

**MINUTES OF PRESTON SWIMMING CLUB ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY, 9th NOVEMBER 2010 AT THE LONSDALE CLUB, PRESTON**

In attendance

J Pratt, P Mason (Chairman), S Penrith, P Barton, M Kitcher, L Wallbank, S Wallbank, C Salisbury, A Rainford, S Heaps, P Todd, I Parker, T Tunbridge, P Davison, D Fox, K Walker, I Laurence, D Seers, N McGinty, J Smith, M Connolly, M Chadwick, C Denton, E Sliwinski, A Bridge, P Monks, T Miller, P Bailey, K Kinder, J Riding, S Field

1. Apologies

J Holden, S Todd

Peter Mason welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order.

2. Minutes of the 2009 AGM

The Chairman reported that the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 13 November 2009 were not complete in that some reports were missing, in part due to the handover between the former secretary and the current secretary which took place at the time of the AGM. He was therefore unable to ask that they be approved as a true and accurate account of the meeting. He asked if anyone present had any concerns about this and no concerns were raised.

3. Matters arising from the minutes

Under "Nominations for committee", Adele Bridge is the Child Welfare Officer and not a member of the committee. "Paul Davison" should read "Paul Bailey"

4. To receive the reports for 2010

4.1 Chairman's Report

Welcome to the 2010 Annual General Meeting of Preston Swimming Club.

First, I would like to mention some of the major changes that have taken place since our last AGM. In December, we appointed a new Chief Coach – Steve Heaps. We have a new Deputy Chief Coach – Paul Davison. Steve Heaps has introduced a new structure within the Club and he will be elaborating on this in his own report. The Club has gained additional pool time and I have recently written to the Chief Executive Preston City Council, requesting more pool time, although I recognise the fact that every extra hour allocated to the club creates pressure for the Council. In addition, we have several new committee members, bringing with them a new vibrancy and new ideas.

Financial situation

The Club had an operating loss of approximately £4,000 during the last financial year caused by:-

- a) No grants – which had hidden losses in the previous year
- b) The non-payment of fees or the charging of incorrect fees, despite the work carried out over past two years to try and rectify the situation (which so far has resulted in an increase of back-pay of £3,000)
- c) A significant increase in the cost of fees for courses (plus no grants)
- d) The increase in pool time, resulting in increased costs

In order to try to resolve the situation, the committee has

- a) Appointed a qualified accountant. The committee has recognised that the combined role of Treasurer and Membership Secretary has been too onerous for one person and there will now be two separate roles
- b) Carried out a total audit of all members and fees
- c) Reviewed and increased fees to swimmers; however, PSC is still one of the cheapest in the country as regards membership and monthly fees
- d) Negotiated with PCC to hold costs, and succeeded
- e) Developed a close working relationship between Membership Secretary and Treasurer

Merger with Gallica

This will bring numerous benefits for the club. We will be called Preston Swimming Club, we will be self-sufficient with several initiatives to be instigated, and we will have the facilities for the first time within PSC for learn-to-swim to podium.

Louise Robinson is one of the best coaches in the country and she will bring a wealth of experience to the club. Louise, Steve and Paul will head up the swimming side. We hope that the merger in full will take place over the next 6 months - I believe that it is better to do it correctly than for it to be rushed.

50-meter pool

The possibility of a 50-meter pool for Preston is still on the cards. The feasibility study is coming to an end and should be published in the near future. It has the backing of the ASA, British Swimming, PCC, LCC and UCLAN; however the current financial climate makes it even more difficult to push forward. I promise to keep everyone updated.

