

DRAFT MINUTES OF PRESTON SWIMMING CLUB ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON

TUESDAY, 8th NOVEMBER 2011 AT THE LONSDALE CLUB, PRESTON

In attendance

J Pratt (President), S Penrith (Vice-President) P Mason (Chairman), S Heaps, P Davison, I Laurence, N McGinty, M Connolly, M Chadwick, P Bailey, A Barton, S Laurence, P Monks, J McSorley, P Davison, J Smith, S Field

1. Apologies

M Kitcher, K Walker, I Parker, P Barton

Peter Mason welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order.

2. Minutes of the 2010 AGM

The minutes of the AGM held on Tuesday, November 2010 were approved.

Proposed by S Heaps
Seconded by I Laurence

3. Matters arising from the minutes

There were no matters arising.

4. To receive the reports for 2010

4.1 Chairman's Report

On behalf of the Committee I would like to welcome you all to the 2011 AGM of Preston Swimming Club. It has been a very interesting 12 months, one that has involved a lot of change, numerous highs and Steve will be talking about most of those in a few minutes, and some lows.

As a club we have now become one of the best, not just one of the biggest in the country. We have merged with Gallica to form our own performance squad under the guidance of one of the best coaches in the country, Louise Graham. With Louise, Steve and Paul along with our volunteer teachers, coaches and helpers we have a superb structure, again the envy of most in the swimming world. We now have the structure in place to take on children who can't swim and within the club develop them to represent their country and Great Britain. This did not happen without its challenges, most as a result in changes made by the ASA, but which we are getting over.

We have had the challenge of pool time allocation from a very small number of individuals within the local community and I thank all of you who attended those public meetings for your support. Whilst we didn't lose any time unfortunately we didn't gain any either.

Our finances have taken an inordinate amount of time, energy and skill to sort. Margaret has worked over and above that what we should really expect a volunteer to do to put us into the enlightened arena that we are now, and she will update us shortly. However we as a non profit making organisation cannot run at a loss either. Over the past 3 years we have increased our pool time considerably and the cost of this has been £25,000, a cost that has not been past onto members but has been covered by utilising savings, grants and a little bit of sponsorship. In addition, whilst we are blessed with volunteers they need training. A level 1 course now costs £395 and we require a minimum of 5 per year, a level 2 course costs £680 and again we require 5 per year and a level 3

course costs £1800 and to progress we require 3 of these. Unfortunately we are now in a position where we need to cover our outgoings with fees, so that we are not beholden on sponsorship or grants to survive as we won't.

Whoever the Chair is after tonight, must along with the committee, set new fees as a matter of priority. We are by far the cheapest club in the area and apart from those clubs that are sponsored or indeed paid for by the council in the country. We will still be the cheapest following new fees as a result of our teaching programme, but unfortunately fees will have to go up in January. Not a lot but up. This has had nothing to do with our merger but has been happening over the past 3 to 4 years.

On a happier note as a result of our success we have been approached by Arena for them to provide equipment and kit, have been selected as 1 of 5 development clubs in the country, Julie Jackson has lead on us becoming an 'ASA Hub Club' our success in the pool is excellent, our level of support from volunteers is the envy of all clubs in Preston and further afield, we are the Preston Club of the year and are attending the Lancashire Sports Awards with a good chance of success. So a very good year overall.

Thanks

I would like to thank, Steve, Paul, Louise, Louise and all the teachers, coaches, poolside helpers, committee members and the numerous volunteers who run this club and make it so successful.

I would like to thank members of the committee who have left during the year or are standing down tonight, Myles Kitcher, Debbie Seers, Sam Wallbank, Carly Salisbury. I apologise if I have missed anybody out.

I would also like to express my thanks to Adele Bridge who is standing down as the Female Welfare Officer, not least due to the time she is having to spend escorting her star son Jack around the local, regional, national and international swimming scene.

Paul Todd who is standing this year for the committee and will do the trophies for the presentation evening has stated (again) that this will be his last year and we therefore need to put in place some succession planning.

Our partnership with PCC remains strong and whilst we have not been successful in obtaining additional pool time, Jimmy Khan and his staff have assisted us in several ways, for example agreeing to employ Louise Graham, worked with Margaret to set a monthly cost for our pool time frozen for 2 years, supported us in the debate re pool time and are strongly supportive on the slow but steady move to build a 50m pool and the daily contact Steve, Louise and staff have is good.

