

Ipswich Octopush Club AGM May 2022

7PM Lord Nelson, Snug Room

Tuesday 10th May 2022

Those Present:

Nathan Peall (Chairman); Ken Gould (Secretary); Ken Kirby (Treasurer)

John Wankovski; Charlie Simms; Katharine Salter; Martin Golding; Clare Williamson

(8 members present)

Apologies - Willem Hendricks; Fritz Watson; Robin Merritt; Tim Bence; Tom Spurling; Ali Sutor; Alan Beaumont; Paul Cakebread; Jim Spurling; Liz Mathews; Katherine Salter

Meeting Started at 19.05

1. Chairman's Report – Nathan Peall

Nathan welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave a big thank you to Charlie Simms for running the Junior sessions.

Covid-19 had hit us again, so we've didn't have an AGM last year. We are now back to the 'new normal' with all 3 weekly sessions back up & running at their usual locations & times.

The BOA (British Octopush Association, UK governing body) have attempted to run some veterans tournaments, but they haven't managed to get off the ground due to lack of numbers – people are still getting used to going out & about again.

Once of our junior members (Henry) did go to the national junior's competition. He then followed this up by attending a GB squad training session which actually put him off playing which is unfortunate. We need to see if we can understand why this was & try & get him back playing at club level again.

2. Treasurer's Report – Accounts & discussion of fees for next year - Ken Kirby

We are really covering two disturbed years of accounts. For 2020 to 2021, hardly any Octopush was played and hardly any pool fees were paid so we ended that year about £400 in surplus.

This year, it has been a very difficult year for our finances. We had to refund several members who had continued to pay while fees were suspended; we paid 6 months BOA fees in May this year plus the full year in October.

We played from May to December 2020 and again restarted on 17th May 2021. Club fees were restarted from June 2021.

Currently we have about 19 members paying regularly. We have lost 3 members that have not re-joined post Covid. Several members are paying the concessionary fee as they do not come to all sessions and only 10 members are paying the full £45 per month.

In the 2019 AGM there was an action point for the committee to set a Family membership fee for an adult and one child.

The Parent & Child membership fees were set at £60 for male adult & child; £50 for female adult & child. This has been running for the last 2 years with a few people taking advantage of it.

ACTION – KenG to update the club membership form to accommodate Parent & Child membership options

Juniors – We have been paying for one extra hour on a Sunday morning for the Youth Development – this is about 50 sessions at £47.50 each which comes to **£2,395 for the year**. The club only received £98 from juniors + £390 from Parent & Child memberships so we are not anywhere near breaking even for the junior section of the club (**£482 in total**).

Pool hire – Our pool hire costs were high at just over £10,000 for the year & we took in just under £3k this year. There is a bit of an overlap with last year.

As a result the club's balance for this year is a **LOSS of £3,069.64**

We currently have £7,381.93 in the bank

Monthly fees collected average at £620 (£1,860/quarter)

We need about £2,000 every quarter to pay for the pool fees at the current rate

We have a little bit of surplus in the bank so we can continue to subsidise the juniors section if agreed.

Monthly fees – The treasurer can't see a reason for putting them up just yet as the club has a surplus, but we do need to review for next year. The club needs to focus on getting more juniors back playing

ACTION – KenK & KenG to contact Jim Darby as he hasn't restarted his standing order since we returned from lockdown.

ACTION - KenK needs to check that IBC have only billed us at the Fore Street rate for when we weren't allowed to use Fore St as we came out of lockdown. This could make a big difference to the pool fees as IBC said that we could use Crown Pools at the Fore St rate whilst we were able to play during Covid-19. (£81.90 an hour Crown Pools/ Fore Street £47.90)

ACTION - KenK & KenG to have a look using the Covid-19 attendance register to work out what sessions we had at Crown pools instead of Fore St & then do a rough calculation on what is expected.

ACTION - KenG & Charlie to confirm junior members attending the junior sessions & who are members of the BOA and IOC.

Voting on Club Fees:

Martin proposed that we keep the monthly pool fees as they are; JohnW seconded. ;Vote (after discussion about the junior sessions) - **carried unanimously**

3. Junior Sessions - Charlie Simms

Charlie expressed disappointed with how the juniors have progressed in terms of numbers following Covid-19. It's been very up & down. We had 4 or 5 juniors coming immediately after lockdown, but have now reduced back down to a core of 3 juniors who are progressing well.

Since Covid Charlie had linked up with Ernie who runs the snorkelling club just before the sub aqua sessions on the Thursday evening. Unfortunately, it's the same group that's been going for each of the courses that he runs, he doesn't appear to get new members either. Charlie did an Octopush session with them, but unfortunately that didn't come to anything. Charlie has recently been in discussions with Jenny Watts, IBC - promotion of sport for Ipswich youth. From which they have a number of channels to promote sport so something might come from this in the coming months.

We had a come & try it session in 2019 - 20 junior turned up for the hour. We then had a couple that continued for a while, but unfortunately didn't stay long term.

It was agreed that within the club we have to make use social media to promote the club, something that we aren't very good at.

Before covid we were getting about 2 new enquiries per month

JohnW – Suggested that perhaps we need to go around the schools again to promote the club. It's been a while since we've tried this route so the people involved may well have changed.

Katherine – Suggested that we contact Team Ipswich (Swimming) and try to grab those that are 'side lined' from the elite swimming squads.

Voting on Adult fees to continue to be used to support the juniors:

KenK proposed that the senior money should continue be used to support the juniors as the life blood of the sport; seconded by Clare - **carried unanimously**

4. Election of Officers:

No one else wished to stand & all three current officers were prepared to continue in their existing roles.

Martin proposed for current committee to remain in charge; seconded by everybody! - **carried unanimously**

- Chairman - Nathan Peall
- Treasurer - Ken Kirby
- Secretary - Ken Gould
- Charlie - Juniors

Clare was also re-elected as Ladies officer

5. AOB

1. Associate Membership of the BT Sports & Social Club (Proposed by Alan Beaumont). Shouldn't cost us anything, all we need to do is set up a basic web page on their site so that people can see what we do & hopefully attract more members

This was passed as long as it doesn't cost anything for members/club. Committee/AlanB to look into this

2. **Katherine** said that she would look to promote the club within the Civil Service Sports & social club
3. **JohnW** said that he would look to promote the club within the Scouts/cubs as he has contacts here

Meeting ended at 19.46