



Annual Report 2024

Chair
Hon. Secretary
Hon. Treasurer
Learn to Swim Hon. Secretary
Welfare Hon. Secretary
Minutes Hon. Secretary
Junior Swimming Hon. Secretary
Masters Swimming Hon. Secretary
Junior Artistic Swimming Hon. Secretary
Masters Artistic Swimming Hon. Secretary
Trophy Hon. Secretary

Neil Davies
Michelle Johnson
Audrey Taylor
Vacant
Sarah Naish
Kath Vlcek
Scarlett Kent
Rob McDonald
Vikki Gimson
Miriam Battye
Diane Melrose

COMMITTEE

All Officers named above plus Margaret Hammerton, Jenny Davidson, and Tom Anson.

PRESIDENT

Phil Cook

Dear club members,

The **Annual General Meeting** is via Google Meet on Wednesday, 27 November 2024 at 7.00pm and the link will be circulated to all members beforehand. A full agenda including committee nominations is attached and we look forward to seeing you on 27 November at 7.00pm.

Michelle Johnson
Hon. Secretary

AGENDA

1. Welcome and apologies
2. Minutes of AGM held 29 November 2023
3. Matters arising from minutes
4. Annual Report
5. Statement of Accounts
6. Appointment of auditor/examiner
7. Election of BDSC officers and committee members

Agenda item 2

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held online via zoom on Wednesday, 29 November 2023 at 7pm

1. PRESENT

Liz Fitzsimons in the Chair and approximately 20 other members.

Liz welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were received from Andrew Coleman and Rachel Anson.

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 30th November 2022, previously circulated were agreed as a correct record.

3. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

4. TO RECEIVE AND ADOPT THE ANNUAL REPORT

It was proposed by Sarah Naish and seconded by Margaret Hamerton that the Annual Report be adopted. Agreed.

5. TO RECEIVE AND ADOPT THE STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

It was proposed by Neil Davies seconded by Jose Adam that the accounts be adopted. Agreed.

6. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR/EXAMINER

It was proposed by Michelle Johnson and seconded by Margaret Simmonds that the auditor/examiner should be Karen King. Agreed.

7. APPOINTMENT OF LIFE AND HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

Under our current rule 7.1, the committee proposed that honorary membership for this year be awarded to:

Rob McDonald - for his work as Masters Hon Secretary. Agreed.

Rachel Anson - for her dedication to teaching swimming. Agreed.

Under our current rule 7.1, the committee proposed that a Life Membership should be awarded to Sarah Naish for all her help over the years. She has been a member of the club since childhood when we were Brighton Ladies Swimming Club. Agreed.

8. ELECTION OF CLUB OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Liz Fitzsimons thanked the 2022/23 committee for all their great work over the year. There were 4 officers not standing for re-election and it was proposed by Margaret Simmonds and seconded by Paul Grimwood that the new officers and committee members be elected en bloc as follows. Agreed.

Chairperson	Neil Davies
Hon. Secretary	Michelle Johnson
Hon. Treasurer	Audrey Taylor
Minutes Hon. Secretary	Kath Vlcek
Welfare Hon. Secretary	Sarah Naish
Learn to Swim Hon. Secretary	<i>Vacant Post</i>
Junior Artistic Swimming Hon. Sec	Vikki Gimson
Masters Artistic Swimming Hon. Sec	Miriam Dowding
Masters Hon. Secretary	Rob McDonald
Junior Swimming Hon. Sec	Scarlett Kent
Trophy Hon. Secretary	Diane Melrose

Committee - Margaret Hamerton, Jenny Davidson, Tom Anson.

The meeting closed at 7.20pm with a vote of thanks to the Chair for her hard work over the last 2 years.

Agenda item 4

CHAIR'S REPORT

As we wrap up another exciting year at Brighton Dolphin SC, I want to take this opportunity to reflect on our club's achievements and express heartfelt gratitude to all who contribute to making our community so special.

First and foremost, I would like to extend a huge thank you to our incredible volunteers. Their dedication and hard work behind the scenes keep our club thriving, whether it's through organising events, coaching, or assisting on poolside duties. The contributions of our volunteers are truly the backbone of everything we accomplish, and we are so grateful for their time and passion.

This year, our competitive members have truly made us proud. From local events to national championships, they've shown exceptional skill, determination, and sportsmanship, raising the bar for what our club can achieve. Congratulations to all our swimmers who have represented us so well – your hard work and achievements are inspiring to us all.

