

Pickering Masters' Swim Club

Meeting Notes –General Meeting

October 12, 2022 at 7:00 PM at Lone Star on Kingston Road

Attendance

Members

Greg Bordash	Naomi Eisenberg
Gerhard Wolfel	David Sills
Ursula Wolfel	Liz Watson
Andy Manahan	Barry Watson
Daniel Cortes	Greg Payne
Marcia Myres	

Executive Members / Coaches

David McMullan – Treasurer/Acting President	Laureen Karry - Communications
Janet McMullan – Acting Secretary	Rene St Aubin - Coach

Notes

Welcome & Introduction	<p>Everyone was welcomed to the meeting. A big “Thank you” was sent to all the membership for their support during the past two years of COVID.</p> <p>The current Executive were introduced.</p>
Club Overview	<p><i>About the Club</i></p> <p>Dave provided a brief overview of the Pickering Master’s Swim Club (Pickering MSC). The Club was previously known as the Pickering Master’s Splashers, and a name change to Pickering MSC took place in 2019.</p> <p>The Club was established in the late 1970’s, having a long history in the Pickering, Ajax, Whitby, and East Scarborough areas. It is a not-for-profit Club supported by volunteer administration and paid coaching staff.</p> <p>Membership fees have been the only source of income and the Executive have worked hard to keep these as low as possible. For example, in 2011-2012 fees were \$540 annually and in 2022-23 are \$625 for full memberships. A key component to the budget is the membership numbers. The membership goal is 50 members. Current membership is 40 members.</p> <p>The Club has operated at Dunbarton HS Pool for the most part, with brief periods at the Pickering Recreation Centre pool. In 2016-17, the Club began with practices at the Toronto Pan AM Sports Centre (TPASC).</p>

Relevant Swim Organizations

The Club is a member of Master Swimming Ontario (MSO), which has 82 masters swim clubs as members. MSO provides Club insurance as a very reasonable cost at \$15 per members. This is the reason that each member signs up for MSO and signs applicable waivers at the start of the membership sign-up process. Being a member of MSO provides access to a few swim meets. However, does not include other meets ie. Provincials and nationals.

The other swim organization is Swim Ontario (SO) and is the provincial organization linked with Swim Canada. SO has 8 masters swim clubs as members, and largely links with combined age group and masters swim clubs. The membership is significantly more expensive per member. However does provide access to more swim meets, including provincials and nationals. These organizations have a broader mandate beyond masters swimming. Members may join SO independently in order to attend these meets.

Another relevant organization is United States Master's Swimming (USMS). It has a large membership and is open to Canadian's joining. Again, members may join this group independently and be able to join a large range of swim meets including provincial and national events.

Club Accomplishments

- Despite significant hurdles, the Club was able to maintain a program through the pandemic. Thanks for the support from the membership.
- The Club has a long history of successfully hosting annual swim meets and this with membership support may be an opportunity in the future..
- Regular participation in swim meets over the years – locally, provincially, nationally and internationally.
- Moved to a Website to manage Club business, membership sign-up, communiton.

Using the Website <https://pickeringmsc.ca/>

- What's New – an important page that brings the most recent newsletter and other messages
- Calendar – regularly maintained and kept up to date with information about swim days, cancellations. The calendar in the members section contains workouts that enable you to track what you completed.
- Coaches Corner – includes articles and any updates from your coaches
- Social Media – There is a Group FaceBook page and instagram. We encourage you to get connected.

Social Activities

Social Events can be an important part of any master's swimming club. There are a number of activities available and we would invite you to come out:

- Thursday Pub nights usually occur Thursday evenings. From Dunbarton, we usually go to the 'Fox Goes Free' on Kingston Rd. From TPSAC, there

	<p>is a pub 'Zacks' across the road on Morningside. These are very informal get togethers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saturday Morning Breakfast. Again very informal at 'Kathryn's Diner' in the plaza at Kingston Rd and Rougement on the north-east corner. • There are two seasonal events, the Holiday Season Party and the End-of-Season Party. Watch for information in the Newsletter. • There are also a number of ad-hoc social outings e.g. Regent Theatre in Oshawa, iFly, other. Again watch for information in the Newsletter as the Club gets going again post COVID. <p>ACTIONS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A list has been circulated asking members to step forward to help with Social Events. Several members have put their names forward and others are welcome to connect to express their interest. 2. A sign-up list for people interested in participating in swim meets was circulated. Members are welcome to put forward their names. A process for swim meet participation will need to be planned for through the Executive.
<p>Renewal of the Pickering MSC Executive</p>	<p>Laureen brought forward the discussion that the Club post COVID is in a state of renewal. A small group of Executive members have pulled together the swim season for 2022-2023. Practices seem to be moving along well, coaches are actively motivating member participation, and membership numbers have increased.</p> <p>At the same time, there is a strong need to re-build the Executive. The present Executive structure is not sustainable and there is certainly risk to the continuance of the Club if there are not new leadership members to step forward.</p> <p>Position descriptions for an Executive leadership structure were shared with the membership. The positions are based on descriptions from MSO. Some positions are mandatory for membership with MSO including President, Vice-President, Secretary/Treasurer, and Registrar. Director position 'would-be-nice' to better distribute the Executive Responsibilities.</p> <p>At this time, we are looking for interested members who would be interested in helping out with the Executive going forward. It expected that this group of interested members would come together to plan for a renewed Executive. It is suggested that the new Executive would be brought forward for membership approval in February/March 2023.</p> <p>ACTIONS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. A list was circulated asking members to sign up as those interested in helping out with the Executive. Members are welcome to forward there names. 4. A meeting will be set up on the next 4-6 weeks to bring together the group of members that have expressed their interest in helping out with the Executive.

<p>Dialogue with Members – Have your say?</p>	<p>Members were asked for their input into the future of the Club. Feedback was enthusiastic and variable:</p> <p><i>What are your interests for the Club?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A few people identified interest in additional swim practices during the day. There would need to be appropriate numbers for the practices to be supported. There would be additional costs for pool time and coaching. • Some interest in longer swims practices of an 1 ½ hours. Again there would have to be enough capacity as there would be additional costs for pool time. • Members expressed that they very much enjoyed the long course swim that occurred the first Thursday of the month at the TPASC. • Numbers of swimmer’s for the Tuesday TPASC practice have been low with only 6-8 swimmers attending in September/October. More members need to sign up for these secessions to be supported on an ongoing basis. There is a need for at least 15 members to support each practice. Members identified that the TPASC is a great venue. Participation will continue to be monitored. • Members supported the focus of the Club to improve swimming skills, have fun, and provide value to the members. • Members are enjoying the coaching. There is support to effectively use a variety of equipment – boards, pull-boys, flippers – to improve swimming. There is interest in coach use of video to help with stroke improvement. <p><i>What should the Club do to enhance membership?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for refresh of the website. Areas of focus – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Clear messaging about what the Club is about. ○ Pictures need to reflect the membership of the Club, people having a good time, people doing workouts together to motivate each other. ○ Display a sample workout, including various levels. • Need to make full use of Social Media – FaceBook and Instagram • Newsletter is helpful to keep information flowing • Need for some signage about the Club at the Recreation Centre, Local pools, other. There is a need to refresh the Club brochure.
<p>Next meeting</p>	<p>Thank you to the membership for coming out and providing their input.</p> <p>Next meeting to be determined.</p>