

# **Minutes of Friends of Peterborough Lido Annual General Meeting 21 March 2023**

Held at Premier Health and Fitness, Hadfield Road, Hampton, Peterborough, PE7 8DT

## **Present**

- Committee: Clare Marshall (CM) Vice- chair), Karen Brine Membership Secretary (KB)  
Maggie Divers (MD) Treasurer, Sue Godfrey (SG), Monica Ilett (MI),
- Vivacity: Dominic Grey Senior Duty Manager, Sam Hickman Leisure Operations Manager,  
Jemma Rees, Duty manager.
- Members: Wendy Eagle, Jane Austin, Jeanne Butler, Kay Collins, David Godfrey, Trish Halstead,  
Pat Hemsley, David Hopkins, Jean Jeffries, Julie Johnston, Josephine Kirby, Howard  
Marshall, John Peach, Isabel Knipe.
- Minutes : Sue Godfrey

## **1. Welcome and Overview**

A general welcome and overview of the meeting was given by the Vice chair CM. CM explained that she was officially elected in the role of Vice Chair in 2022, and as the chair had not taken an active role for most of the season it was appropriate for the Vice chair to deliver the report for the year. All people present introduced themselves by name and some adding that their relatives had been at the opening of the Lido in 1936. CM spoke of the wonderful year that had been enjoyed at the lido due to the weather and successful operation of the facilities.

## **2 Apologies:**

Janet Martin, Nick Carter, Paul Chapman, Jackie Copping, Caroline Hawkins, Mike Henchy, Georgina Jennings, Marion Newitt, Pete Shorey, Veronica Sykes, Alison Warren. Ian Spence

## **3 Introductions:**

The committee had co-opted two new members in 2022. Karen Brine (KB) co-opted to develop the role of secretary. KB commented that she has been swimming in the Lido for the past five years, she is interested in historic lidos and has swum in lidos all over the country and is currently a trustee of Woodhall Spa lido. Julie Johnston co-opted to offer her expertise in marketing but sadly had to resign from the committee due to personal circumstances, however she had provided some invaluable suggestions during her time on the committee and was thanked for her contribution.

## **4 Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> of March 2022**

Amendments – Steve Luker was General Manager and not Area Manager, under item 9, the appointment for the auditor John Hill was mentioned under item 7 Treasurer’s report and now added

to item 9. The minutes were accepted by all present as an accurate record: proposed by Sue Godfrey and seconded by David Godfrey.

## **5 Matters arising from the minutes of 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2022: None**

## **6 Report from the Vice Chair:** In the absence of the Chair Clare Marshall (CM) explained she would provide an overview of the year. Starting with a Power point slide of the aims and objectives of the Friends.

Last year CM reluctantly agreed to take the position of the Vice chair having unofficially supported the Chair in this role since the founding of the Friends, the expectation being that she would only need to stand in on rare occasions. However, the year had turned out beyond expectations and she found that she had covered for most of the season due to the absence of the chair. The Chair Janet Martin (JM) confirmed that as she had not played an active role in the Friends over the past year, it was appropriate for her (CM) to deliver this report based on an overview of the past year.

### **Preparation and maintenance:**

CM thanked the staff for managing the early opening and those that volunteered with grouting the paving, locker cleaning and weeding, planting the flower tubs and hanging baskets. Peterborough Ltd provided initial plants this year and the summer season plants. The topiary balls to replace the hanging baskets, which proved to be much lighter to move up and down each morning and evening and saved on watering, were provided by FOPL.

A special thanks to Howard Marshall and Paul Chapman for helping CM most mornings to assist the lifeguards to prepare pool for opening, under the management of the duty managers. It has been great to help lido staff and ensure the FOPL have representation on site every morning.

FOPL money was used for new lane boards.

A young man by the name of Ellis Hannah had single handedly gone around to various supermarkets and garden centres etc. and asked for plants for the entrance of the Lido building. He obtained £100 worth of plants from Waitrose and planted up the two beds. After discussing with the committee, it was agreed that he should have an honorary membership for 2023 and CM contacted him personally to inform him of this and he was delighted.

There were a couple of times in the 2022 season when the Lido had to close unexpectedly and FOPL officers were active in helping to notify lido users of this.

### **Pricing and Membership**

One of the first members' issues we were faced with last year was the new pricing structure. A number of complaints were received from members who had vivacity membership and found out it was not included in the pricing structure for the whole season as had been the case previously. CM thanked Peterborough Ltd. for acting so swiftly on this complaint and granting a one-off concession for those who had paid up front. It was really appreciated. And for arranging a summer pass for the summer holiday peak time.

### **Midsummer Magic**

The reason for holding this event was to attract companies and organisations that would not be aware of the lido and showcase the potential for corporate events.

