

St. Vincent and the Grenadines Swimming Federation

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - MINUTES

The Annual General Meeting of the St Vincent and the Grenadines Swimming Federation (SVGSF) was held on Saturday, **January 13th, 2024 commencing at 2pm via ZOOM conference facility.**

The President welcomed all to the AGM.

1. Declaration of quorum

The Treasurer advised that a quorum was present (over 50% of the financial membership of the SVGSF was in attendance at the meeting). In attendance at the meeting were the following members:

- Stephen Joachim
- Garcia Cato
- Liz Cordice
- Andre Cadogan
- Kentish James
- Louise Mitchell
- Kim Halbich
- Vanessa Hadley
- Bettie Adams
- Simone France

2. Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting

- a. The Minutes of the meeting held on January 7th, 2023 had been previously circulated to the members. A motion to take the minutes as having been read was taken and passed.
- b. There were no Corrections or amendments
- c. The minutes were approved unanimously

3. Matters arising from the Minutes

- a. There were no matters arising that were not for further consideration on this AGM's Agenda

4. President Report

- a. The Presidents report was previously circulated and the President presented some highlights. The report is appended to and forms part of these minutes.

5. Financial Report of the Treasurer and approval

- a. The Financial Statements for the year ended November 30th, 2023 were previously circulated. The Treasurer was in attendance at this AGM. The Treasurer reviewed the financial statements and answered queries.
- b. The Financial Statements were approved unanimously.

6. Presentation and approval of the Budget.

- a. The budget document had been previously circulated.
- b. The Treasurer and the President presented highlights and answered any queries.
- c. The Budget for 2024 was approved unanimously.

7. Proposals for changes and amendments to the Constitution and General Rules.

There were no proposals for changes to the Constitution or General Rules

8. Election of the Executive Council, if their term of office has expired.

- a. No terms expired and hence no elections

9. Any other business for which notice has been given.

The President thanked the meeting for their confidence in the members of the executive and looked forward to continuing to work productively with the executive, coaches and parents.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

SVGSF - Presidents Report – AGM 2024

2023 Overview:

- The pool renovation was completed at the end of 2022. The major project in 2023 was the installation of a solar system designed to reduce our electricity bills and reduce our carbon footprint. Thanks to donors who assisted.
- Special thanks to Simone France for arranging special sessions for parents, coaches and swimmers. Sessions were held on Nutrition and Mental Health
- Our swimmers did well at Carifta and for the 9th consecutive competition we won medals.
- We were able to host our annual Gallagher Invitational in February and our National Championships in August. We also held a number of time trial events.
- The SVGSF recognizes the continued importance of exposing athletes to competitions and training and provided some assistance.
- We hosted a World Aquatics (formerly FINA) level 2 course for coaches with help from the SVGOC and Olympic Solidarity.
- We continued training of officials (again, thanks to Simone).
- The SVGSF held a meeting with competitive swim parents after we returned from the OECS Champs. This meeting was to review results and look to the future. The meeting was well attended and there was useful feedback and interaction.
- We continue to focus on the training and development of coaches and officials.
- We recognize the need to prepare others to be prepared to operate the SVGSF in the future. Part of this is setting up various committees to give more people a greater understanding of the work of the SVGSF. We setup the following committees:
 - Facilities Committee – Chaired by Rohan Deshong and Marlon Mayers. Responsible for the physical pools and equipment
 - Local Competitions Committee – Chaired by Simone France. Responsible for organizing and setting up local competitions and time trials
 - OECS Committee – chaired by Brian George. Responsible for all aspects (except team selection) of attending and competing at the OECS swim championships

Competitions and Events

- The SVGSF hosted the SAC Gallagher Invitational in February 2023 at the Shrewsbury Aquatic Centre (SAC).
- Barbados National LC Swimming Championships – March 2023. Our swimmers performed well as part of their Carifta Games preparation.
- Carifta Swimming Champs, Curacao – April 2023 – as mentioned above we had another successful Carifta Championships.

- RHAC in St Lucia was held in April 2023 – Blue Marlins swim club competed and did well. Black Sands sent a small team who performed credibly.
- ALBA Games in Caracas, Venezuela. SVG represented by Tia, Zariel, Bryson, Nikolas and Kenale
- BASA Aquatic Centre Invitational – May 2023 – Both Blue Marlins and Black Sands swim clubs competed and did well.
- CAC Games in El Salvador. We were represented by Kenale Alleyne.
- CCCAN Swimming Champs were held in El Salvador in July and we were represented by Alex Joachim. Alex broke five SVG national records, qualified for 5 finals and obtained 3 Pan Am Games “B” times.
- We attended the Commonwealth Youth Games in Trinidad in August 2023 and we were represented by Kevern DaSilva, Jamie Joachim and Brandon George.
- World Aquatics (AQUA) World Champs in Japan were held in July. We were represented by Kennice Greene, Mya Defrietas, Shane Cadogan and Alex Joachim.
- SVG Gallagher National Swimming Championships, SVG – August 2023 – This event was a success with good time improvements and new records set by our competitive swimmers.
- Pan Am Games were held in Santiago, Chile in October 2023. SVG were represented by Nikolas Sylvester and Kennice Greene.
- OECS in St Lucia was very successful for Team SVG. We placed third overall in the team element (with 26 swimmers compared to 34 swimmers for those placing above us). Our individual swimmers were very successful. Twenty-two of our twenty-four swimmers won medals and three swimmers broke OECS records and won their respective age groups.

Swim Camps

Black Sands Swim Squad hosted their annual swim Summer Camp for 4 weeks in July/August

Some swimmers also went to swim camp in Florida

Coaches

We continue to recognize the importance of investing in our coaches and in supporting their development.

Simone coordinated a FINA level 2 course.

Future:

The future looks like a very mixed bag. We have a few young competitive swimmers who are doing well. We have faced a significant drop in younger swimmers brought on by the Covid situation but we are beginning to see an uptick and we hope to see better performances from the younger group next year.

We will continue to invest in our best young swimmers and once funding is available, we will continue the same program that has demonstrated success in the past. We will continue to assist our best swimmers to attend swim camps and to attend regional competitions. We will continue to assist in the development of our coaches and officials.

2024 – Major events:

- SAC Invitational in February 2024
- Carifta in Bahamas in April
- CCCAN in June in Mexico
- Olympics in Paris in July
- FINA World Swimming Champs (25M) in December in Singapore
- SVG Gallagher National Swimming Championships – August
- OECS Swimming Championships – November – SVG

Challenges:

- Continued investment and development in pool facilities and equipment (pumps, filtration systems etc). May need to look at replacing timing system.
- Continued training and exposure for coaches and officials.
- Continued development of younger swimmers and keeping older swimmers in the competitive program.
- Continued funding for development of athletes.

SUMMARY:

Thanks to the current Executive Committee for your work and dedication during the year. Special thanks to Louise for her dedication to open water and grassroots/community swimming. Thanks also to Kentish who does a terrific job as Treasurer. Simone and Andre continue to do excellent work on the Technical Committee.

Special thanks to some parents who continue to take the hard work of carrying the sport including Brian, Kenyatta and Simone who are terrific in helping run the meets and Stacey and Janelle who take care of food and beverage. Thanks to all parents who step up and volunteer at all meets. We need to continue with parental involvement.

Thanks.