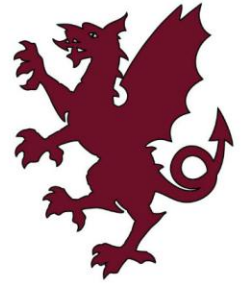


Minutes

Of the 123rd Annual General Meeting of Somerset ASA, held at the STV, University of Bath, on Saturday, June 21st, 2025



SOMERSET ASA

- **Attendees:** Mike Coles, Chair Somerset ASA; Paul Chillingworth, 2024/25 President of Somerset ASA and welfare Officer; Amanda Page, Team Bath Artistic Swimming; Karen Bowen, Team Bath AS and president-elect of Somerset ASA; Daisy Clarke, Secretary of Somerset ASA, representing Burnham on Sea and Bridgwater Swimming Clubs; Sue Dors, Weston-super-Mare and past president; Tim Babbage, Team Bath AS; Rachel Aldington, SASA Head Coach and Millfield; Mike Riggall, Somerset ASA treasurer and Keynsham; Nicky Slee, Team Bath AS; Nancy Jubb, Team Bath AS.

1. Welcome and Apologies

- 1.1. Chair, Mike Coles, welcomed everyone to the University of Bath, and gave apologies for Rachel Hubbard, Taunton Deane SC; Kelly Podbury, SASA Swimming Competition Secretary and Burnham-on-Sea; Isabel Blight; CDP Administrator, Trophy Controller and Millfield; Pat Leaman, Clevedon and Head Coach; Ben Batley, Life Member and past president; Chris Metcalfe, SASA Officials Secretary; Alan Withers, Life Member and past president; Bath Dolphins Swimming Club; Kim Scotting, Horton and Broadway SC; Rosemary Johnson, Life Member and past president; Ann Reynolds, Life Member and past president; Norton Radstock Swimming Club; Brad Poole, SASA Water Polo Head Coach and Frome; Karen Bowen, Life Member and Past President).
2. Obituary
 - 2.1. Secretary Daisy Clarke had received no notifications.
3. Minutes of the last Somerset ASA Annual General Meeting
 - 3.1. This was held on Saturday, May 19th, 2024, at Street Village Hall.
 - 3.2. These were passed as an accurate record of that meeting. Proposed by Paul Chillingworth, seconded by Sue Dors.
4. President's Report
 - 4.1. Paul Chillingworth presented this: "The outgoing president expresses gratitude for the opportunity to serve, highlighting their efforts to attend various county and regional aquatic events throughout the year, including water polo, team championships, Masters competitions, and county meets in Somerset and Dorset. They acknowledge missing some events due to scheduling conflicts, particularly Para and Artistic events, which clashed with referee commitments. The president also mentions supporting local clubs as a referee and participating in the county development pathway program, praising its effectiveness. Having served on the committee as welfare officer and then president, they commend the immense behind-the-scenes work involved in organising events, training officials and volunteers, managing finances, ensuring compliance, and providing opportunities for swimmers. The president concludes by thanking the committee and all volunteers for their contributions to the county's swimming success and extends best wishes to the incoming president, Karen.
 - 4.2. The President's Report was adopted. Proposed by Sue Dors and seconded by Karen Bowen.
5. Chair's Report by Mike Coles
 - 5.1. The Somerset ASA Chair's address at the 2025 Annual General Meeting, held at the University of Bath Sports Training Village, celebrated a year of significant growth and success in county aquatics. Key highlights included the successful Development Meet in October 2024 and the County Championships in February 2025, which were praised as the bedrock of competitive swimming and made possible by the hard work of Kelly Podbury's team, officials, and volunteers. The Senior Water Polo team also achieved a notable victory at the Swim England South West Inter-County Championships, with a focus now on developing younger water polo players for the future. Somerset ASA finished a strong seventh at the Swim

England County Team Championships in Sheffield last October, showcasing the county's talent.