Feedback was received from attendees and members and discussed by the committee on the 18<sup>th</sup> of August. The following conclusions were made:

### **Positives/Pros:**

- £959.43 was raised ( 38 tickets sold)
- This was the first event of this type held at the Lido and demonstrated that it is possible to hold such events
- The event showcased local theatre and youth groups both MASK and YTA establishing useful and productive links for future events and joint funding opportunities.
- The feedback from those who attended was good particularly regarding the entertainment.
- Publicity after the event from Peterborough Matters through social media was good.

### **Negatives/cons**

- The application for funding was very late going in and was not successful and there was no time left to resubmit.
- Unacceptable levels of financial risk. The paid bar withdrew due to low ticket sales, cost incurred before revenue was achieved.
- Lack of volunteers from the FOPL membership for help both prior and during the event, took a huge toll on a small team.
- Feedback from members was that communication was poor and they felt excluded.
- Some members felt it was prohibitively expensive and an event should be focused more on families.
- Publicity was poor which impacted on ticket sales.
- Project management decisions were made without reference to FOPL committee.

### **Learning and going forward**

- A project approach is required to help spread the load.
- Funding in place prior to event.
- Although there is a place for these events, focus should be on community fund raising events.

### **Acknowledgment and thanks**

- Thanks go to the Rotary for their help on the committee and the loan of the gazebos on the night, for the Fortissimo Swing band, YTA and Mask theatre for the fabulous entertainment. John Peach for his donation of champagne and loan of the chairs, for David Godfrey using his trailer to collect and return the chairs. To Kitrin Eastman for stepping up to compere for the night. Fiona Symes and her team for going the extra mile, for providing and serving the canopies. Sue and David Godfrey acting as chaperones on the night for the Vice Lord Lieutenant and his wife. And to SH and JR for providing lifeguards and the venue.  
Pictures from Midsummer Magic shown.

### **Re- establishing committee meetings.**

- Midsummer Magic took up quite a bit of time, and it wasn't until July that the Vice chair was officially asked to cover for the chair and a meeting was called on the 16<sup>th</sup> August 2022. The chair gave her apologies and there was full attendance, including the ex officio officers.

- Two new members were co-opted, Karen Brine to develop the role of secretary, and Julie Johnson to develop the marketing aspect and a future fund-raising event.
- A further two meetings were held on 1<sup>st</sup> of November and 18<sup>th</sup> of January 2023 with an additional meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> of February to prepare for the AGM in March. Having regular meetings and setting tasks has proved successful. Monica Ilett (M I) handles the website and does an excellent job, but she would like to retire from this role and the committee are still looking for someone to take over this role. Any suggestions would be welcome.
- At the second meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> of November feedback and suggestions on café service were shared with Fiona Syme the catering manager when she was invited to attend. CM thanked all café staff for their hard work and cheerfulness throughout the season. Sue Godfrey() collated the feedback from the committee and presented a summary to Fiona Syme.

### **Representing the FOPL Lido, networking**

- KB, CM and JR attended the Historic Pools Spring Summer event at Droitwich Spa Lido in Worcestershire on Wed 25<sup>th</sup> May, a great way to see how other pools operate and network.
- KB and CM attended the Historic Pools Autumn event at Aston University.

### **Post Season Swim**

- 28 people attended the post season swim, the day started sunny but then rained, the staff at the café were thanked for keeping it open on that day. Apologies were made for those members who had not previously received emails notifying them of these events,

### **Dog Swim**

- Another successful event the only complaint received was that there are not enough sessions CM attended and helped with putting out dog bowls and taking photographs.

### **Summary and Thanks**

- It has been a difficult year for the Vice Chair covering for the Chair without a proper handover , committee meetings have been well attended, everyone has come together and established a good approach. CM then personally thanked the following people:

**Karen Brine:** for her work with membership administration and addressing changes needed in the constitution.

**Maggie Divers:** for her hard work in dealing with the accounts

**Sue Godfrey:** for her hard work and support with Midsummer Magic and since

**Monica Ilett:** for all the work she continues to do with the website and social media

**Nick Carter:** for contributions at meetings and his ideas in particular investigating a possible book exchange

**Paul Chapman:** For all his work throughout the summer and contributing valuable ideas at the committee meetings.

**Darren Kelly :** for attendance at committee meetings and contributing ideas.

**Julie Johnson :** for her extensive contribution of marketing ideas before unforeseen circumstances meant she could no longer commit.

**CM** took the opportunity then to acknowledge the contribution made by Janet Martin who had held the role of Chair since the beginning of the FOPL.