To keep our club financially sustainable, we have made some adjustments to session fees in certain sections to help offset the rising costs associated with pool hire. This year, we're aiming to operate at a managed loss of around £1,700, which will allow us to reduce the current club surplus while still subsidizing all sections. These changes have been made with careful consideration to balance affordability for our members with the club's financial health, and we appreciate your understanding and support in this adjustment.

Finally, I am thrilled to highlight a remarkable achievement within our community. Audrey, one of our cherished members (when not chasing me for money), was awarded the British Empire Medal in the Kings Birthday Honours List. This honour reflects her outstanding service and commitment, not only to our club but also to the wider community. Audrey's recognition is a testament to her dedication and embodies the values we strive for at our club.

As we look forward to another year, I am excited about the journey ahead and the opportunities to build on our successes. Thank you all for your ongoing support, and let's make the coming year another fantastic one for Brighton Dolphin SC!

Neil Davies
Chair BDSC

JUNIOR SWIMMING REPORT

Our 3 Junior swim sessions (Tuesday, Thursday, Sunday) are regularly attended and almost at full capacity.

A huge thank you to the great volunteer teachers facilitating growth and progression for our swimmers, always providing encouragement and feedback to the children to better their swimming skills: Tom A, Alex, Angela, Rachel L, Rachel A, Lesley, Diane, Adam, Niamh, Mick, Mia, Tom K-N, Gary & myself. Again, a big thanks to our cover teachers that help out when required.

A handful of swimmers attended the Ken Deeley Open meet in September 2024, with loads of personal bests and zero disqualifications. I am hoping for more swimmers to be interested in competing at Tom Handley open meet in January 2025, please do consider entering.

Our annual club championships are taking place in November/December 2024 and the children are ready and excited for this. After this, our results afternoon event will occur on **Sunday, 16th February 2025**, which is a great opportunity to celebrate and share successes.

We will be hosting our club team gala on **Saturday, 1st February 2025**, a fantastic occasion to build team morale.

Despite our large volunteer teaching team, we still need more help poolside so I welcome anybody that is interested in joining our group to please get in touch.

I feel privileged to be leading the Learn to Swim and Junior swimming section of BDSC for another year. Thanks to everyone involved behind the scenes for your continued support and to all the parents that choose to bring their children swimming with us!

Scarlett Kent
Junior Swimming Hon. Secretary

LEARN TO SWIM REPORT

It has been another fantastic year for BDSC Learn to Swim section. I would like to extend a large thank you to our enthusiastic volunteer teachers running the 5 classes on a Sunday morning: Rachel L, Alex, Mekdes, Amy, Angela, Rachel A, Margaret & myself. Thanks also to all the cover teachers that provide support when required, which is invaluable.

The children have demonstrated fantastic progression in the water, some being comfortable with putting their face in the water for the first time and others swimming a whole width without stopping. Well done children and keep up the great work!

A huge thank you to the parents that bring their children along and support our special swimming club, they sacrifice their Sunday mornings for their children to learn such an important life skill.

Scarlett Kent
Acting Learn to Swim Hon. Secretary

MASTERS SWIMMING REPORT

The masters continue to receive a steady stream of enquiries from potential new members via the website. Current master numbers remain steady.

The Sussex Masters and Senior Age Group Championships for 2024 were held on 8th September this year. It was attended by a compact team of enthusiastic swimmers. The team came a creditable 5th overall out of 13 teams which was an achievement given the size of some of the other teams.

GoCardless Swim England Masters National Championships (25m) 2024 was held at Sheffield's Pond Forge International Sports Centre in October over three days. It is a much trained for and anticipated event for some members of the club.

Intercounty Age Group & Masters Championships was held on 11th November 2024 at the London Aquatic Centre. Some members of the club were in the team.

Coaching

Sean Challis provided some positive and popular coaching and we hope to have him back going forward.

Open Water Swimming

Over the summer our swimmers ventured out of the pool into lakes the sea and the rivers and competed with some notable performances.

Social

We have continued to promote regular social events beyond the pool. One of our most popular gatherings is the "First Tuesday" drinks, held on the first Tuesday of each month after our evening swim session. These monthly socials are relaxed and open to all. It has been encouraging to see both new and long-standing members join in.