Membership figures continue to grow post-COVID, reflecting the excellent work by clubs and coaches. The Chair highlighted progress in para-swimming, with details available in Kay Wilcox's report. Somerset ASA is now recognised as a national leader for its County Development Partnership, mainly due to the efforts of administrator Isabel Blight and the leadership of head coaches Rachel Adlington (who is moving to Taunton School) and Pat Leaman, along with supporting coaches.

The Chair expressed profound gratitude to the Somerset ASA Management Committee, with special thanks to Treasurer Mike Riggall and President/Welfare Officer Paul Chillingworth for their brilliant support.

Looking ahead, the county is excited to launch its first-ever Masters Open Meet next week at Millfield School, appealing for officials to help run this new, prestigious event. The Chair acknowledged potential uncertain times ahead for aquatics in 2025-26 due to national changes but expressed confidence in the county's ability to adapt and continue thriving. The focus remains on supporting clubs, nurturing talent, and ensuring continued growth in Somerset Aquatics.

5.2. The Chair's Report was adopted. Proposed by Mike Riggall, seconded by Paul Chillingworth.

6. Financial Report

6.1. Mike Riggall produced the SASA Financial Report via PowerPoint.

6.2. Here's a summary of the Somerset ASA Financial Report for the year ending March 31, 2025, as presented by Treasurer Mike Riggall.

Overall Financial Position: Somerset ASA concluded the year with retained earnings of £10,252, generated from an income of £72,386 and expenditures totalling £62,134.

The organisation maintains reserves of £53,880 and a current account balance of £14,683.

The accounts were independently examined and certified by Andrew Williamson on April 30, 2025.

Key Income Streams: Major income contributors included the County Championships (£43,829), the Development Meet (£10,225), and athlete contributions for the county pathway programme (£6,450).

Member affiliation fees generated £5,805.

The Age Groups and Youth Championships generated a net income of £19,90, primarily from entry fees (£35,544) and gate receipts (£5,870).

Major Expenditures: Significant expenditures were attributed to the County Championships (£23,537), the NCTC (£6,513), the Development Meet (£6,706), and the County Pathway programme (£6,945).

The John Bolton event resulted in a net cost of £888 to the organisation.

Assets: Total assets are valued at £9,187, consisting of equipment (£1,076), trophies (£5,500), and inventory stock items (£2,611).

Trophies were revalued during the year to reflect their realisable sale value rather than replacement cost.

Bursaries and Grants: The bursary scheme approved 19 applications, with 14 claims totalling £2,100 from 6 clubs in 2024/25, of which £900 was recovered from Swim England South West Region. The return on bursaries was "disappointing", but additional commitments were made for 2025/26.

A total of £5,138 in development grants was awarded for various projects, including a new program for Team Bath AS (£450), new blocks at Backwell SC (£500), and water polo equipment for Frome SC (£3,028).

Technology and Future Outlook: The county continues to use its Swim-Meet.com license, which allows all Somerset clubs to utilise the platform for officials' and volunteer coordination.

Looking ahead, pool fees at Millfield are fixed until February 15, 2026, at £1,980 per competition day. Additional car parking steward costs are anticipated from September 2025 for significant events.

The Development Plan includes provisions for the County Pathway Programme (£7,000), technical officials (£500), teacher and coach bursary scheme (£7,000), and small items funding (£3,000), totalling £17,500.

Money has been allocated to fund 7 Level 1 coaching bursaries for young volunteers, with SASA contributing £150 per course.

Fees for 2025/26 remain consistent for affiliation and event entries, though the county pathway contribution will increase from £99 to £108.

The organisation recognises potential risks, such as increased costs from car parking stewards (adding a £3.5k annual cost from September 2025), a possible reduction in income (up to £5k) due to potential changes in the Swim England County Championship event programme for 2026, and uncertainties surrounding the inaugural Masters meet. Reserves currently stand at 87% of 2024/25 operating costs.

