

London Adult Figure Skating Club
Minutes of 2021 AGM, held via Zoom on 21 January 2022

The AGM commenced at 7:00pm on 21 January 2022. The following members of the London Adult Figure Skating Club ("LAFSC") were present: Jane Mackenzie, Linzi Barber, Sara Bertie, Jose Cano-Ruiz, Kelly Barber.

Apologies were received from Kitty Swanson (KS), Ian Swanson (IS) and Dawn Hannay

1. Quorum

It was noted that, under the constitution, quorum for a general meeting was at least six members, including at least three members of the outgoing committee. As only 5 members were present, those present unanimously agreed to an adjournment until 7:00pm on Sunday 23 January 2022.

Minutes of 2021 AGM, held via Zoom on 23 January 2022

As agreed, the AGM resumed at 7:00pm on 23 January 2022. The meeting was chaired by Linzi Barber ("LB") and the following members of the London Adult Figure Skating Club ("LAFSC") were also present: Jane Mackenzie (JM), Sara Bertie, Dawn Hannay, Jose Cano Ruiz ("JC-R"), Lulu Alexandra, Kelly Barber, Raywin Knewstubb, Jamie Hansen and Nicola Mckenzie.

Apologies were received from KS and IS

1. Quorum It was noted that, under the constitution, quorum for a general meeting was at least six members, including at least three members of the outgoing committee. On the basis that eight members of the club were present, including five members of the outgoing committee, quorum was satisfied.

2. Approval of minutes of 2020 AGM

Copies of the minutes of the 2020 AGM had been circulated to members in advance of the AGM.

No questions were raised and a resolution was put to the meeting regarding the approval of these minutes.

Resolution 1: Approval of minutes of 2020 AGM

"The minutes of the 2020 AGM shall be approved in the form circulated at the 2021 AGM."
The resolution was carried unanimously on a show of hands.

3. Chair's report

JM presented the following report in her capacity as Chair for the 2021 year:

After a difficult start to 2021, with rinks closed to adult skaters until mid-May, and ice rinks wary of booking anything at first, the club was at last able to run a successful seminar in July. This was also pleasing as it was our first event at Streatham, expanding the number of London rinks where we have been able to host events. A further seminar was held at Alexandra Palace.

We were once again invited to take part in the launch for the Natural History Museum ice rink and allowed to hold a club patch session there. Sadly, these will be the last such events as the museum is not having a rink next year, but we will stay in touch with the rink operators, in hope that they find another London venue for 2022. In the meantime, our thanks to them for welcoming us so often over the past several years.

We were also able to hold a competition. With Lee Valley currently being rebuilt, getting London ice at an appropriate time was proving very challenging, but a tip off from a coach led to an offer of weekend ice time at Cambridge Ice Arena in January. Although this is well outside our area, consultation with a number of local skaters suggested that an 'LAFSC on Tour' event would be welcome in the region. The event was popular, with plenty of long-time LAFSC members making the journey to take part and several Cambridge skaters getting their first taste of LAFSC-style competitions!

My thanks to everyone who has served on the committee this year for their dedication and for sharing in the stubborn belief that adult skating events can be made to happen and can be fun and friendly while supporting real sporting achievement at every level.

A member sharing the competition announcement described our events as "the kindest, the friendliest, the best" which was truly wonderful to read. I hope we will continue to be those things in 2022.

4. Secretary's report

KS produced the following report in her capacity as Secretary for the 2021 year. This was read to the meeting by LB:

Committee

The committee for 2021 consisted of the following members: Jane Mackenzie as Chair, Linzi Barber as Vice Chair, Kitty Swanson as Secretary, Ian Swanson as Treasurer, Sara Bertie as Membership Secretary and Dawn Hannay as Publicity Officer. All six members of the 2021 committee are standing for election to the 2022 committee. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who served as members of the committee in 2021.

Administration

The constitution has been working well – no amendments have been proposed for approval at this AGM.

Membership

The club had 37 members in the 2021 year. This is a reduction in membership from the pre-covid years (65+ members for each of 2017-2019) but reflects the fact the club was unable to run any events in the first half of the year and was only able to give limited notice for those events we were able to run. Given the number of new members that have already signed up for membership in 2022, we hope to see higher membership levels in 2022 assuming no further restrictions on access to ice rinks. The membership fee was £20.00 for the 2021 year.

Events and 2022 plans

Although ongoing Covid restrictions limited the club's ability to run events during the first half of the year, the club had a successful second half of the year, with two on-ice seminars held in the summer (one focused on ice dance, the other more focused on free skating), the launch event for the final Natural History Museum ice rink in October, and the January competition in Cambridge and patch session at the Natural History Museum ice rink (both of which fell in the overlap period between 2021 and 2022). We hope that access to ice will be easier in 2022 and that we can build on the good start to the year.