I would like to thank our main sponsor Forbes Solicitors who once again have sponsored the Club for £2500. Could I ask that if anybody uses their services that you tell them it is because of their sponsorship of PSC.

That's sufficient from me as I have already read Steve's speech and I don't think you would survive 2 long speeches in one night, so thank you again for attending and for all of you who have supported the Club in some capacity during the past year it is appreciated and long may it continue.

Peter Mason, Chairman

4.2 Treasurer's Report

The Accounts for 2008/09 and 2009/10 have been audited by McDade Roberts and the Draft Accounts for 2010/11 are in the process of being completed. The Treasurer has recently received outstanding information relating to Fundraising and is in the process of assessing outstanding monthly fee income (in particular from Teaching) not collected from monthly subscriptions to agree year end

debtors and finalise the accounts. The Treasurer is hoping to circulate the draft audited accounts for 2010/11 as soon as possible. She thanked Steve Heaps, Paula Barton and Ian Parker in particular for their support whilst taking over the role and also the coaches for providing registers on a regular basis.

The Draft Accounts to August 2011 (although not yet finalised) currently showed an operating loss of £9,000. Efforts are being made to capture as much income as possible by reconciling the names on the swimming registers with payments received on bank statements. This was proving to be difficult for previous years without the monthly swimming registers. If anyone has any swimming registers for previous years (particularly teaching) please pass these to Mags Connolly so that this exercise can be completed and potential income collected.

An operating loss of £10,883 to 31 August 2009 and an operating loss of £14,620 to August 2010 were reported as a result of reduction in funding from income from grants, monies not collected from parents and increased pool time costs (amounting to £25,000 per annum over the past three years). The Committee is now working very hard towards obtaining new grants.

The Treasurer is in the process of negotiating a service level agreement with Preston City Council for an annual fee (fixed for two years) to include pool time (at both FLC and WLC) and galas etc. A monthly direct debit will be paid which will allow the Club to plan and budget more accurately going forward. In order for the Club to continue to develop it is imperative that we have a sound understanding of our financial position (i.e. income streams and expenditure).

Our thanks also to Forbes for their continued sponsorship.

Maggie Connolly, Treasurer

4.3 To receive and consider Club Accounts

The club's Auditors are McDade Roberts.

4.4 Membership Secretary's Report

Presented by Peter Mason:

I am doing this report as last year's Membership Secretary left the club part-way through the year. As already mentioned, Margaret stepped in to assist and has been doing so ever since.

The role of the Membership Secretary is directly linked to that of Treasurer and hence this year we will be looking to have Margaret as the lead Membership Secretary and to create a new post as Deputy Membership Secretary, to assist Margaret especially during the busy period January to March, where to be fair it needs more than two people to deal with the number of members we have.

At present we have the following members:

| | |
|--------------|-------------------|
| Level 1 | 303 |
| Level 2 | 200 |
| Level 3 | 234 |
| Total | <u>737</u> |

A new system is to be put in place by the ASA in January. Margaret and I attended a course on Sunday. It will assist greatly the process of getting members registered, allowing us to check on membership and also the overall running of the membership side of the club, a very important side. It allows for up to four persons to have access on various levels, eg read only. However, it is advised that only one person is the registration officer, ie the person who sends out the memberships, which will be Margaret if she is elected, thereby allowing her to manage the fee-paying side of the club.

4.5 Internal Competition Secretary's Report

Shrimps Gala

The Club's annual competition for swimmers aged 8 years and under was held in June. This year 25 competitors took part in what is for most of them their first gala. Medals were presented to the top three in each age group by our Ladies' Captain Georgia Barton. Many thanks to everybody who helped out on the day.

Bert Brooks and Senior Sprint Gala

This competition was held in October. In the Bert Brooks event medals were presented to the top 3 swimmers in each event by our Head Coach Mr Steve Heaps. Trophies for the overall boy and girl winner will be presented at the Presentation Evening to Sam Hollingworth and Prisha Patel.

The winners of the Senior Sprint Gala were as follows –

Backstroke: Shauntelle Austin and Cameron Austin
Breaststroke: Shauntelle Austin and Oliver Walker
Butterfly: Shauntelle Austin and Cameron Austin
Freestyle: Shauntelle Austin and Jack Holden

These trophies will also be presented at Presentation Evening.

Once again thanks to everybody who helped to ensure that the event ran smoothly.

Club Championships

The PSC Club Championships are scheduled for the last weekend in November. We have over 150 entrants swimming in 800 swims scheduled over 3 sessions of competition. Once more thanks to the volunteers who will give their time so freely to help with the running of such a large competition.