I would like to offer my thanks to the following:

- a) Steve Heaps
- b) All members of the committee
- c) Those members of the committee who are standing down, Gill Holden, Julie Jackson, Christine Billington, Paul Todd and George McLauchlan. George has said however that he will continue to work with Martha from Ambulant where necessary and will be available to give advice to the club on the medical side of things.
- d) My thanks also to Paul Todd, who is standing down as Internal Competition Secretary but who, fortunately for us as it involves a huge amount of work, has agreed to carry on dealing with the Trophies; and to Ian Parker, who is standing down as Treasurer. However, both Paul and Ian have agreed to continue to serve as members on the committee
- e) Paul and Sylvia Todd, who are standing down from Synchronised swimming
- f) Ian Jackson, for the excellent work he does on the Club's website
- g) Our coaches and teachers, officials (time keepers, life guards) who all contribute to maintaining a superb atmosphere in the club
- h) The Lonsdale Club
- i) Numerous people for putting on the buffet
- j) Our sponsors, especially Forbes, our main sponsor
- k) All those who contribute in their own way

Finally a couple of requests:-

- 1) We always need more volunteers to assist in the running of the club. Too much reliance is placed on too few individuals.

- 2) Volunteer coaches and teachers - we need to keep refreshing these numbers as young people leave us, moving on to university and elsewhere, and we lose their skills

Peter Mason, Chairman

4.2 Treasurer's Report

First and foremost I would like to extend our thanks to Forbes Solicitors and our other sponsors for their support this year. We invite their continued commitment to the club in the forecoming years and look forward to strengthening our partnerships.

As can be seen on the profit and loss accounts the club has made an operating loss this year of £15,934. However, if we take out the pool invoices from May, June and July 2009, which should have been accounted for in the previous financial year, we are looking at an operating loss of £2736.

Reasons for this include the lack of grants that were unavailable to the club this year due to the nature of application restrictions. Last year our grants came to the total of £11,205. We have also had a huge increase on the fees charged for coaching and teaching courses.

Looking forwards, we have put a plan in place to aid the financial situation of the club. These plans include:

- A qualified accountant taking over the Treasurer role.
- Total audit of the teaching and squad fees to ensure all that are swimming are paying the correct amounts.
- Continued link with UCLan to hire pool time from PSC
- Preston Council holding the costs of our pool time to avoid any increases.

I am retiring as Treasurer this year, and as mentioned above, a qualified accountant will be taking over. I would like to wish Margaret all the best in her new role.

Ian Parker, Treasurer

4.3 To receive and consider Club Accounts

Maggie Connolly, our new Treasurer and an independent accountant will audit the accounts which will then be published on the website.

4.4 Membership Secretary's Report

Total members to date:

Cat 1 (teaching) – 352

Cat 2 (competitive) – 236

Cat 3 (non swimmer) – 408

This makes us one of the biggest clubs in the country.

I am also retiring from the membership secretary role and wish the new secretary all the best.

Ian Parker, Membership Secretary

4.5 Internal Competition Secretary's Report

ANNUAL PRESENTATION EVENING

This year's CELEBRATION OF SUCCESS as it is now known celebrated 125 years of competitive swimming in Preston. The University of Central Lancashire as a venue again proved to be a great success.

Invited guests Mr & Mrs Keith Sedgewick The Lord Mayor and Mayoress, Mr Paolo Passerini of Forbes Solicitors, and Martha Richardson Ambulant Physiotherapy, played a key role presenting the various trophies, truly a polished performance making every swimmer feel special.

Thanks again Ladies & Gentlemen

Thanks once again to Julie Jackson and her team for decorating the tables.

Thanks to all helpers who each year help to set up: the Announcer and Master of Ceremonies Pete Mason, Ian Fielding, Myles Kitcher,

Mr Mawdsley, Steve Heaps, Ian Parker, Carly Salisbury, Paul Bailey and their team of stewards, Sam Wallbank, Mr Smith (Julie's husband) and Dave Armistead with his photographic team. The DJ and Staff of UCLAN. I apologise if I have missed anyone out

I hope all who attended had an excellent evening.

SHRIMPS GALA 16th MAY.

An enjoyable afternoon of competition for our 8 and under, which is usually their first gala. On the day Julie and I were aided poolside by Ian Laurence, Carly Salisbury, Mandy Laurence, Sarah Darragh and Ian Parker. Medals were presented to 1st, 2nd and 3rd places by team captain Dean Heaps.