CM wished the members a great season ahead and asked for volunteers for the week prior to the opening, to help with any maintenance. Contact to be made with Sam and Jemma. Any volunteers to help steward or other duties on the night of the Mask performances ( date to be confirmed) should contact CM. Help and support with IT and social media contact MI as mentioned before.

## **7 Treasurers report for Year ended 31 December 2022**

Given by Maggie Divers (MD)

:

Bank balance at 31 December 2022 £ **2415.72**

- There was £570 received in subscriptions for this year
- A profit of £959.43 was made from Midsummer Magic
- It was agreed that the cost of printing signage and work required to enable the hoist to be moved would be looked at and this could be paid for out of FoPL fund.
- The accounts were examined by John Hill.
- Due to retirement he has decided not to continue.

## **8 Update on status of Community Awards lottery funding and joint working**

- KB talked about the National lottery community bid application. A joint project between Peterborough Ltd and FoPL, two bids have been submitted: Both initially rejected but in the process of re-submission.
- **1** by Peterborough Ltd for an evening event and
- **2 by** FoPL for a family fun day, both to be held on the 17<sup>th</sup> June 2023
- The theme of the event is to celebrate King Charles coronation with the history of the Lido which opened in 1936 the last time a king was crowned.

## **9 Constitutional Matters**

- KB announced a revision of the constitution introducing a term as to how long committee members stay in post. It is common practice to have a limit as a trustee in a charity would have. There was a vote at the last committee meeting to change the maximum time a post is held from three years to five years. Jane Austin suggested that this should be effective from this year 2023. It was unanimously agreed that this would start from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023. It was agreed that membership would start from 1<sup>st</sup> of April every year. As the start of the season is subject to change this date was felt to be a suitable date for every year.
- CM read out, as requested a statement of resignation from JM which had been received on the 20<sup>th</sup> of March. In recognition of her contribution a round of applause was made.
- KB thanked CM for chairing the meeting.

## **10 Election of officers: for 2023/24 season.**

A schedule of members nominated for officer posts, duly proposed and seconded in accordance with the friends constitution was presented. And all nominees for the officers were unanimously elected by all those present.

The election of David Godfrey as Chair was presided over by Clare Marshall.

The election of Clare Marshall as Vice Chair was presided over by David Godfrey.

## **11 Response from Chair elected for 2023/24 season**

David Godfrey thanked all those present and hoped that the season would be successful and that he looked forward to working with the committee. He expressed thanks to Clare Marshall for holding the fort for the past year and all her contributions to keep things going. He stated it was evident how much she loves the lido.

## **12 Elections of Committee members for 2023/24**

A schedule of members nominated for committee posts was duly proposed and seconded in accordance with the friends constitution. All nominees for the committee were unanimously elected by all those present.

Kay Collins\* volunteered to join the committee. And it was proposed that she be co-opted to fill one of the vacancies, she was proposed by Wendy Eagle and seconded by Jeanne Butler. And unanimous agreement by all present.

## **13 Appointment of Auditor for the current year**

- As John Hill has retired a new auditor needs to be appointed. It was agreed unanimously that the committee would revisit this at the meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2023, with a view to appointing an auditor as soon as possible.

## **The season ahead**

**14** Ian Spence was unable to attend due to unforeseen circumstances and so **Sam Hickman** stepped up to speak on his behalf. She spoke of the planned family fun day gala. The theme to be the recent coronation and the fact that the Lido was built in the year 1936 of the three kings. A bid has been submitted for the second time the first one being rejected. Members will be notified of the event and this will only run if the bid is successful. A bid also for an evening event has been re- submitted and members again will be notified if successful.

The last year we have been working better together.

SH announced that the Lido will be opening on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 this year they are busy working at the Lido to be ready for the day and need help in the next two weeks, contact Jemma (JR) who will take emails and phone numbers, help is needed for painting, and general cleaning. The paths have been sprayed so they shouldn't be too untidy.

A pre-season swim has been arranged for the friends and this will be on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March between 11am and 2pm. The temperature of the water is currently 22 degrees. SH explained that this year they had decided to keep the pool filled and the water clean adding chemicals throughout the year. This has made the opening up a lot easier. A question was asked about the car parking arrangements as the regional pool car park is closed permanently for the building of the second phase of the university. SH said little notice

had been given to Vivacity staff at the time and the meeting was informed that Bishop Rd, Car Haven and The Key car parks can be used for Vivacity members who will need to collect a pass from reception.

Prices: these will differ depending on what type of vivacity membership they have, and there will be a summer pass of £80 , this will be on offer for £60 for people who are Vivacity and/or FoPL members.

**15** The meeting ended with thanks to the staff and management who are ready for the new season. There was a special thanks from Julie Johnson to The Vice Chair CM for the support she received from CM over what has been a very difficult year for her personally.