Karen Walker, Internal Competition Secretary

4.6 Water Polo Report

This year has seen a significant change within the water polo section at Preston Swimming Club.

The most noteworthy changes have occurred at either end of the section. We have unfortunately lost some of the senior players but we have seen an increase in the number of junior players. This shift in the balance of senior to junior players is the largest in Preston Swimming Clubs short history and is encouraging for the future. Anyone who has been down to Fulwood Leisure Centre on a Sunday evening can see that the junior training is very popular and always draws between 20-30 players each session.

Following last season's success in the inaugural junior invitational league, Preston finish top of the league and unbeaten, against opposition from Blackpool, Burnley and Fleetwood. This year's league is due to commence within the next couple of weeks and we are hopeful of another successful season. This shift has had a positive impact which has enabled the movement of the top end junior players into the senior squad, giving them an early taste and invaluable experience at playing water polo at a higher level, developing their skills and fitness.

As a result of junior players moving through into the senior squad, Harry Holden, captain of the junior team, was sent to Lancaster, to the Regional Training Centre (RTC), from which he was chosen to

represent the North West Region (NWR) 'A' team, one of two teams the NWR sent to the ASA Inter Regional Academy Boys Competition held at Basildon, London. The NWR A team were victorious and came away from the competition unbeaten. Well done to Harry and the rest of the team.

I am hopeful that current junior players, that show commitment and potential, will be sent to the RTC training and follow in Harry's footsteps and represent the region and possibly at a higher level.

The senior squad, as mentioned, is undergoing a transitional period. The squad has been depleted of a number of its older and more experienced players. While this has had a positive effect in giving a number of the junior players early experience in the senior squad, an inevitable result has seen the team being weaker than in previous years. The seniors have only played 5 competitive games this season with 7 still to play. Although they have been beaten in all matches so far there has been an encouraging improvement match on match.

I look upon the improvement over the season as a positive with the commitment of both senior and junior players. All have raised their game and risen to the challenges presented over the season. This is very encouraging for the future and development of water polo at Preston Swimming Club.

As head coach of the water polo section I would like to thank Steven Davison and Ben Parker for their continued hard work and dedication in coaching and developing the junior teams, Paul Bailey in his position as the Honorary Secretary for Water Polo, for his continual hard work and David Nichol for assisting in the arranging of fixtures. I would also like to thank Sam, Amy and Jess for running the table at matches and the continuing support of all the parents and the Preston Swimming Club committee.

Paul Haworth, Head Water Polo Coach

4.7 Publicity Officer's Report

We continue to publicise all aspects of the club and over the year reports have appeared in the Lancashire Evening Post in relation to team activity, disability swimming, water polo and biathlon, in addition to the success of our individual swimmers on the regional, national and international arenas.

As ever, thanks must go to Ian Jackson for also maintaining the website.

Myles Kitcher, Publicity Officer

4.8 Biathlon Report

Eleven members of Preston Swimming Club qualified to compete at the National Biathlon final at Solihull in May – six of those finishing in the top 10 in their age group. Jack Holden finished 4th in the 17/18 age group, Jack Smith, Max Butler and Lydia Walker finished 2nd, 6th and 8th respectively in the 15/16 age group and Amelia Wood and Dominic Walker gained 5th and 7th place in the 13/14 age group. In addition PSC had success in the team competitions. Our 13/14 boys (Andrew Davison, Harry Murphy and Dominic Walker) gained a silver medal and our 15/16 girls (Susie Bilsborough, Laura Joyce and Lydia Walker) just missed a medal finishing in 4th place.

Podium performances were also recorded by PSC members at the Schools' Biathlon finals at Crystal Palace in March. Jack Holden was 4th in the Years 12/13 competition and Oliver Walker and Jack Smith both finished 3rd in their respective age groups. Ellen Buckley, Lydia Walker and Ben Riding also qualified for the finals.

PSC entered two biathlon competitions in September gaining a collection of medals at both events – the most impressive performance coming from Rebecca Moore who gained a gold medal in each of her first two biathlons.

Karen Walker, Biathlon Secretary

5. Chief Coach's Report

Good evening everyone, I would like to welcome you all to the 2011 AGM of PSC

I am going to try and explain what has happened over the past 12 months, the highs & lows, the good and not so good and the progression of the club and where we are hoping to be in the future.

