



Annual General Meeting

Date; 25th November 2024

Time; 7pm – 8.25pm

Venue; Azzurro, Dunmore East

Present: Mary Dorgan (Chair), Gaye Heffernan (Secretary), David O'Halloran (Treasurer), Bill Murphy, Tanya Cunningham, Joanne Galvin, Mark O'Keeffe, Ruth Whyte, Mary O'Donnell, Grainne Duffy, Tom Brennan, Grainne Brennan, Catherine Griffin, Aideen Byrne, Katy Kiely, Elaine Fennelly, Tomas Hofirek, Linda Hardiman.

Apologies: Emer Flanagan, Olive Ruane, Noreen Bambury, Eileen Murphy, Una Connery, Ruth Hegarty, Mary Tritschler, Ann Marie and Richard Hurley.

Minutes of AGM '23 The minutes from AGM '23 had been posted on the Club website with a link on the Notices Whatsapp group.

The Secretary, Gaye Heffernan read through the Minutes. Mary Dorgan highlighted a typographical error which was amended by the Secretary. They were proposed by Bill Murphy and seconded by Mary O'Donnell. The minutes were signed by the Chairperson and Secretary.

Chairperson's Report The Chairperson's report was posted on the Club website, a copy is attached.

Mary welcomed everyone to the AGM. She reflected back on 2024, mentioning that the first delivery of infrastructure had finally taken place with

the erection of the handrail and foot-tap at Lawlors and the installation of a ladder at Mens' Cove.

The first few years of the Club had involved great learning and new things keep coming up for us. Relationships within the Committee are very good.

Support has come from Waterford County Council, Waterford Sports Partnership and the Department of Sport, Sports Capital section. We have received grants from WSP and a grant of €6480 from the Sports Capital Equipment Grant, yet to be drawn down (Secretary's Report).

Mary mentioned that a feature on DESC had been included in the new Outdoor Recreation Strategy published recently by the government.

A meeting with Sarah Keane of Swim Ireland has been arranged which will be a major step in promoting us as an 'Open Water' Club.

Secretary's Report The Secretary's report was posted on the website, a copy is attached.

Gaye Heffernan went through the main points of the report. She spoke about the success of Members' Time and covered the events of the past year, highlighting the success of the Maxine Strain clinics. She congratulated Ruth Whyte on attaining SI Level 1 Swim Coach qualification and the successful running of the Taster Sessions throughout the summer. She went through the 4 grants which were allocated to the Club. Additionally, she emphasized the significant role social media plays in connecting with our community and enhancing our visibility.

Treasurer's Report The Treasurer's report was posted on the website, a copy is attached.

David O'Halloran gave a breakdown of how the membership fee was used, with currently €30 going to Swim Ireland.

Head Coach's Report The Head Coach's report was posted on the website, a copy is attached.

The chairperson explained that the Head Coach Rachel Mulcahy had been detained at a Swim Ireland Training session. Her report was taken as read.

Election of Club management Committee;

- Chairperson – Mary Dorgan, proposed by Tanya Cunningham and seconded by Gaye Heffernan. No objections raised.
- Secretary – Gaye Heffernan, proposed by Tom Brennan and seconded by Mark O’Keeffe. No objections raised.
- Treasurer – David O’Halloran, proposed by Bill Murphy and seconded by Joanne Galvin. No objections raised.
- Head Coach – Rachel Mulcahy, proposed by Ruth Whyte and seconded by Gaye Heffernan. No objections raised.
- General Committee – Tanya Cunningham, Ruth Whyte, Bill Murphy, Joanne Galvin, proposed by Mary Dorgan seconded by Gaye Heffernan. No objections raised.
- New Committee members – Tomas Hofirek and Aideen Byrne proposed by David O’Halloran and seconded by Tanya Cunningham. No objections raised.

Following the election of officers, an open discussion took place.

A reference was made to the recent drownings in Galway along with a request for seasonal safety talks to be given to members. David O’Halloran, a member of the RNLI, responded saying that he would mention the request to the team at RNLI.

The subject of water quality arose with better results being obtained this year. It’s a Catch 22 situation as the HSE insist on chlorination in the summer, a bleaching chemical is being used currently. The EPA will not give a Blue Flag until a credible plan is devised. The Council would need to spend large sums to address the problem upstream.

It was suggested that there are opportunities to get new members through social media. The Club will tap into the membership for social media expertise.

A question was raised as to whether the Club had approached large firms in the city, for sponsorship. This had not been done. It was agreed that there is a fertile market for sponsorship.

The possibility of Charitable status for the Club was raised but this was rejected by the Treasurer as being unwieldy and requiring considerable maintenance.

The Club has increased its’ links with the Community during the year with the participation of members of the Coastguard in the Taster sessions run by the Club.

The meeting ended at 8.25pm and the Chairperson thanked everyone for their attendance.