

Mid Sussex Marlins Swimming Club Limited

AGM 2025 Meeting Minutes

Held virtually via Teams on Wednesday 10th December 2025 at 7pm

	<p>Directors in attendance – Paul Johnson; Chair (PJ), Steve Braine (SB), Matt Disney (MD), Emma Goodhew (EG) and Katie Rayner (KR).</p> <p>PJ welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that a link to vote will be added to the chat and attendees can vote at any time during the meeting.</p> <p>Voting will remain as usual and as per our constitution with a simple majority by one.</p> <p>PJ confirmed that the meeting was quorate (over 10 eligible to vote in attendance). <i>The exact number of members eligible to vote in attendance was confirmed post meeting as 19.</i></p>
1	<p>Apologies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apologies were received from Rachel Froggat, Jennifer Gowman and Jane Lacey
2	<p>To receive and approve the Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting of 14th January 2025.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There were no questions received regarding the minutes. PJ asked members to vote to approve the minutes. • <i>The votes were verified after the meeting. 17 eligible votes were received to approve the minutes with one member preferring not to vote; the minutes are duly approved.</i>
3	<p>Matters arising from previous minutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No matters arising.
4	<p>To receive the Chair's report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PJ updated all that the focus of the Board over the last year was to rebuild the finances and we are back where we need to be. We've taken on extra work to take on the pool time at Hurst and to build capacity. • PJ thanked Emma Goodhew for her valuable contribution to the club over the last 15 years as a timekeeper, official and board member; she has dedicated herself to the club. • PJ noted the Board's thanks to all the Club's volunteers.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PJ advised that there have been some issues with the pool provider over the last year and we will be taking this up with them. • No questions were raised in response to the report.
5	<p>Accounts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SB (treasurer) confirmed that the financial statements and Independent Examiner’s report for 2024/2025 have been circulated. • The year was a good one for us - our capital is now where it needs to be to withstand an unforeseen event. This is largely due to the open meets - thanks to the coaches and volunteers for your support with that. It is also due to an increase in membership. • In the current year, the Club has been impacted by some issues with the Triangle and there has recently been a small drop in members which may mean a small deficit but no cause for concern. • We need to keep reserves stable and not having raised fees last year we will be making a small increase this year - only circa 2% in some squads to keep us where we need to be. <p>We will circulate fees asap now club compete fees have been confirmed by Swim England.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question from Mat Record - Thanks Steve, could you give us some detail around the increase in membership? The profile of the club is always changing. <p>SB - Yes, I keep analysis of the membership – things move all the time through squads. Average was an increase of 17 across the year. Plus and minus across the year across all areas. We look at utilisation across lanes and then fill from the bottom in Academy and Squads. Masters, we have some capacity, water polo has increased.</p> <p>Charlie Wood (Head Coach, CW) – When we noticed a drop in membership, he and Lorraine ran an influx session at Hurst with 45/50 expressions of interest. Some of these are still trialling. Most came into academy and lower squads but some parents too.</p> <p>SB and Mat agreed to continue the conversation offline.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question from Sarah Davison – What is being done regarding members leaving? Are we asking why they are leaving? <p>KR – she and Lorraine have put together a questionnaire that goes to all leavers to ascertain if there is anything that can be done to retain them i.e. a squad move or application to our hardship fund.</p> <p>5.1 to receive the Accounts for the Year to 31st March 2025</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No questions were raised in response to the accounts. <p>5.2 to receive and consider the report of the Independent Examiner.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We do not require an audit as under the companies act with our turnover and assets we fall well below the threshold where this would be required but we do require an Independent Examiner of the accounts. The examiners have confirmed that the accounts have been prepared satisfactorily. No questions were raised on this report. <p>5.3 to receive and consider the Director’s report regarding financial position.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No questions were received in response to this report.
6	<p>To reappoint or elect an independent examiner for the accounts for the coming year</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SB explained the requirement to have one and proposed we re-elect TC Group and asked members present to vote. <i>The votes were verified after the meeting. 18 eligible votes were received, all to approve; TC Group will subsequently be re-elected.</i> PJ thanked SB for his hard work this year.
7	<p>To receive the Club reports on activities; Head Coach report for academy and Squads, Water Polo, Disability, Development and Masters.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PJ thanked all staff for preparing these. CW wanted to add that for first time we had open water swimmers at the Southeast regionals and Flynn qualified for nationals which was the first in a long time. Comment from Mat Record – as a keen open water swimmer he feels the Club can do a better job encouraging swimmers to participate in open water events. CW said we have a volunteer working with us from Mid Sussex Triathlon Club and we’re working towards this.
8	<p>To receive the Welfare Officer’s report.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No questions were received in response to the report.
9	<p>To elect Directors and officers for 2026/2027</p> <p>9.1 Existing officers continuing in post:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paul Johnson

	<p>9.2 Retiring officers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emma Goodhew <p>9.3 Existing Officers standing for re-election:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steve Braine <i>The votes were verified after the meeting. 18 eligible votes were received all voting to re-elect and Steve Braine was subsequently re-elected to the Board.</i> • Matt Disney <i>The votes were verified after the meeting. 18 eligible votes were received all voting to re-elect and Matt Disney was subsequently re-elected to the Board.</i> • Katie Rayner <i>The votes were verified after the meeting. 18 eligible votes were received all voting to re-elect and Katie Rayner was subsequently re-elected to the Board.</i> <p>9.4 New officers standing for election:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Louise Elliott Neal <i>The votes were verified after the meeting. 18 eligible votes were received all voting to elect and Louise Elliott Neal was subsequently elected to the Board.</i> • Ryan Baigent <i>The votes were verified after the meeting. 18 eligible votes were received, 16 voting to elect and Ryan Baigent was subsequently elected to the Board.</i>
10	<p>To consider any Proposals received</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No proposals were received.
11	<p>Any other business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Morgan Trophy <p>This year we have decided to award the Morgan Trophy – an award for outstanding contribution in a volunteer role - to Shaun Finch.</p>

- Shaun is a very committed member of the para teaching team as a volunteer; regularly attending the 6-7pm and the 7-8pm para sessions on Wednesdays at the Triangle.
- The swimmers respect and respond to him extremely well.
- Not only does Shaun coach our swimmers on a Wednesday, he attends and helps those he supports at various competitions, such as the British Down Syndrome Championships in November, Masters competitions, and our home para gala in June.
- His support, and dedication to the group, is greatly appreciated by all the team - coaches and swimmers alike.

Sincere thanks to Shaun from all of us for the incredibly valuable contribution that you make.

Pauline noted her thanks to Shaun and highlighted the date for diaries as 27th June for the next para gala.

Paul thanked Pauline for all that she does and Pauline in turn thanked the Board for their support.

There being no other business, PJ thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed at 7.30 pm