CHANGE – FOR THE GOOD??

The 2010 – 2011 season has been extremely challenging to say the least. The club has seen much change, change I hope will see the club continue to move forward and improve.

1. We undertook a change to the squad structure which we are still continuing to monitor. I truly believe that in order for any swimming club to continue progressing constant reviewing of the swim programme is essential. This is what we are trying to achieve. Our swim programme does not stand still, we alter and change the programme as and when it's deemed necessary. I believe we are getting closer to the finished article for the squad programme and the next 12 months is going to be important in ensuring we achieve this.
2. We are looking at new ways in which we can attract young swimmers to the Preston Swimming club teaching programme. We need to work hard to try and expand the base of the club. This is the most important area of the club; if this is right then the rest should follow. The past 12 months has been very challenging indeed for Louise and the team of teachers. They have had to overcome numerous challenges and this has been successfully achieved, but it has taken a lot of hard work and there is still much to do. Over the next 12 months we will be looking at ways in which we can work more closely with the private teaching schemes; Preston city council teaching scheme; & the local schools. We will be actively promoting Preston Swimming Club to all these organisations in order to get working partnerships set up to benefit the children. To do this correctly we must encourage more people into the running of the teaching programme. It is essential we find and train new teachers, and we will do our utmost to encourage new people to take up these posts.
3. We are currently going through a complete re-brand of Preston Swimming Club. This is something that in my opinion has been required for many years now. For too long we have been a little un-professional in our appearance. Different coloured shirts etc for teachers/coaches and it has to be said a slight move away from club colours. This will no longer happen. The club kit will be the same throughout the club. Swimmers will have their kit, teachers/coaches will have their own kit and I will ensure the staff wears their team kit at sessions. If we are asking the swimmers to look smart and professional then the coaching team and teaching team must do the same. I want people to know they are at a PSC session as soon as they walk into the environment. I want us to get back to our teaching programme wearing PSC branded red hats at their lessons. I want people to know they are at a PSC teaching session and not a session which could be run by anybody. This will help in attracting new people to the club and will give us our identity back.

As most of you are aware PSC has been identified as one of only 5 clubs in the country, by one of the leading swimming manufactures in the world to provide us PSC with team kit. This working partnership will in time enable the club to create its own identity, an identity that we desperately need if we are to continue promoting the PSC brand. This is something we have never had before, but it is something we ALL should be working hard on ensuring we have for the future. I very much look forward to having a successful working relationship with ARENA.

4. But perhaps the biggest change that happened throughout 2011 was the full complete merger of the Gallica performance squad into Preston Swimming Club.

As you will hopefully appreciate this was a huge task to undertake. But it was a task that was important for both parties. This change has now happened and the Gallica performance squad has become the Preston performance squad. The club has gained some very talented individuals indeed and it is important to recognise the benefits that in time this will bring to Preston Swimming Club. We now have a performance group where our swimmers can continue their careers in an environment which is far more suited for elite swim training. We have another squad, a top squad where our A Squad swimmers can and should be aiming to get to. We have one of the very best coaches in the country now working at Preston. Louise Robinson joins us with a wealth of experience, knowledge and success and this can only benefit our club.

We are very pleased to welcome all the swimmers that have joined the club. We wish them every success for the future here at Preston.

These changes are ongoing and will continue to be. We will always change our working practices providing the changes are positive for our swimmers and are the right thing to do for our club.

2010 – 2011 SUCCESS – I'll let you decide...

I have to be honest with you all! Sitting here last year, if someone would have said to me we would be here in 12 months time having had arguably our best ever season I probably would not have believed it. We made many changes not only to the squad structure but also in pool time for what was our top group. It has to be said that at times we have struggled for coaching cover, but we seem to be able to overcome these difficulties and still succeed. Credit to the people we are so lucky to have working at the club.

The first of the success came very shortly after the 2010 AGM and since then we have had an extraordinary season. I will try to capture all our success this season however if I miss anything out I apologise now. (I am having a couple of bottles of Theakstones Old Peculiar whilst writing this).