BERT BROOKS AND SPRINT GALA

These events this year took place on Sunday, 10th October.

All four disciplines were swum in the Bert Brooks.

Medals for Girls and Boys in each age group for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places were presented on the day by club captains Stephanie Slater and Dean Heaps. The McGinty Trophies are to be presented at the presentation evening.

The Trophies will be awarded to 12 year olds Georgia Murphy and Alex Joyce.

THE 10th OPEN SPRINT GALA (SPONSORED BY FORBES SOLICITORS)

WINNERS:-

Paul Davison	Breaststroke
Justin Austin	Freestyle
Justin Austin	Butterfly
Justin Austin	Backstroke

Georgia Barton	Backstroke
Georgia Barton	Butterfly
Georgia Barton	Freestyle
Georgia Barton	Breaststroke

2010 122nd CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Championship weekend 19th and 21st November I hope will be enjoyed by all, with over 150 entrants with ages ranging from 5 to 24. It is excellent to see the large numbers of young swimmers, the majority of the entrants over 9 years swimming in all the categories. Good Luck to you all

I would also like to commend Ian Jackson for the superb work he does on producing the club's website.

On a personal note I would like to thank everyone who has helped me over the last 11 years to enable the Championships to run as smoothly as they have. As this will be the last time I address you as Internal Competition Secretary, please accept on behalf of myself and all the swimmers of the last decade a big thank you.

Finally, last but not least, thanks must go to my wife Sylvia who works alongside me on every aspect of the organising of each event throughout the years.

Thanks again.

Paul Todd, Internal Competition Secretary

4.6 Synchronised Secretary's Report

None received. The Chairman commented that the Synchronised team had comprised a small but very successful group of swimmers for a good many years. However, the group was being wound down. P Todd reported that at the last competition there had been only four swimmers but they had gained one Gold, 2 Silver and 1 Bronze.

4.7 Water Polo Report

SENIORS

NORTH LANCS LEAGUE

This year has been significantly better than last year. Although the season has not finished yet, the squad has performed well against the opposing teams. The league consists of 7 teams Blackpool, Fleetwood, Kendal, Lancaster, Lancaster University and Radcliffe. The team sits mid-table after playing 10 of the 12 league matches. We have won 4, drawn 0 and lost 6.

We beat Blackpool home and away 15-7 and 10-8 respectfully, and Lancaster University 16-8 at home and 12-5 away. Unfortunately, the team have lost against Lancaster at home (12-8) and away (13-0), Kendal at home and away, 10-8 and 8-4 respectfully. We have also played Radcliffe, losing 20-7 at home, and 23-7 away.

The team have been playing well throughout all the games, but unfortunately 3 of the teams we play against are in the National League, which makes it difficult to compete at the same level.

The squad still maintains a high level of morale and plays every game with spirit, looking forward to the last two league games.

NOTTINGHAM 2010

In June the squad competed in their first ever open water championship at Nottingham Water Sports Arena. Held every year it is an open competition, meaning any team from any league can enter. This meant there were several National teams playing against smaller county teams and non league teams. In all, 28 men's and 12 women's teams entered. The competition was played with group games on Saturday 19th June and the knockout stages on 19th July. Preston was drawn in group 3 with 6 other teams including Bridgeford, Castleton and Isle of Mann. We didn't do particularly well in the matches as playing in open water is very different to playing in a swimming pool. We won 1 match, drew 1 match and lost 3 matches. This meant that we didn't qualify for the knockout stages. Every player and spectator we took enjoyed every moment of the weekend and the experience was well worth it. We are definitely thinking of returning again next year.

BRIAN WALSH MEMORIAL TOURNAMENT

In August, the team entered the Brian Walsh memorial tournament. Blackpool holds the tournament every year in memory of a referee who passed away several years ago. Unfortunately we only managed to take with us 8 players, which was a disappointment as we always take a full squad every year. This meant that we lost all 3 group games against Blackpool, Bury and Newcastle and didn't proceed to the knockout stages. We are however, determined to enter next year's tournament with a full squad again.