5. Treasurer's report

IS produced the following report in his capacity as Treasurer for the 2021 year. This was read to the meeting by LB:

Last year the club agreed to roll 2020 memberships onwards into 2021, due to not managing to run any events as a result of pandemic restrictions. Given this, the accounts presented are also combined for the 2020 and 2021 years.

The club ended the year with a total of £5,237.57 in cash and the bank. Against this, however, we owe committee members £1,273.50 for loans advanced during the last two years (to cover expenses which could not be paid by cheque). This leads to a total balance of £3,964.07.

We ran events in the first weeks of both 2020 and 2022, in the form of patch sessions at the NHM, and the 2022 Winter Skills competition. These events led to payments in and out of the account, where some payments fall within this financial cycle, and others fall outside. This distribution makes it harder to represent the impact of the last year on the club finances.

Overall, starting from the point just after the 2020 NHM patch, and stopping at the point just before the announcement of the Winter Skills 2022 competition, the club has made a loss of approximately £250. Given that we have had two NISA affiliation fees during the two years (of £175.50 and £254), this is not an unreasonable position. As is usual, the seminars we ran in the second half of this year made a significant loss, which is offset by membership payments.

If we were to assume that 2022 will see 50 people join the club, we could look to increase the membership fee to £25, which would compensate for this year's loss. Against that, we would have to collect top-up payments from those people who made a membership payment as part of their Winter Skills entry. At this stage, the loss does not seem sufficient that such measures are necessary, but it may be something we need to consider for the next membership year (although it is also worth considering what the club's goals are -- for instance are we aiming to run events, such as an Adult IJS competition, which would have a much higher financial risk and as such a need for a larger buffer). Against this, our members have also been subject to the unusual demands of the past two years, so it would be good to avoid adding further pressures if possible.

Separately, confirming payments and ensuring that totals are correct remains a challenge, due in part to the interface to the bank account and the Google Forms based booking processes. In the medium term it would be good to investigate options to improve this process.

6. Certification of the accounts

JC-R, who was appointed at the 2020 AGM as the independent member to review the 2021 accounts, confirmed that he had reviewed the 2021 accounts and certified that they were a true and accurate statement of the LAFSC's affairs.

A vote of thanks to JC-R was recorded.

7. Approval of the 2021 accounts

There was a technological problem with sharing the 2021 accounts on screen but members were happy to approve them on the basis of the treasurer's report and independent certification

Resolution 2: Approval of 2021 accounts

"The 2021 accounts shall be approved in the form circulated at the 2021 AGM."

The resolution was carried unanimously on a show of hands.

8. Committee elections

It was noted that the following nominations had been received for the various committee roles:

- (i) Chair – Jane Mackenzie;
- (ii) Vice Chair – Linzi Barber;
- (iii) Secretary – Kitty Swanson;
- (iv) Treasurer – Ian Swanson;
- (v) Publicity Officer – Dawn Hannay; and
- (vi) Membership Secretary – Sara Bertie.

A resolution was put to the meeting regarding the committee for the 2022 year.

Resolution 3: Elections to the committee

"The committee for the 2022 year shall consist of the following six officers:

- (i) Chair – Jane Mackenzie;
- (ii) Vice Chair – Linzi Barber;
- (iii) Secretary – Kitty Swanson;
- (iv) Treasurer – Ian Swanson;
- (v) Publicity Officer – Dawn Hannay; and
- (vi) Membership Secretary – Sara Bertie."

The resolution was carried unanimously on a show of hands.

9. Appointment of member to certify 2022 accounts

It was noted that a member of LAFSC who was not on the committee was required to be appointed to certify the 2022 accounts at the next AGM. JC-R volunteered to fill that role and a resolution was put to the meeting regarding the appointment of JC-R to this role.

Resolution 4: Appointment of member to certify the 2022 accounts

"Jose Cano-Ruiz shall be appointed to certify the 2022 accounts."

The resolution was carried unanimously on a show of hands.

10. Membership fees

It was proposed that the fee for both categories of membership should be kept the same as for the 2021 year. The matter was discussed and a resolution was put to the meeting regarding the membership fees for the 2022 year.

Resolution 5: Membership fees

"For the 2022 calendar year, the fee for ordinary adult membership of LAFSC shall be £20.00.

For specific events during the 2022 calendar year, to be determined by the committee in its sole discretion, the fee for single event group membership of LAFSC shall be £40.00."
The resolution was carried unanimously on a show of hands.

11. Any other business

There was a discussion of what events members would like during the year – members felt a good mix of competitive and non-competitive events, such as seminars, should take place. It was suggested that a survey should be produced to explore ideas for future seminars.

There was discussion of the lack of Open/higher level events for adult skaters in the south of England, including whether more general Open events for young skaters would be willing to include adult categories and whether the club could encourage this in any way.

There being no other formal business, LB closed the meeting at 7:45pm.