- DECEMBER 2010 - 2nd IN THE FINAL OF THE NORTH WEST AREA NATIONAL ARENA LEAGUE QUALIFYING FOR THE NATIONAL 'A' FINAL FOR THE 1st TIME EVER!!!
- JANUARY 2011 – TOTALLY DOMINATED THE NORTH LANCASHIRE SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS YET AGAIN WINNING THE TOP CLUB AWARD.
- JANUARY 2011 – SAW THE RETURN OF THE SQUADRON GALA'S TO THE NORTH LANCS PROGRAMME A SERIES OF RELAYS WHERE THERE IS ANOTHER TROPHY FOR TOP CLUB. PRESTON WON THIS WINNING 12 OF THE 15 RELAY RACES.
- JANUARY 2011 – WE MANAGED TO GET THE SERVICES OF ONE OF THE MOST EXPERIENCED AND MOST RESPECTED COACHES IN OUR AREA. ALAN HARPER JOINED US FROM BLACKPOOL.
- MARCH 2011 – BRITISH CHAMPIONSHIPS HELD IN MANCHESTER; PRESTON WAS SELECTED AS ONLY ONE OF 5 CLUBS IN THE COUNTRY FOR BRITISH SWIMMING DEVELOPMENT STATUS.
- MARCH 2011 – MORE SWIMMERS THAN EVER BEFORE QUALIFIED FOR THE BRITISH CHAMPIONSHIPS
- MARCH 2011 – WINNERS OF THE CLUB OF THE YEAR AWARD AT THE PRESTON SPORTS AWARDS
- MARCH / APRIL 2011 – WINNERS OF THE LANCASHIRE COUNTY AGE GROUP CHAMPIONSHIPS
- MARCH / APRIL – 2011 – RUNNERS UP IN THE YOUTH LANCASHIRE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

- APRIL 2011 – 6TH PLACE IN THE NATIONAL ARENA LEAGUE ‘A’ FINAL
- MAY 2011 – RUNNERS UP IN THE NORTH WEST REGION YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS
- JUNE 2011- 3RD PLACE IN THE NORTH WEST REGION AGE GROUP CHAMPIONSHIPS
- JULY 2011 – GEORGIA BARTON @ THE EUROPEAN YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS IN SERBIA. GOLD MEDAL IN THE MEDLEY RELAY TEAM AND BRONZE MEDALS IN THE 100 & 200 BUTTERFLY
- JULY 2011 – JACK BRIDGE BRONZE MEDAL IN THE MEDLEY RELAY TEAM AT THE EUROPEAN IPC CHAMPIONSHIPS IN BERLIN, GERMANY & AND ASLO HOLDER OF 4 BRITISH DISABILITY RECORDS
- JULY 2011 – COACH LOUISE ROBINSON SELECTED FOR THE IPC EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS IN BERLIN, GERMANY
- JULY 2011 – JACK SMITH AND SHAUNTELLE AUSTIN SELECTED FOR GB AT THE EUROPEAN YOUTH OLYMPICS HELD IN TRABZON, TURKEY. SHAUNTELLE AUSTIN BRONZE IN 200 BACKSTROKE & 200 BUTTERFLY.
- JULY 2011 – BOYS & GIRLS RELAY TEAMS QUALIFY FOR THE NATIONAL AGE GROUP CHAMPIONSHIPS
- JULY 2011 – BOYS & GIRLS RELAY TEAMS QUALIFY FOR THE NATIONAL YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS
- JULY 2011 – 7TH PLACE AT THE NATIONAL YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS
- JULY 2011 – OUR B TEAM WON THE NORTH LANCS LEAGUE DIVISION 3 WINNERS (PROMOTED TO DIVISION 2)
- SEPTEMBER 2011 – OUR SHARKS TEAM WERE 2ND PLACE IN THE NORTH WEST MICRO-LEAGUE.
- SEPTEMBER 2011 – OUR A TEAM WERE RUNNERS UP IN THE NORTH LANCASHIRE SWIM LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION LOSING BY AN AGONISING TWO POINTS
- ADDED TO ALL THIS EXCEPTIONAL PERFORMANCES FROM SWIMMERS AT VARIOUS OPEN MEETS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR
- SWIMMERS ON VARIOUS LEVELS OF ENGLAND TALENT

I truly believe this could be the start. The start of something exciting, special and successful. This swimming club has an opportunity for success like never before. **But to do this every single member has to pull together and work hard together. That means swimmers; teachers; coaches; committee members; parents; officials; sponsors; & suppliers all pulling in the same direction for the benefit of our swimmers.**

City of Leeds has a motto that says “**A Team Above All But Above All A Team**”. It is this kind of thinking that will ensure we continue to grow and develop as a club, and if we do this there is absolutely no reason why success will not follow.

SO, THE FUTURE? 2012 & BEYOND:

I hope I have painted a very good picture of the club? I sincerely hope you all agree that we have had a truly exceptional season?