The team on a whole have been training hard and enjoying every aspect of the game, anticipating the start of next season.

SENIOR LEAGUE RESULTS TABLE

Team	Home score	Away score	Goal difference
Blackpool	15-7	8-10	10
Fleetwood	No played	Not played	0
Kendal	8-10	8-4	-6
Lancaster	8-12	13-0	-17
Lancaster university	16-8	5-12	15
Radcliffe	7-20	23-7	-29
Games won	Games lost	Games drawn	Total goal difference
4	6	0	-27

Paul Bailey, Water Polo Secretary

The Chairman subsequently read out the following short report from the head coach of the Junior Water Polo team – Steve Davison:

Just a quick note to say how the junior side are getting on at the moment. We usually get between 12 to 20 kids down on a Sunday night and they are all dedicated and work hard in every session. I am very proud to be in charge of such a great bunch, with the hard work between the team coaches we have managed to put a mini league together, which we hope will become the North Lancs League next year. I felt that the kids deserved to be representing the club in a league and not just raining week

in, week out. I hope the club will help me carry on taking the junior polo further in the future. If anyone is interested in their children getting involved in the junior water polo, the session is on Sunday at Fulwood 8-9 pm. Ask for me or Ben Parker. – Steve Davison.

4.8 Publicity Officer's Report

No written report received. However, Myles Kitcher said that he continued to strive to publicise the activities of the club. He paid special thanks to Bryan Walker of the LEP who had been a fantastic help to him over the last three years and who wrote the headlines for the articles that appeared in the paper.

Myles Kitcher, Publicity Officer

4.9 Biathlon Report

We had a good start to the year in January with 16 competitors attending the Leigh Winter Biathlon, over half of these finished in the top 10.

Since then it has been a lot quieter mainly due to the Biathlon's clashing with the swimming calendar.

Two competitors qualified for the National Finals in July - Laura Joyce came 29th in the girls 13/14 age group and Justin Austin came 7th in the Youth boys.

Jill Holden, Biathlon Representative

4.10 Social and Fundraising Secretary's Report

Since taking on the role when I was voted onto the committee as Social & Fundraising Secretary this time last year we have had an eventful year with fundraising starting off this time last year at the Club Championships 2009 with a profit from the Door and Raffle of £625, so a good start to the fundraising proceedings .

Money we raised helped to fund and organise the Annual Club Championships presentation evening in February of this year, where from what I can remember everyone had a fantastic time including all our V.I.P Guests, the Mayor & Mayoress , Martha from Ambulant Physio who continues to support the club on poolside , Phil Walsh Head of Leisure Sports & Arts , Kate Youngman Senior Sports Development Officer , Jimmy Khan Head of Sports Development Officer and not forgetting Forbes Solicitors who kindly make a very generous sponsorship donation every year. All very influential people and we as a club should feel very privileged to have their continued support.

Including V.I.P Guests , Swimming Teachers / Coaches and Families who were all invited as Guests from the Club, 276 people attended. Total funds on the night from ticket sales, raffle etc were £931. After taking into account all expenditure for the venue and DJ, the club made a profit of £483.

In March 2010 we received a sponsorship cheque for £200 from Creative PVC Windows to advertise on the website and the notice boards and to have details on a banner, along with all our other sponsors. The banner will be soon to be seen on pool side when we enter all external galas.

In April we registered with Sainsbury's Active Vouchers and Tesco Club Vouchers for Schools and Clubs. We didn't quite manage to collect enough to get anything of value to the club so all vouchers have been banked to put towards Sports Equipment for 2011 and we will be ready to start collecting from day 1. Sainsbury's Vouchers banked 487 and Tesco's Vouchers banked 1057.

So hopefully with Steve's guidance we will put together a wish list for the Club for 2011.

A competition was held for the club to win 50 polo shirts and a team photo shoot. We had to come up with a team motto. We had over 40 entries. Everyone enjoyed taking part but unfortunately we

didn't win so the committee decided to take the top 6 to put in a draw to win a £15 iTunes voucher to be drawn on the night of the Club Championships this year.