A new budget-setting process is required following the removal of the Meeting of Clubs from the constitution, with clubs invited to engage in a consultation process from September to October 2025.

- 6.3. Mr Riggall informed the meeting that in 2025, Swim England had decided to withdraw the £1,000 subsidy provided for the Swim England County Team Championships in Sheffield, for counties that required overnight accommodation. This was not a problem for SASA, however, some other counties in the South West had expressed concern that they would be unable to go on this basis. Mr Riggall's concern was that they were not informed of this decision by SE until May, after the county's budget had been set.
- 6.4. Paul Chillingworth asked the question: "Was there more income from the County Championships this year than last year?". Mr Riggall replied: "Yes".
- 6.5. Rachel Aldington asked: "Could the Institute of Swimming talk to the county regarding bursaries for the Young Volunteers?" Mike Riggall replied: "Young Volunteers don't count as bursaries."
- 6.6. Mike Coles pointed out that the electronic timing purchased via a grant to Frome was available for all Somerset Water Polo Clubs to use. They needed to liaise with Frome.
7. Adoption of the Accounts
 - 7.1. Mike Coles thanked the treasurer for his informative presentation. The adoption of the report was proposed by Mike Chillingworth and seconded by Sue Dors and carried.
8. Review of the Constitution and any new rules
 - 8.1. Mike Coles informed the meeting that only minor adjustments had been made to the SASA Constitution from last year, following the renaming of several organisations.
 - 8.2. The meeting was happy to accept these. Mike Riggall questioned an anomaly in the constitution, and the meeting was pleased that he and the chair would review this and make the necessary adjustments for 2026. Proposed Sue Dors, seconded Paul Chillingworth, and carried.
9. Notice of reports
 - 9.1. Swimming (attached)
 - 9.2. Para Swimming (attached)
 - 9.3. Masters Swimming (attached)
 - 9.4. Artistic Swimming (attached)
 - 9.5. Water Polo (attached)
 - 9.6. Officials Report (attached)
10. Awards
 - 10.1. Swimmer of the Year: Nancy Jubb of Team Bath AS
 - 10.2. John Cooper Award: Presented jointly to Sarah Ayling of Cheddar Kingfishers SC and Alicia Hooper of Burnham-on-Sea.
 - 10.3. Wyvern Shield: Isabel Blight
 - 10.4. Young Volunteer of the Year (will be arranged for the near future).
11. Election of Officers: As per Appendix I (attached).
12. Presentation to outgoing SASA President, Paul Chillingworth.
 - 12.1. Mike Coles presented a past-president's badge and a floral display to Mr Chillingworth, and thanked him for his service.
13. Inauguration of the 2025-26 SASA President, Mrs Karen Bowen, of Team Bath AS.
 - 13.1. Mr Tim Babbage, Chair of Team Bath AS, gave an inaugural address for Karen Bowen.
 - 13.2. She was presented with the chain of office by Paul Chillingworth, together with a smaller lapel badge and a floral display.
 - 13.3. She thanked Team Bath AS for her nomination and for help in organising this year's AGM.
14. Confirmation of Somerset ASA President-Elect
 - 14.1. Mrs Lynne Bartlett of Keynsham SC was confirmed as President-Elect for SASA 2026/27. Her club had nominated her.
15. Confirmation of County Representatives for Swim England South West (Appendix II).
16. County or Swim England South West Matters relevant to this meeting
 - 16.1. Amanda Page asked a question regarding the fact that a small grants request was made on behalf of Team Bath Artistic Swimming for costumes, which were used by successive teams and did not belong to the individual, but to the club, due to the high cost of these items. The

request was made in approximately 2017. Neither Mike Coles nor Mike Riggall had any knowledge of such a request, so it must have been made before they took office. They therefore requested Mrs Page to put the request in to them again, and they would take a fresh look at it.

- 16.2. Mike Coles informed the meeting that the region was seeking to recruit a new chair and vice-chair to the board, as well as a person to oversee Safeguarding and Welfare, and a swimming manager and coordinator.