But please, don't get carried away!! There is still an awful lot of work to do.

Running a swimming club of this size takes an enormous amount of work.

Running a successful swimming club of this size is a mammoth task.

In order for this to continue there are things I believe we need to put into place **now**?

1. We need to ensure we have volunteer people to run the club - one job; one person. The work load requires spreading out to ensure we do not overload the few.... We have some of the best people we could have on the committee, but they cannot do everything that needs to be done alone. Help is required and positions need to be filled if we are to continue progressing.

2. We most definitely need to find and train new people to work on poolside with the swimmers. The future of the club will depend on the teachers and coaches that work for the club. I mentioned this area in my report in 2010. Sadly this is proving more difficult than I imagined but we will continue looking; we will continue to encourage and we will continue to do everything we can to ensure this happens. We are lucky that we now have a Head Teacher who is also a qualified tutor and who has agreed to put the required courses on for the club, we now just need people to fill these places and then commit to volunteering an hour per week. Please let us do what is right for the swimmers.
3. We need to look at numbers and pool time in our teaching programme. We need to increase the base of the swimming pyramid in order for us to continue to develop and prosper. This does not mean we forget quality? That's the most important thing. Quality matters and we will continue to improve with quality. I would like to make our teaching programme the premier teaching programme in Lancashire. Plans are already moving in this direction, we have recently sent fliers out to parents of swimmers in teaching informing them we are looking at recruiting. Both Louise & me will be promoting PSC through the local primary schools in the coming weeks and also looking at trying to get working partnerships with local teaching programmes. I would like to get a dedicated page on teaching on our website informing prospective new members the services we can offer.
4. We need to promote the club more through local media and raise the clubs profile within the city. Again work has already begun on this and we are currently building a strong working relationship with a local radio station. Thanks to Myles Kitcher our links with the LEP remain strong and this must also continue. The higher the clubs profile in and around the city the better chance we will have of attracting new people. And please remember there is no better way of advertising than word of mouth, I want our members to tell their family and friends that PSC quite simply is the best swimming club in the North West, its where they should be taking their children.
5. We need to generate new finance for the club, open meets; sponsorship deals & fund raising are all areas where we can generate income. We continue to have a strong working relationship with Forbes Solicitors and we are very grateful for their continued support. We also need to try and encourage other local businesses to invest in PSC.

Fund raising is something we should be looking at on a constant basis. I would like to think there are things we could do within the club that could raise money for our swimmers and this is something I will be asking the coaches, to come up with some ideas. But perhaps the biggest fund raising exercise we could do is to run our own dedicated Licensed meet. This is something I have been banging on about for a long time now and something that really has just not happened. Well things are about to change. Over the past couple of months we have been looking at the feasibility of running our own Licensed level 3 meet and we are getting close to realising this dream. We have a date in the calendar for 2012. We have booked the pool where the meet will take place. We have written a programme of events & we are currently very close indeed to submitting the licence application to the Swim North West. Once we have received confirmation that the licence application has been successful we will be promoting the first ever PSC Licensed Open meet. I'm sure you will all agree this will be another huge landmark on our progression route. I will keep you posted on proceedings

6. We now have quite a few people within the club who are qualified officials and if we can promote this area more we would have enough within the club to apply for our club championships to be licensed at L4 in 2012. I will be making this a priority for 2012. This year's club championships will see us use our club software which should make things run a little smoother and make things a little easier for the people on the desk. We should hopefully be able to produce the results of events much quicker than we have previously, thus giving

our swimmers and parents more communication at the event. So we are trying hard to improve all aspects and hopefully we will continue to see progression in this area also.

7. I would like to see PSC have an annual swim camp abroad which complements the camp the performance group attends. There are many benefits to holding a swim camp and I see this as a major stepping stone in improvement. We have had swim camps in the past and there should be no reason why we can't do this in the future. So early in the new year I will be meeting with a few people, coaches and parents to see if we can get something organised for 2013 and subsequently each year thereafter.
8. My last point for looking at future requirements is that old chestnut the 50m pool. Your Chairman has been constantly talking to various people throughout 2011 and working hard to try and ensure that this project happens. This will be the missing piece in the jigsaw, if it happens I truly believe that this swimming club could really go places in the future. If it doesn't I do believe it could be very detrimental to swimming in the whole city. It is that important to the city of Preston that we get a 50m pool. Personally I believe it will happen eventually, however I am not prepared to put any kind of time scale on this. What I can promise you is this. The club is very fortunate to have a Chairman that is pushing for this to become a reality and there are others in high positions in the city who also want to see this happen. I believe if we can all work together and believe in miracles then miracles will happen. Fingers crossed.