The top 6 –

6th Place “WE DON'T JUST FIT IN WE STAND OUT” By Andrew Davison A Squad

5TH Place “SOME SWIM TO LIVE WE LIVE TO SWIM “By Jack Smith A Squad

4TH Place “INSTANT WINNERJUST ADD WATER” By Oliver Walker A Squad

3th Place “WE WILL LEAVE THEM IN HEAPS “By Brad Wallbank A Squad

2nd Place “WE SWEAT IN TRAINING SO WE DON'T BLEED IN BATTLE “Jack Smith A Squad

And with the most Votes “WE PUT THE “P” IN PRESTON POOL “Oliver Walker A Squad.

And suggestions for a floor banner with “WE PUT THE P IN PRESTON POOL “WITH PROUD, PASSION PERFORMANCE everything we stand for as a club.

32 Christmas hats were donated from Argos from Josey Reeder which I am sure all swimmers going to Leeds Christmas Cracker this year will be wearing.

As everyone can see from the accounts money raised from all home galas, these have help fund a Coach for an away gala raffle prizes and refreshments for galas and 12 sessions of land training for A Squad.

Since November 2009 – to the end of October 2010

Money raised from fundraising was £2566 with all expenditure itemised in the Social Accounts - a profit of £1586.15 where £1415.13 has been banked into the main Club Accounts, leaving Cash Held £171.02. So in all, not a bad year. Hopefully with all the help I have had this year I will have a small subcommittee where we can plan a calendar of events for next year.

A Christmas Social for the kids and maybe the parents has been mentioned, so hopefully details will be shortly on the web site and notice boards

Although not a Club Fund Raiser we are holding a Bake-off at the club presentation evening for Children in Need but alongside that, for club funds, we are running a fundraiser for a Personalised Christmas Bauble. Karen Kinder, Lynn Hamer and I have donated all the baubles, ribbon, paint etc to make them and all proceeds are for the club. We have a team of volunteers to bag and wrap ready for Christmas. Details and order forms to go on the web and notice boards this week and samples will be at the Club championships .

Even though we get Club Funding from Swim 21 and Sport England, the club must not rely on that funding alone but with Pete Mason's help we feel assured we will try and get as much funding as possible to help to support the Club. But as we all know, in this economic downturn, they are not guaranteed so we as a club need to raise our own funds.

So that ends everything for Social & Fundraising for this year. More details in my accounts. Feel free to look at them - hopefully, with our new Treasurer Margaret, we will set up a Sub Account in the main accounts. Even though I was not at the last committee meeting I have been proposed and seconded for the position this year. I am very happy to continue the post on the committee if everyone wishes me to do so.

Finally I would just like to thank all the people - they know who they are - who always offer their help and support. No matter what or how little, it all helps and I appreciate it but with more help it could make a lot of difference. As the poster says “WE NEED YOUR HELP”!!!! And I'm sure Steve will agree.

Sam Wallbank, Social & Fundraising Secretary

5. Chief Coach's Report

Good evening everyone,

As you are all aware I took over the position of Head Coach on 01st December 2009. I have enjoyed the job enormously but it has been far from easy.

I have decided to change the report this year; I have already given reports every month at the committee meetings about our fabulous swimmers. So this year I will try and give you an insight into the changes within the club and why I thought they were necessary.

For me, it very soon became apparent that the club could not continue to progress unless we started to change the way we went about our business. With massive support from the teaching staff, the coaching staff & the committee I put plans to people to inform them of what I believed the club needed to do in order to continue progression. These changes took time to implement; (indeed they are still ongoing) but I wanted to be sure we were doing the right thing for the swimmers.

We started by re-structuring B squad. At the beginning of 2010 B Squad had 72 members on the register. This was totally unmanageable especially when the differences in ability levels were a long way apart. It meant that the coaching staff working in B Squad was being put under enormous pressure. I decided the way forward for the group was to split the group in two: Competitive & Non-Competitive. Swimmers were placed into a group that best suited their ability, criteria was for the first time written and implemented into the B Squad programme. This criteria now forms the basis of keeping the squad's numbers under control.