Rob McDonald
Masters Hon. Secretary

JUNIOR ARTISTIC SWIMMING REPORT

Junior Artistic Swimming has enjoyed a great year. We had peak membership of 32 swimmers ranging in age 8 – 17 years across three groups – advanced, intermediate and novice who swim 1, 2 or 3 sessions per week. Many of the swimmers in the advanced group have been with the section since we started in 2018 and are still keen and dedicated, attending 3 sessions per week!

We recently held our Prize Giving and Team Building Event with the following swimmers taking home trophies.

Attendance Cup

- Lotta Rogers (89% attendance across the year)

Most Improved

- Advanced Cecily Cornock
- Intermediate Sophia Cooper
- Novice Lily Uchyigit

Team Spirit

- Advanced Zara Couzens
- Intermediate Lois Defreitas
- Novice Amelie Cooper

We took swimmers to two figure competitions recently that everyone worked very hard for and brought home some medals at the South East Regional event.

- Grade 4 15-18 yrs – gold for Willow Gimson-Short and bronze for Mati Tait-Escorihela
- Grade 3 13-15 yrs – bronze for Zara Couzens, 12yrs & under bronze for Felicity Hunt
- Grade 2 13-15 yrs – gold for Sophia Cooper

16 swimmers have been assessed and passed artistic swimming grades.

We had a fabulous show in May 2024 with some very high level performances including a “family routine” combining masters and juniors from the same family (mothers and daughters and sisters) and two routines from the beginners who started in October 2023.

A huge thank you to our team of volunteers without whom we couldn’t manage the section.

- Coaches – Vikki Gimson and Laura Rogers

- Assistant Coaches – Katja Cooper, Natalie Cornock, Emma Dawson-Bowling and Dawn Couzens
- Team Managers – Emma Mercer, Katja Cooper and Claire Kingstree

We will be hosting a Duet Assessed Showcase on 12th January 2025 at the K2 in Crawley with invitations going out to Brighton, Horsham Atlantis Flamingos and Portsmouth and District Swimming Clubs. In addition to the annual show in May 2025, we also hope to go take a team to Combo Cup in Sheffield in July 2025.

We hope to invite new JAS beginners to taster sessions in late January and/or early February so please contact bdscartistic@gmail.com if you have an interested swimmer.

Vikki Gimson
Junior Artistic Swimming Hon. Secretary

MASTERS ARTISTIC SWIMMING REPORT

Update at AGM

Miriam Battye
Masters Artistic Swimming Hon. Secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT

I am pleased to report that all sections of the club are thriving, despite a recorded annual loss of £1,650. Given the substantial reserves on deposit the committee has deemed this loss to be acceptable. At the beginning of the year, it was agreed to reduce the reserve balance by this amount over the next few years.

It is anticipated that hire charges for both the Prince Regent and Surrenden facilities will increase in January. However, the income from monthly swim fees is currently sufficient to cover pool charges. As a result, the committee has decided to maintain the swim section fees and annual membership rates at the same levels as in previous years. That said, we have found it necessary to raise the swim fees for the AS juniors and AS Masters sections to ensure these areas are running at a similar loss to other sections.

I would like to extend special thanks to our President, Phil Cook, for his continued dedication in welcoming both new and returning members. Your support is greatly appreciated, Phil.

Audrey Taylor
Hon. Treasurer

Agenda item 7

BDSC committee member nominations

Committee Position	Name	Nominee	Seconder
Chairperson	Neil Davies	Audrey Taylor	Gary Fuller
Hon. Secretary	Michelle Johnson	Phil Cook	Audrey Taylor
Hon. Treasurer	Audrey Taylor BEM	Sarah Naish	Diane Melrose
Minutes Hon. Sec	Ellie Whittington	Sarah Naish	Audrey Taylor
Welfare Hon. Sec	Sarah Naish	Audrey Taylor	Michelle Johnson
Learn to Swim Hon. Sec			
Junior Artistic Swimming Hon. Sec	Vikki Gimson	Laura Rogers	Michelle Johnson
Masters Artistic Swimming Hon. Sec	Margaret Hamerton	Liz Matthews	Gaye Greely
Masters Hon. Sec	Rob Macdonald	Audrey Taylor	Phil Cook
Junior Swimming Hon. Sec	Scarlett Kent	Michelle Johnson	Audrey Taylor
Trophy Hon. Sec	Diane Melrose	Audrey Taylor	Sarah Naish
Committee Member	Adam Waller	Phil Cook	Audrey Taylor
Committee Member	Jenny Davidson	Neil Davies	Audrey Taylor
Committee Member	Tom Anson	Scarlett Kent	Michelle Johnson