In Summary

For me we are a club who are still improving, a club who still needs much doing in order to hit the heights we are striving for. This doesn't just mean being successful at the elite level. As I have explained in several reports, you cannot be successful at elite level without being successful at the base. Success only comes from hard work, just like our super swimmers. It can only be achieved if the "team" pulls together. It's no good having a tug of war, with everyone pulling in different directions. Of course we need to have discussion and healthy debate, and the odd argument here and there doesn't do any harm, but ultimately you must work together to succeed. This is what we are trying to do, to have a successful club from 'bottom to top'and I do mean Bottom to Top!!

So to the team I thank you so much for all your help, understanding and support over the past 12 months. Even when I have been a grumpy old sod, you have always supported me. Please believe me when I say I can't thank you enough.

I look forward to hopefully continuing our working relationship with you all on the next step of the journey. We are all doing this for the benefit of the swimmers; they are the most important piece in the jigsaw.

There are so many people I would like to sincerely thank. The work they do is extraordinary and to be honest these guys really do go "Above and Beyond" – I only wish we had a few more?

No Swimming club could function without the following. Even after (bloody hell I've lost count how many I've had now) a little slurp these people really do make a difference at our club.

- **The Teachers:** Special People who willingly volunteer their time to provide excellent aquatic teaching to our youngest swimmers. Special people who in my opinion deserve more praise than they ever get. Louise Raines and the team of teachers run a sound teaching programme which is seeing the clubs youngest members learn and improve. Special people whose skills are responsible for the most important part of a child's swimming career. I very much appreciate all you do for Preston Swimming Club and together I hope we can continue to build on the successes and have a teaching programme which is the envy of all. Teachers thank you so much.

- **The Coaches:** These guys have an awful lot to put up with and still they continue to produce exceptional work in their training groups. For any club to be successful you have to have the right people in place in order to achieve. These people are always looking to raise the bar and improve performance and technical skills. The support they have shown me in the past 2 years is truly appreciated and I thank them so much for all their outstanding work. Volunteers of this calibre are extremely hard to find, PSC are so lucky to have people of this calibre...
Coaches thank you so much.
- **The Committee:** Last year I mentioned that the committee were very supportive of me during my first 12 months as head coach. Well nothing has changed to be honest. Like last year any head coach must have a strong & healthy working relationship with the committee. Well I believe I have this. This committee have yet again supported me throughout 2011 and I hope we can continue the good working relationship in the future. The committee like the teachers and coaches are volunteers who really do work so hard for the swimmers and who probably get least recognition for their efforts. They too deserve praise for their work and I for one am very grateful for all they do for your club. Thanks to the committee from me
- **Ian Jackson for the web site:** I mentioned in last years report that we are blessed to have one of the finest swimming websites in the country. Well nothing has happened in 2011 that makes me change my mind. I truly love our site and I know a lot of people outside of PSC who do as well. Ian you do a fantastic job on PSC website and you really should be very proud indeed for what you have achieved. The site is still developing, still moving forward and yet it still has everything that's needed. In my opinion its just great, I love it, and I think Ian deserves all the credit in the world. The members should be very proud indeed of our website. Thanks for everything Ian
- **Paul & Sylvia Todd:** There's not much more I can say about these two lovely people that I haven't already said in the past. What they do for the presentation evening is quite remarkable, the trophies are always in pristine condition (after they have finished with them), and the history of the club is again bang up to date. Please let no one underestimate how big a job this is! Paul and Sylvia have been arguing (sorry happily debating) their way through this for years now and I for one will always be very grateful to them. I would also like to sincerely thank them for their organisation of the club championships for the past 120 years. All this time they have ensured everything has run smooth at the champs and they are responsible for making them what they are today. Again guys from me Sincere thanks and respect.
- **Paula Barton / Karen Walker:** Paula on the external competitions and for 2011 Karen on the internal competitions have performed absolute miracles in ensuring our swimmers have the opportunity to compete. Now you might think this is a silly statement to come out with? But if you have seen some of the entry forms I have seen you would appreciate that this is no easy task. Yet again the club is fortunate to have two volunteer people who work tirelessly to ensure our entries are accepted for meets. I would personally like to thank them both for their efforts it really is very much appreciated.
- **Forbes solicitors for the sponsorship:** I would very much like to thank our main sponsor, Forbes solicitors for their continued and valued sponsorship of PSC throughout 2011. I stated in last year's report that it is very important for an organisation like ours to have the backing of a very successful local company. This is ever so true again for my report this year. Many Thanks to Forbes for their continued support of our swimming club.