We still need to introduce an exit plan for both groups of B Squad, again to police the numbers and to ensure the group remains in good health. This will be done in the near future, again with the help and support of the coaching team and committee. To help the swimmers in B squad focus on their training we introduced for the first time a B team in the North Lancashire Swimming League & the North West Region Arena League. This gave the swimmers in B Squad more of an opportunity to swim for their club; it was done to focus their minds on their training programme, give the swimmers something to aim for (a chance to represent their club) and also, to improve the overall performance of the squad.

The next step was to look at our teaching programme. (And to be brutally honest with you all, I still am.) This is proving to be more difficult, and something that does require urgent attention. We are trying to provide a pathway for swimmers to go down the competitive route and a pathway for swimmers to go down the complete swimmer route and hopefully into other aquatic disciplines.

In order for the swimmers in teaching to move into competitive swimming sooner we have to constantly assess the swimmers in the teaching environment, and make the move on ability. At the level of competitive swimming our club competes at it is very important we find the next generation early. The earlier the better.

The biggest problem we faced was that quite simply there were too many swimmers in the water for the pool time we had. It just wasn't manageable. We had to devise a way of increasing the pool time within teaching and also building a working relationship with Preston City Council teaching scheme. For a club of our size to only have 1 hour large pool teaching is criminal. The coaching staff agreed that we had to increase the pool time for teaching in the large pool, we had to decrease the numbers in each station without losing swimmers, and we had to have two clear development pathways for swimmers to take.

We had to have a good healthy working relationship with the councils teaching programme and their staff, we had to ask teachers to identify potential competitive swimmers sooner and make the necessary moves.

This was all to be done in time to start the new season in September, but unfortunately we are currently behind on this task. I had stated earlier I would rather take time and ensure the re-structure is correct than to rush into something that just isn't correct. We will get the teaching side of the club correct, we have to, to ensure we have a secure future. It's really that important.

So how did we do all this? Well by changing A Squads Sunday afternoon session to a Monday evening land training session gave us the 2 hours we needed to make these changes happen. We introduced a land training session for A Squad at St Pius School on Garstang Road thanks to Sam Wallbank. We then gave C Squad extra 1 hour training on a Sunday; D Squad gained an extra ½ hour on Sunday and we moved MDS to West View from Fulwood for a 1½ session. With MDS moving from Fulwood to West View this created the 1 hour pool time I was looking for, for teaching.

Once all these decisions had been ratified by your committee I then set about sending out letters to swimmers & parents informing them what was going to happen. We then had numerous Q & A sessions with parents of each group to try and explain the advantages for our swimmers.

We tried very hard to implement all these changes on our return to training on 01st September for squads & 29th August for teaching; MDS & B Squad and most of them were introduced. There is still much work to do on the re-structure and the teachers and coaches are working hard to achieve this.

I believe we have made progress in the past 12 months that will help make Preston Swimming Club to be stronger in the future.

So what other achievements have been made in the past 12 months?

- We have introduced for the first time ever a B Team in the North Lancs. Swim League.
- We have introduced for the first time ever a B Team in the National Arena League.
- We now have a recognised Asst Head Coach
- We have what I believe to be the best volunteer network of teachers & coaches in the North Lancs. Area. But we will always, always need more help.
- We have seen a re-structure of the club, as described.
- We have been re-accredited with Swim 21 at development & teaching level.
- We have seen one of the top youth & senior programmes in the country merge with Preston to become our performance group.
- We have one of the top coaches in the country working within our club passing information, help & advice to our club coaches.
- We have much stronger links with the council, a working partnership that will only benefit our club.
- We have one of the finest swimming websites in the country.
- Our younger swimmers now have access to better pool time and we will strive to improve this further.
- Our teaching programme will be stronger & healthier due to more pool time for large pool teaching.

All this sounds great and indeed it is, however it is my job to ensure we keep moving in the right direction at all times.

I will be constantly looking at ways in which our club can further improve and if further changes are required I will put these ideas forward to your coaching staff and committee for implementation.

