona swimming program and communicate with the Committee.

8. Consideration of membership fees and categories for the 2021/22 Season

Upon consideration of the 2021/2022 Membership Fees the attendees agreed to include consideration of the 2022/2023 Membership Fees on the next WSC Committee meeting agenda. Key contemplations are the investigation into including ‘family’ memberships to ensure all parents/guardians of registered student members are also official members of the WSC as per the requirements under the current by-laws.

9. General Business

Considerable discussion took place around the support of high performing athletes within the swimming program, and the wider sport program in general. Michael Creighton provided attendees a debrief of the Australian Age Swimming Championships that were held in Adelaide from 11 to 18 April 2022 where WSC had six athletes competing and achieving fantastic results for WSC as a smaller and relatively new club.

Attendees discussed how the School, and Swim Club, is able to better support young athletes performing at a State, National, or International level. It was recognised that a number of other Schools offer sport scholarships for high performing athletes, and that there is a risk of losing high performing athletes at Wenona to another School should they receive an advantageous offer.

Additionally, attendees discussed strategies for better recognition of high performing athletes within the School via uniform or other award recognition items, which has been discussed and considered in the past. One of the preferred ideas discussed was recognition of National and State representative athletes through embroidery on student pockets of their School blazer.

The WSC Committee and Wenona School are dedicated towards examining ways that high performing athletes can be better supported and how they are able to be better recognised for their achievements through additions to their School uniform.

Attendees agreed that the next WSC Committee meeting should include discussion around the procurement of point of sale items for sport reception, with initial items for sale to be swimming caps and goggles in addition to establishing some standard WSC uniform items for all members and National level representatives.

The Draft Winter Season Calendar was shared with attendees with updated draft included on the agenda for the next Committee meeting. Primary discussion about the calendar included:



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- When to hold the first Club Night for Term 2, with the proposed date being in Week 4 of the Term.
- Intention to run invitational meets throughout Term 2 and Term 3. The key idea at present is to run a Sunday morning invitational meet. The first session would be a 13-years and over qualification meet to obtain qualifying times for upcoming representative meets, and the second session a 12-years and under carnival.
- Conducting a '12-Hour Swim for Mental Health' event during Term 2 or Term 3, with a date to be further considered, to raise awareness about mental health in sport and young people. It was proposed that this event could be tied into the Black Dog Institute's 'Bite Back' program, which is a free online positive psychology program for 13 to 16 year olds. Attendees discussed the involvement of current and former athletes such as Hannah Buckling and Hayley Lewis in this proposed event. Attendees agreed that further planning and discussion would take place once a suitable date is confirmed.
- Michael Creighton, and Assistant Swimming coaches, are interested in attending other State Championships, such as the ACT State Championships, to provide more competition opportunities for some of the younger swimmers on the cusp of becoming a representative swimmer. The 2022 ACT State Championships is also scheduled at a time that would allow a number of WSC swimmers to obtain qualifying times for upcoming events. Attendees agreed that attendance at any such meets needs to be coordinated so in a measured way with further detail and event proposal to be developed for initial review by the Director of Sport and Deputy Principal, School Operations.

10. Meeting Closure

Dr Briony Scott declared the meeting closed at 12:50pm.