The meeting closed at 12:05, and Team Bath AS provided lunch.

Separate Reports:

- **Swimming:** Kelly Podbury reported that she is excited to run the masters meet next weekend. Although the numbers are low, it's a good event to add to the calendar now to encourage more master's Swimming.
As the AGM focuses on the previous year, we hosted a successful development meet in the County Championships, including the 100-meter IM and relay day, this year. I'm sure Mike Riggall will provide feedback on the income for that event and our plans for the future regarding the cost per event.
I continue to be invested in supporting Somerset and their swimmers in the best way possible.
I am supporting Lesley at the Region as the licensing officer for the county. As a reminder to all, please check dates with me before requesting them from Lesley or her successor, who will take over following her resignation.
Overall, it was a very successful year as far as I'm concerned. My plans for the future are not much different from last year in that we will run the development meeting in the same way, we are still waiting to hear from Swim England with regards to any guidance for the county championships in January February 2026, however if this is not forthcoming in the next couple of months then we will run it as we did last year, with some tweaks to qualifying times but no drastic changes.
As always, I am contactable on the Somerset email address somersetasa@gmail.com. Please bear with me; I am juggling a lot of tasks, so I may not be able to respond immediately, but I will get back to you.
Finally, I'd like to thank Paul Chillingworth for being a most excellent president this year and for his support in many ways.
- **Para-Swimming:** Kay Wilcox reported: "That it had been A Stellar Year for Somerset Para Swimmers, marked by new programs, outstanding competitive performances, and significant record-breaking achievements.
September saw the launch of a dedicated Start Para-Swimming Programme at Team Bath AS. This initiative provides a vital training environment for swimmers from clubs across Somerset and Wiltshire, allowing them to train and build confidence alongside fellow para swimmers. Participants are also actively encouraged and supported to attend regional development days and competitions, fostering their growth and competitive spirit.
Competitive Highlights: Our para swimmers have consistently excelled in competitions throughout the year:
SWSE Regional Para Champs (September, Hengrove): Five para swimmers proudly represented Somerset.
Para Winter Nationals (November, Sandwell Aquatics, Birmingham): Four Somerset para swimmers delivered tremendous performances, achieving numerous top 10 finishes and setting new personal bests.
Rue Harvey (Clevedon): Secured Gold in the 10-13 yrs 100m backstroke and Bronze in the 10-13 yrs 100m breaststroke.
Nancy Jubb (Team Bath AS): Achieved an incredible three Gold medals in the 50m backstroke (setting a new British Record), 100m freestyle, and 50m freestyle.
Natalie Webb (Team Bath AS)
Sophie York (Team Bath AS) The highlight of the weekend was Nancy Jubb's sensational British Record in the Women's S5 Short Course 50m Backstroke.
Winter Nationals (Sheffield): Nancy Jubb (Team Bath AS) continued her impressive form, qualifying for three finals and earning a Silver medal in the 50m freestyle.
Somerset County Championships: Four of our swimmers set new County and Regional records, with Nancy Jubb adding another British Record to her name in the 200m Individual Medley.

Aquatics GB Champs (April): Nancy Jubb qualified for the B finals in both her events, finishing an excellent 2nd and 3rd.

SW Regionals (May): Somerset was strongly represented by Nancy Jubb and Natalie Webb (both Team Bath AS). Nancy secured Gold in the 200IM, three Silvers, and one Bronze, while Natalie set a new personal best in her 50m freestyle.

While significant progress has been made in making para-swimming more inclusive, further work remains to be done. Key areas for improvement include:

- Better accessibility at meetings
- Dedicated para warm-up lanes.
- Displaying para points on results – crucially, this directly impacts the swimmers' experience and recognition.

Upcoming Para Day

For coaches and teachers interested in learning more about para swimming, please mark your diaries for Saturday, November 22nd. Swim England, Team Bath AS, and the University of Bath will co-host a dedicated Para Day. Full details will be shared on the Somerset website closer to the time.