- **Preston City Council (Jimmy Khan; Gill Osborne):** I would like to thank Jimmy & Gill for their continued support of PSC during 2011. I look forward to continue developing relationships with the council in order for us to continue our progression. It is important that we continue to have a solid working relationship and we look forward to further meetings with the council on a number of important swimming issues for PSC. 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:** Communication is an area where I believe we can all improve? Not just committee & Coaches but also parents and swimmers. Karen & Carol have, for some time been instrumental in trying to improve communications for all. Like Ian putting all info on the website, these two ladies are continuously sending emails out keeping people informed of what is going on. I would like to thank the ladies for volunteering for this. What they kindly do is important and I very much appreciate this.
- **ARENA:** I would like to thank Arena for choosing PSC as a club they would like to have a working partnership with. We sincerely hope we have a long and prosperous working partnership
- **Mags Connolly:** I have never thanked the treasurer before independently, however since losing our membership secretary earlier in the season we have at times struggled. Mags has been an absolute treasure in ensuring swimmers are registered with the ASA and able to legally compete. Thanks Mags for all you have done in ensuring that swimmers can swim for PSC.
- **Myles Kitcher:** Myles has yet again done exceptional work in ensuring our publicity is reported and has also worked hard on the team photographs on poolside at West View. Many thanks for everything you do Myles
- **Swimmers:** Well what is there left to say about this lot? It has been an absolute honour to work with the swimmers this year. I think it's fair to say I have already mentioned, they have done remarkably well in 2011. 2012 sees many challenges but ones I know you will take up and then rip the water apart. Thanks to every single one of you for the support you have shown me. It's going to get even tougher guys! But that's the nature of the sport!!!!

There's not much else to say now except I would like to thank you all for listening to my inane drivel and I am off to bed because I've lost count of the number of Theakstones old peculiar I've had due to the length of time this has taken to write.

If I have missed anyone or anything I apologise.

Let us all please continue to work as one team to move the club forward. This will put us in a position of strength in the district, county, region and even nationally.....

Below are the reports from 2010 – 2011 galas. Which have been given in committee meetings throughout the year? I'm not going to read these out as well as I fear you will all die of boredom.

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 2011-2012 (see below)

So far as the Club's Constitution is concerned, three new posts for officers were proposed: Asst/Deputy Membership Secretary, Internal Competition Secretary and Biathlon Representative. These new officers' roles were unanimously agreed at the meeting.

Nominations for officers

| Post | Name | Nominated by | Seconded by |
|----------------------------------|------------|--------------|-------------|
| President : | J Pratt | | |
| Vice-President: | S Penrith | P Mason | I Parker |
| Chairman: | P Mason | P Barton | P Bailey |
| Deputy Chairman: | M Chadwick | P Bailey | P Mason |
| Hon Secretary: | S Field | P Mason | P Barton |
| Treasurer | M Connolly | P Bailey | S Field |
| Publicity Officer: | | | |
| Membership Sec: | M Connolly | P Mason | S Field |
| Deputy Mem Sec: | N McGinty | P Mason | S Field |
| Waterpolo: | P Bailey | P Mason | S Field |
| Biathlon Rep: | K Walker | P Bailey | S Field |
| Competition Sec. | | | |
| Internal : | K Walker | P Barton | P Mason |
| External: | P Barton | M Chadwick | P Bailey |
| Social and Fundraising Secretary | | | |

Nominations for committee

| | | |
|--------------|----------|-----------|
| J McSorley | P Mason | S Field |
| P Todd | P Mason | P Bailey |
| Ian Parker | P Mason | S Field |
| Aimee Bailey | P Bailey | S Davison |
| Zoe Marchant | P Bailey | S Davison |

Welfare Officers

Male Welfare Officers: Paul Watson, Peter Monks

Female Welfare Officer:

All members of the committee were duly voted in.

P Mason will contact UCLAN with a view to asking one of the students to assist with publicity matters. The roles of Social and Fundraising Secretary and Female Welfare Officer remain to be filled.

The next committee meeting will be held on 13 December 2011 at West View Leisure Centre.