

ZIMBABWE AQUATIC UNION WATERPOLO BOARD OF CONTROL

MINUTES OF THE AGM OF THE WATERPOLO BOARD OF CONTROL COMMITTEE, HELD AT ST. JOHNS SCHOOL, ON FRIDAY 18th SEPTEMBER 2009 AT 5:30PM

PRESENT : R Musgrave (CHAIRMAN)
R. Hammond (VICE-CHAIRMAN)
T. Jardine (SECRETARY)
C. Kesson (TREASURER)
R. Beare
W. Smith
B. Annandale
M. Craft
B. Snook
M. Snook
J. Robinson

APOLOGIES : G. Sainsbury, J. Makola

1. **Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising Thereof**

The Secretary read the notice convening the AGM. The Committee agreed that the Minutes of the previous AGM were confirmed as a true and correct record of those meetings.

2. **Chairman's Report**

Rob & I have been actively involved in running polo for a long while now but in the last year or two things have been changing. We have joined ZAU in order to participate in the SA Championships and this has brought on a lot more formality and girl's waterpolo has finally taken off. Both these happenings have brought a few voices of discontent in the current structure and way things are run with things going a little wayward in some areas. This is natural and quite acceptable if put across in a practical and helpful manner, as most have. Rob and I have discussed things in length and are very happy to step aside and make way for new blood and new ideas as some have suggested – there will be no ill feelings from our part at all, however, we will say this before anything happens. Things have worked well for us for many years because during difficult times, of which schools sports have many due to the pressures that over excited parents bring, we have always been seen as impartial – Rob from one side of the country and me from the other, ying and yang balancing everything out – we have got no kids involved and as such our decisions, right or wrong, cannot be seen to favour one kid or team and only the sport as a whole. We are friends who speak frankly and honestly to each other and everything is out in the open with us – no hidden agendas can be perceived by others in our decisions. We love the sport and that is our only driving force.

It has been suggested that with ZAU being involved, and in the best interests of polo, a new committee be formed to run it. As I mentioned Rob and I are only too happy to step aside and let this happen if the body as a whole deems it best, hoping that everyone will have listened to our advice that we have just mentioned. We are "doing" people and respectively will not accept any admin jobs within the new committee, we will stay involved, preferring to happily coach and ref the sport.

In order to keep the sport growing and running as well as it has in the past a few changes do need to be concentrated on and these I will bring up in the meeting as it goes along.

3. **Finance**

The Treasurer read out his report.

The only point to make from the report was that the Swimming Board of Control were forced to pay all FINA and CANA affiliation fee's in Rome earlier this year in order to participate. They are now asking Waterpolo to settle its half which amounts to US\$195.

We need to decide how to pay this and other fee's going into the future.

Our thoughts are that the only sector of waterpolo that is currently active, and indeed the cause of us having to affiliate to ZAU, is the schools for their one tour. So for the time being this burden should be borne by them.

Suggestions from the floor were that the Schools should be approached to contribute some funds annually to the Board of Control to be used for developing and running the Schools interests in the sport – i.e. tournament balls, clock maintenance, etc. The Board has tasked the Schools Representative on the Board of Control to approach the Schools and give the Board some feedback regarding the feelings on this issue and amounts that would be considered reasonable.

G. Sainsbury would be asked to approach R. Holmes to have tour funds made available for use.

4. Members Report

There was nothing to report on.

5. Notices of Motion

There were no notices of motion.

6. Selection Criteria

With the pool of people that are able to understand the game and the intricacies that make up the selection of a national side we are severely limited with what we can do. We have had minor unpleasant instances where a selector's or coaches actions have been questioned because they are also aligned to another team or person and as a body we need to have our actions seen as 100% transparent in order to protect these people as much as possible. To effectively select a side the selectors should be 100% impartial, having no ties to the players or teams that they may be called on to select. We have tried various methods of selecting and almost all have been flawed in some way or other. This year is no exception with most coaches of Zim teams possibly being called on to select a player from their own schools team or even a relative. No matter how this is done, fairly or not, it has the potential of causing a major problem or even worse "tongues wagging". It is not the fault or, I hope, the intention of any of these people but it is the fault of the system which is hampered by the above limitations.

Every year, in advance of the next year, it will be important for us to see who is available to coach our Zim teams and pick an impartial body of selectors to do the job. This body should be as big as possible in order to take the pressure off having to attend every tournament ever played over that year – though obviously most should be attended, i.e. this is only an example but, if Rob Hammond had been the Zim Boys U19 coach, Brendon the U17 and Craig the U14 then the people available to be selectors for these teams would be anyone that does not coach a boys side – Arthur, Robbie Beare, Warwick and myself. This should be done in individual consultation with the coach involved but not going on his word, it should also be an ongoing exercise with discussions at the end of every tournament. The results would most likely be announced at the Crusaders/ Players – obviously barring the U15 side. The first meeting regarding the voting on the Zim coaches nominations will be held at the first national tournament played in the first term of every year, the process will then follow on from there.

7. Development

We have been seen huge development in the sport this year with the FINA sponsored coaching course held in Bulawayo, many thanks to ZAU, and then the hugely successful, informal, girls training tour to Jo'burg organised by Robbie Beare and Warwick. I have personally seen the fruits borne by this last tour and I think a special thank you needs to be made to both these guys.

A worrying area of waterpolo that needs development, apart from the obvious player skills set, is the lack of coaches. This single fact is hampering any further meaningful growth in our sport. We need to identify potential coaches and current coaches who want to take their skills to another level and develop them. We are hoping that, in conjunction with ZAU again, FINA will conduct another course next year in this regard.

We approached Guy Pinker who is, I think, SA's only FINA accredited referee who is approachable about coming here and conducting a clinic and grading us. We have no doubt that our top referee's are just as good if not better than SA's top referee's but it is always good to make sure that we are on the right path and blowing in line with SA and the rest of world for the sake of the players. Warwick has picked this up and is currently talking to him. We are hoping that he will come up for the Crusaders/ Players but we will need to fly him here and accommodate him. A suggestion came from the parents' body that we use the left over funds from last year to do this. This was agreed on and will be dependent on the outcome of discussions between Mr. Sainsbury and Holmes.

5. Election Of Executive Committee

Chairman: R Musgrave
Vice-Chairman: R. Hammond
Secretary: To be announced at EGM
Treasurer: To be announced at EGM
Convener/ Schools Representative: B. Annandale

6. Any Other Business

No other business.

There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman closed the meeting at 6:00pm.



R Musgrave
CHAIRMAN