- **Master Swimming:** The county's masters swimmers have kept busy this year. Numbers seem to be growing, which is very encouraging, and more clubs are putting on masters' meets.

In the inter-county team event in November, we entered nearly all the events and came fourth, just pipping Dorset. It would be beneficial to involve more swimmers this coming year, as some swimmers had a high number of events and had to swim down an age group as well.

Somerset swimmers have taken part in the South West Masters Champs, the Royal Navy Masters, Tigersharks Reflex (part meet, part Disco), Gloucester Open, Cornish Open and Midland Masters. Several swimmers have also entered long-distance events and open-water competitions. For example, Joannie O'Connell, of Cheddar Kingfishers, who is ranked 2nd in 40-44 for 800m and holds the SW record and Ryan Blake, of Yeovil, who is looking to do a 10K in September!

Despite their high rankings, several of our swimmers have not managed to secure places at the Nationals in June, as it has been massively oversubscribed. The exceptional demand caught British Swimming by surprise. Having the opportunity to swim at the Olympic pool, along with the growth in the section, has meant that entries were complete within minutes of opening. This is very disappointing for those swimmers who have worked hard and are at the top of the sport.

We are hosting our own Somerset Masters Meet on June 28th at Millfield. Entries have been slow, but we hope this will provide an opportunity for newer masters swimmers to participate in their first competition and for more experienced swimmers to try different events, such as the 200m Breaststroke. Thanks to Kelly Podbury for making this possible.

- **Water Polo:** Bradley Poole, Head Coach of the county's water polo section, reported:
"Generally speaking, the first six months of the year are relatively quiet for Somerset Water Polo as the main competitions are held later in the year.
"I keep in contact with the leading four clubs in the region, Weston-super-Mare, Frome, University of Bath and Taunton, gauging numbers at training and just keeping up with what they are up to in terms of participation and games. It appears all three clubs have pretty healthy numbers and are training well. At the time of writing this, Frome are currently bottom of the 1st division in the Bristol and West League, having played only one game, and Weston are mid-table with two wins from four in the 2nd division.
"Junior levels are also healthy with all the clubs having some representation in the county, Taunton particularly has good numbers that represent the country and at higher levels. This year, the BWWPL has introduced a new format, where the Juniors come together to play matches against other clubs in the league using a tournament-style system. Frome and Weston are both hoping to enter this, while Taunton has other commitments in the Devon League and is unlikely to field a team.
"Work will start ramping up later in the year as we begin to prepare for the intercounty tournaments. I'm hoping to run some training sessions and trials between the clubs so the

best teams can be selected on the day.

"I would like to thank the Coaches from the surrounding clubs that support Somerset throughout the year, and also the Helpers / Team Managers / Officials that make the sport happen on the day.

Frome were lucky to be successful in their bid for an electronic scoreboard for their club, from Somerset ASA. This has significantly boosted their ability to host top-class games in the competitions they enter."

- **Artistic Swimming:** Amanda Page of Team Bath Artistic Swimming presented this year's report. The first artistic swimming event of the year was the South West Region Novice Figure and Combo Competition, held on 8th June 2024 in Cheltenham. The County had many entrants, winning three bronze medals in the figure competitions and two gold medals in the Combo Team events out of a total of two entries.

In July 2024, two junior teams from Team Bath travelled to Sheffield for the National Combo Cup competition. No medals were won, but the swimmers performed well and learnt from the experience. September 2023 saw Team Bath form its first masters team, which entered the National Masters Competition in Sheffield in July 2024. Alongside the team, Annabelle Toole won a bronze medal for her solo performance.

The Somerset ASA Artistic Swimming County Championships and Novice Competition took place on Saturday, 12 October 2024. This year, the competition was hosted by Team Bath Artistic Swimming Club at Downside School. The format was changed from a figures and solo competition to a figures and duets competition this year, with the hope that this would aid in preparation for the SW duet competition in November.

