

Mixed Pond Association – Annual General Meeting

Date: Thursday 24th October 2019; 6pm start

Attendees

Co-chairs:	Mike Sands	MS
	Kasia Sikora	KS
Committee members:	Charles Marks	CM
	Janette Rutterford	JRut
	Margaret Dickinson	MD
	Felicity Moir	FM
	Jackie Risman	JRis
MPA Members:	Rodney Adams	RA
	Ashley Hines	AH
	Victoria Brittain	VB
	Tony Biebuyck	TB
	Spencer Hyman	SH
	Gail Hyman	GH
	Hasit Raja	HJ

1. Minutes of previous AGM (11th October 2018) and Committee meeting (2nd May 2019)

Agreed.

2. Co-Chairs' Report (MS & KS)

A positive overview in light of the increasing popularity of open water/wild swimming concludes a varied 2018/19 season, with the usual surge in bathers, challenging lifeguard teams to the limit. Membership to the MPA continues to increase helped by 2 successful Tea Party events, a joint Associations midsummer evening barbecue, and the first MPA team entry to the Heath Duathlon. The prospect of more volunteers and attendees to the Summer Party 2020 is anticipated, with approval already received for an increase to 150 guests.

3. Hampstead Heath Swimming Forum (October 2019) (MS)

MS confirmed MPA issues were being given more attention. MPA Forum members continued to press for limited investment, particularly in the improvement of utilities, such as electricity supply for an aerator, provision of a drinking water fountain, and to facilitate disabled access. The City of London (CofL) representatives made the point that our argument would be strengthened if we could find opportunities for fundraising and then make a contribution towards the costs for any proposals which the CofL could support by scoping their feasibility and evaluation.

Ponds Attendance April 2018 - March 2019 – Receipts have increased and arrangements are in place to improve the ease of payment to swim, across all facilities. Attendance has increased at all Ponds:

Men's Pond	274,000	+35%
Mixed	184,000	+17%
Ladies'	195,500	+18%
Total	680,000	
Combined compliance rate		7% (i.e. paid £2.00 entrance fee or similar donation)

The CofL requested that the MPA encourages Season ticket purchase. MS suggested adding prices to the newsletter and website:

Ponds only	12 months £125,	6 months £66
Concession	12 months £66,	6 months £33

All facilities 12 months £222, 6 months £133

(Action – CM & MD)

Greening & Ecology – MPA to seek an opportunity for MPA members to join the Heath's 'Helping Hands' programme in order to get expert guidance on proposals for improvements and maintenance of the Mixed Pond and its surrounding area.

(Action – MPA membership)

Improvement Proposals – MS suggested the focus areas for proposed development and fundraising efforts might include:

- Better spatial use of the oversized and under utilised Ladies' & Men's changing areas
- Unisex changing area
- Showers
- Improvement of toilets

CM asked which way round this needs to happen? Proposal then Fundraising event? Or vice versa?
JRut suggested that we need to present a questionnaire to the MPA membership.

(Action – MPA Officers)

Bike Rack – CofL plan is to place a single contract for the provision of bike racks at all of the Ponds. MPA zone has been approved. The Men's Pond, however, are continuing to debate changing the main entrance, so no contract can be placed until the repositioning is approved.

Squirrel-proof Bins – All potential solutions are being investigated Heath-wide.

4. Membership Secretary's Report (CM)

Membership is currently 130, which is +47% on last year with the majority sending their £3 direct payment through PayPal. An extra £418 has also been received in donations. The mailing list has also increased to 336 names, +50% uplift on last year. Both Tea Parties were effective in securing new and renewal memberships.

Current total balance is £843.58

Logo – CM is using the logo for website development and related communications. CM suggested we adapt the 'Hampstead, London' wording to mention 'Association'.

(Action – MPA Officers)

5. Constitution (MS, CM, MD)

A draft Constitution with Statement of Aims was presented in order to reconsider what the MPA's purpose, focus and stance are in the event of arising problems. Areas for consideration of amendment were viewed under sub-headings: Name, Aims, Membership, Equal Opportunities, Officers & Committee, Meetings, Rules of Procedure for Meetings, Finances, Amendments to the Constitution, Dissolution.

The draft was approved, agreed and signed by Officers present at the meeting. Constitution to be uploaded to the website for members to view.

6. Priorities for 2019/20

MS asked attendees to consider "What will make the Pond a better place, if we were to provide a contribution towards the CofL investment fund for improving facilities?"

Suggestions were for more equipment, social events and MPA promotions, including:

- matting and roping the ladder handles (KS)
- diving board (MS/SH)
- literature and merchandise with minor initial investment (MD)
- improving under utilised changing areas by moving fences & painting cubicle doors (MS)
- building a photogenic folly with the Pond as a backdrop (MS)
- retaining a mixed sunbathing area/platform (MS/MD)
- investigate inviting members' children as visitors (SH/MD)

- Moonlight Swim – May/June (CM)
 - Moonlight Swim – Hunter’s Moon (FM)
 - Naked Dip (CM)
 - Family Swimming event (MD/SH)
 - Members’ ‘Bring a Friend’ event (MD)
 - Summer Equinox swim (VB)
 - Start of Season & End of Season Tea Parties (FM)
 - Walking version of the Duathlon separate from, or in conjunction with, the Duathlon (MD)
 - Connect with other ponds, eg. Serpentine, Beckenham Place Park, Frensham Great Pond (MS/JRis)
 - Feature bench around the tree trunk opposite the Men’s changing area (JRis)
- (Action – MPA Officers & Committee to draw up a questionnaire)

7. Re-election and Election of MPA Officers & Committee

The following members were nominated, seconded and duly elected to roles for the next 12 months.

Co-chairs:	Mike Sands Kasia Sikora
Membership Secretary & Treasurer:	Charles Marks
Newsletter & Web Content Editor:	Margaret Dickinson
Secretary & Merchandising:	Jackie Risman
Events Facilitator:	Felicity Moir
Events Facilitator:	Ashley Hine
MPA Venue Host:	Rodney Adams
MPA Committee:	Jeanette Rutterford (Project Management) Hasit Raja Victoria Brittain Spencer Hyman (Merchandising) Gail Hyman Tony Biebuyck

8. Future Projects

Changing Areas potential development

Measure and sketch a proposal for the under utilised spaces.

(Action – MS & VB)

Tidy-up Day

To be discussed at launch of new season.

Helping Hands

Join ‘Helping Hands’ team towards the opening of the new season to help clear the surrounding habitat and encourage new growth.

(Action – MPA Officers & Committee)

Merchandise

Explore the viability of producing and selling various standard size MPA endorsed products, including a towel, water bottle, swim cap, swim bag, T-shirt, or calendar.

(Action – SH & JRis)

Photography Competition

Launch a Photography Competition for MPA Users with professional photographers as the judging panel.

(Action – RA)

Al Alvarez Memorial

Discuss with Al's family the prospect of doing something at the Mixed Pond in his remembrance.

(Action – RA)

9. **Date for next MPA AGM:**

October 2020