I will always talk to our teachers & coaches to get their ideas on processes. We already have regular meetings at coaching level and we need to introduce this for the teachers.

I truly believe we have an opportunity in the next few years to make Preston Swimming club one of the very best teaching & competitive swimming clubs in the country, but to do this there are many more targets to achieve.

- It is vitally important we complete the re-structure of the teaching programme.
- We must have monthly teachers meetings, to keep on top of progression and movement.

- I see it as a major priority that Preston Swimming Club recruit new volunteer teachers & coaches onto poolside and this will be the main driver for the next 12 months. No swimming club can ever have too many volunteers working on poolside.
- More volunteer help on Sundays at Fulwood to help with the administration.
- More volunteer help required on the committee.
- Continue with our internal competitions and maybe the introduction of a new internal meet.
- We need to have our own Preston Swimming Club Open meet on an annual basis. This will help in fund raising.
- We need to continue developing our land based programme for all competitive swimmers within our club.
- We need to secure long course training for A Squad.
- We also need to continue building relationships with the council. Having a good sound working partnership with Preston City Council will only help us move forward.
- We need to work closely with the performance group to further enhance our own training and teaching programme.
- We need to build relationships with UCLAN and local colleges and see if we can help their swim teams in any way we can.
- We should be looking at working with primary and secondary schools in Preston to try and develop swim programmes within schools and hopefully gain more competitive swimmers.
- We may need to explore other avenues for pool time, not just being reliant on the facilities provided by Preston City Council.
- If we all work together in trying to achieve these goals; if we can get more volunteer people involved lessening the load, then there should be no reason why we cannot continue to be successful in the future. But it will take time and it will take team work.

Exciting times could lie ahead for our talented swimmers if we work together and believe that this is possible, **because trust me it is!!**

This season has seen many ups & downs for our swimming club and much change. There is more change to come, the merge with Gallica will undoubtedly see challenging times but with team work and everybody pulling in the same direction; these problems can be overcome. We are lucky to have people on our committee who are more than capable of ensuring no harm comes to us whilst the merger goes ahead. Likewise, Gallica also have good people on their committee who will ensure we stay strong and healthy as a club. We are very fortunate to have Louise Robinson as head coach for the performance group. Louise brings a wealth of experience with her to Preston, having been through similar times at City of Leeds. Louise is also one of the top coaches in the country and would be much sought after, should she become available. I look forward to both parties working together in the future.

We have made a lot of changes and there will be more changes to come in the future, progression for younger swimmers are very important to me. Young swimmers have a right to have the same opportunities that others have had before them, providing they reach the required standard for each group, I believe they should be given the opportunity. These opportunities will continue to happen and the necessary movement will be made in order for this to happen.

In closing there are certain people I owe a lot to this year. Neither I nor indeed any Head Coach would be able to do my/their job without the help & dedication of many different people. I would like to thank the following people for giving their free time to help our children in this very demanding sport.

- **The Teachers:** People who willingly volunteer their time to provide excellent aquatic teaching to our youngest swimmers. Sometimes overlooked by many but quite simply without these people our club could not and would not function. This is the most important part of the pyramid, the base, where all the strength is to supply and support the few at the top. To all the Teachers I thank you so much for your time, effort and dedication to what you do. I very much appreciate the work you do and hope together we can build on the successes we currently see.