Team Bath was the only club to enter, as Taunton was struggling at the time with affiliation. It was terrific to see swimmers ranging from novices, who were competing in their first competition, to some of the county's most experienced Junior members, competing in both Figures and Duet competitions.

The Figures competition highlighted the swimmers' hard work and dedication to execute the elements with precision and grace. The swimmers' creativity was on show as they swam duet routines that they had choreographed themselves. Congratulations to all the swimmers who competed. They should be very proud of their achievements.

The County Junior Trophy went to Helena Pickrell (Team Bath Artistic Swimming) and the County Senior Trophy went to Belle McKen (Team Bath Artistic Swimming).

Thank you to the County for supporting the event, Downside School for sharing their facilities and to the organisers, judges, scorers, coaches, team managers, volunteers, parents and swimmers, without whom the event would not have been possible.

Both Taunton and Team Bath entered swimmers in the SW duet competition in Plymouth in November 2024. The new format of the county competition paid off as Team Bath swimmers won two golds, two silvers and two bronze medals.

This year, no county swimmers were eligible to enter the Regional Age Groups in March. No development days were held during the year due to a lack of available pool time and coaches.

The swimmers are looking forward to the upcoming Combo Cup in Sheffield in a few weeks.

Thank you very much to all the volunteer coaches, team managers, poolside helpers, judges, committee members, parents and swimmers for ensuring that artistic swimming can continue in the County.

Appendix I

Executive Officers and Members of the Management Committee for 2025-2026

Somerset ASA President:	Karen Bowen of Team Bath AS
Somerset ASA President-Elect	Lynne Bartlett, of Keynsham SC
Somerset ASA Chair	Michael Coles
Somerset ASA Secretary	Daisy Clarke
Somerset ASA Treasurer	Michael Riggall
Somerset ASA GDPR Officer	Michael Coles
Development Panel	President, Chair, Secretary and Treasurer
Volunteer Coordinator for County Championships,	Isabel Blight
Young Volunteers' Coordinators	Daisy Clarke, Kelly Podbury & Isabel Blight
Disability Liaison	Kay Wilcox

Trophy Controller	Isabel Blight
Swimming & Competition Secretary	Kelly Podbury
Officials Secretaries	Chris Metcalfe and Paul Chillingworth
Water Polo Secretary	Steve Collins
Artistic Swimming Secretaries.....	Amanda Page and Laura Smith
Master's Secretary	Carole Bridges
Open Water Secretary	Vacant
Press & Information Officer	Michael Coles
Welfare Officer	Paul Chillingworth (looking for replacement)
Independent Financial Examiner	Andrew Williamson
Medical Advisor	Dr Charles Hinder
Swimming Team Manager	Kelly Podbury
Water Polo Team Manager	Michael Coles
Water Polo Head Coach	Bradley Poole
Assistant Water Polo Coach	Nicholas Purslow
Emergency Committee Members	Sue Dors & Ben Batley
Swimming Committee	Neil Chambers, Kelly Podbury, Pat Leaman & Isabel Blight
Water Polo Committee	Nick Purslow (WsM), Brad Poole (Frome), Bryan White (Taunton Deane)

Appendix II

Appointments to the Swim England South West Region

SESWR Board of Directors	Michael Coles
SESWR Water Polo Committee.....	Bradley Poole
SESWR Artistic Swimming Committee	Laura Smith
SESWR Swimming Committee	Kelly Podbury
SESWR Officials Committee	Chris Metcalfe
SESWR Para/Disability Committee	Kay Wilcox
SESWR Coaches Committee	Rachel Aldington
Delegate to SE Council (SESWR Appointment)	Michael Coles

SESWR Appointments	
SESWR Water Polo Manager	Michael Coles
SESWR Officials' Coordinator.....	Nicky Vause
SESWR Development Committee	Michael Coles & Fiona Bowen
SESWR Trophy Controller	Sue Dors