- The Coaches:** More volunteer people who willingly give up their free time and so much more to provide 1st class coaching to our swimmers, delivering 1st class programmes and ensuring we are constantly trying to improve. The hours and dedication these people put in is extraordinary, it is a pleasure to work with such dedicated professionals. Again I very much appreciate the work you all do and hope together we can build on the successes we have seen last season.
- The Committee:** Since taking over this role last December the committee have always supported me in any decisions I wanted to make. It is vitally important that a Head Coach has a good working relationship with the Chair and committee, I am very fortunate, I have this. I sincerely thank the committee for their support throughout my 1st year, and look forward to working closely with the committee in the future.
- Paul & Sylvia Todd:** Yet again we had an excellent presentation evening in February thanks to Paul and Syl. The condition of the trophies was as usual first class. The history of the club is constantly being recorded and I believe this to be very important. Paul and Syl do this and much more for the club. Many Thanks indeed to you both.
- Paula Barton:** Paula does an excellent job ensuring all our swimmers get their entries in for external competition. I know Paula goes above and beyond what she should to ensure all our entries are correct and legal. I would personally like to Thank Paula for all her help in doing such a good job.
- Ian Jackson for the web site:** In my opinion (and I know other peoples as well), we are blessed to have one of the finest web sites in the country. Ian Jackson puts an awful lot of time and effort into his website. It is easy to navigate, clear and concise, all the information is there in such a way that it is easy to find. Good on the eye, informative; just class. I would personally like to Thank Ian for all the work he has put into this project since he started it. His dedication and attention to detail is absolutely first class. Ian has put an awful lot of hours in giving us this wonderful information tool, On behalf of our club Thank you so much Ian.
- Forbes solicitors for the sponsorship:** Our main sponsors Forbes continue to support our club and for this I am very grateful. I believe it to be very important for organisations like ours to have backing from a successful local company like Forbes Solicitors. We have this and we should be proud to have this backing. Many Thanks to Forbes for their continued support of our swimming club.
- Preston City Council (Jimmy Khan; Gill Osbourne):** PCC have shown tremendous loyalty to our club over the past 12 months, we are working towards making PSC one of the very best swimming clubs in the country and with the continued help and support from Jimmy Khan, Gill Osbourne and their team we have a much better chance of succeeding. Thanks again to Jimmy, Gill and all the staff at West View and Fulwood for their continued support.
- Karen Kinder / Carol Rathod for help in communication:** Karen and Carol have volunteered their services to help the coaching staff get information to the parents and swimmers; this help is greatly appreciated by me. If more people just did "*a little bit here, a little bit there*" it would lighten the load for the few and make things better. Both Karen and Carol do just that to help things run smoother. Thank you ladies for all you do, it really is appreciated.

- **Swimmers:** Finally to the people who are the heartbeat of any club? The Swimmers. All the swimmers have been fantastic towards me since taking over as Head Coach. I consider myself very fortunate to be working with such talented young athletes. The swimmers have been superb throughout my time as Head Coach and I thank them all for their support they have shown me. I look forward to seeing them all improve I the next 12 months and reaching their targets which they richly deserve. Thanks Guys, but it will still get harder.....

Steve Heaps, Head Coach

N.B. Steve Heaps' full report, including competition reports throughout the year, can be viewed on the Club website.

As set down in the rules of Preston Swimming Club, all officers and members of the committee duly resigned their posts.

(The meeting stopped for a five-minute break)

6. Election of committee for 2010-2011 (see below)

All members of the committee were duly voted in.

The next meeting will be held in December 2010 at West View Leisure Centre.

Nominations for officers

Post	Name	Nominated by	Seconded by
President :	J Pratt		
Vice-President:	S Penrith	P Mason	I Parker
Chairman:	P Mason	S Field	P Todd
Deputy Chairman:	M Chadwick	P Mason	D Sliwinski
Hon Secretary:	S Field	P Mason	P Bailey
Publicity:	M Kitcher	P Barton	C Salisbury
Membership Sec:	D Seers	P Barton	S Field
Deputy Mem Sec:	---		
Waterpolo:	P Bailey	M Kitcher	D Seers
Biathlon Rep:	---		
Competition Sec.			
Internal :	K Walker	P Barton	S Wallbank
External:	P Barton	M Kitcher	D Seers
Social and Fundraising			
Secretary	S Wallbank	C Salisbury	D Seers

Nominations for committee

Carly Salisbury	P Bailey	K Kinder
Julie Riding	M Kitcher	C Salisbury
Karen Kinder	S Wallbank	D Seers
Ian Parker	P Bailey	S Wallbank
Paul Todd	I Parker	K Kinder
Nicola McGinty	K Kinder	D Seers