

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
Brockwell Lido Users Committee
7:00pm on Tuesday 20th May 2025
at the home of a Committee member

In attendance: Ben Longman; Robin McIver; Ian Matthews; Marc Meryon;
Margie Patrick; Carole Stagg

1. Apologies for absence

Tina McKenzie O'Neill; Stephen Trowell

2. Notes of the last meeting

The Committee considered and **APPROVED** the notes of the meeting held on 25th February 2025

3. Matters arising

The Committee considered matters arising from the notes of the last meeting, not covered elsewhere on the agenda

i. Update on work repair or replacement of the hoist

Ben reported that hoist is now working and Carole confirmed that she has seen it being used.

ii. Update on logging system for equipment fixes (BL)

Ben had circulated a proposed feedback form. He had deliberately called this feedback, because if we use logging system we could be seen to be taking responsibility for issues that are the responsibility of Fusion and we should not be adding another layer of reporting operational issues. Robin commented that if this was used to take reports of operational issues, we will not be adding value. There was already a Sauna WhatsApp Group and a Facebook group to 'represent' various interests. We need to focus on more high-level feedback from Members

There was a discussion about how we should respond to and deal with the feedback. Marc said BLU years ago used to have meeting with Manager each week, but this was unlikely to be realistic in the current circumstances.

It was **AGREED** that Committee members will try and use link in its draft form. We can then see how it might work in practice and discuss at the next meeting.

iii. Engagement with Users

Ben has not yet been able to produce a crib sheet. He will do so before the August Committee meeting and we can then discuss the draft and how we will address emails to BLU via the website.

4. Draft minutes of BLSC Meeting held on

Marc advised the Committee that the meeting had begun with a walk around the Lido, that has been very useful.

Ben had pointed out that, according to the Companies House website Fusion had filed to extend their financial year from 31 December 2023 to 31st March 2024 but as yet, Companies House did not show these accounts as having been filed. It is normally a requirement that accounts are filed within six months of the end of the financial year. It is believed that Finance Director had left the company and that this may be a reason for the delay.

There had been a discussion at the meeting about the annual increase in charges. Lambeth had indicated that any increases are subject to their approval. However, the day after the meeting Fusion had introduced new charges, relying on a clause in their lease that allows them to do this in the case of undue delay in Lambeth approving their proposed increases.

There was a wide-ranging discussion about Fusion's performance and Lambeth's response, after which the Committee **NOTED** the draft BLSC minutes

5. Possible vehicle to support the future management of the Lido.

Following the discussion at the last meeting, Marc had produced a summary of options for legal entities that might be able to take on the future management of the Lido. The Committee were advised that Marc had concluded that "the best [option] is probably a charitable Community Benefit Society".

He had therefore circulated a guide to Community Benefit Societies (CBS). These two documents formed the basis of the Committee's discussion.

A charitable CBS is registered with the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA), rather than with the Charity Commission and is known as an exempt charity. It therefore has all the tax advantages (Except VAT registration?) of a charity and the ability to fundraise bid for charitable grants. Robin questioned whether not being registered with Charity Commission would impact upon the ability to apply for Heritage Lottery Funding and Marc agreed to check this.

Robin asked about who members of any new CBS would be. Marc responded that it would be up to the founding members (the current Committee members) to decide how to structure the membership as part of the initial application to the FCA but generally a CBS would operate on a one member one vote model. Ian spoke about his experience having members who become shareholders who each paid £1. Interested people had to apply to become shareholders, with new shareholders being approved by a Board or Committee. There were various other models.

Whatever model is chosen, there is a need to think about next steps for whenever Fusion's role in running the Lido comes to an end. While Lambeth would undoubtedly expect to take the Lido back 'in-house' as they have done with their other leisure facilities, we need to consider how we can put forward a persuasive case that the investment needs and historic nature of the Lido are such that it would be more appropriate for a Community Benefit Society to oversee the operation of the Lido.

To do this there is a need to begin planning for a wide range of activities to mobilise the Lido 'community'. This would include communication and engagement with stakeholders, fundraising and identifying professional expertise within the Lido community who could provide support for the CBS. We also needed to consider a Plan B in case Lambeth proceed to run the Lido themselves. In this regard, there was a discussion about the model for Tooting Bec Lido where the South London Swimming Club play a significant role in the operation of the Lido.

There was a wide-ranging discussion about people that Committee members could contact. Carole said that Casey McGlue should be a first point of call as he was involved with the original campaign to save the Lido. She sees him regularly and offered to pass on Marc's details and ask him to make contact.

Ben agreed to talk to Scarlet, Lambeth and to local MP Helen Hayes.

Other members of the Committee also agreed to speak to specific people who may be able to help.

Marc said that he would draft an outline plan and was prepared to draft the submission to the FCA to establish a new CBS.

Ian made the point that it would be beneficial for the Committee, as the founding members of the new CBS, to meet, discuss and approve the submission to the FCA.

The Committee **AGREED**

- i. A vote of thanks to Marc for work he's done so far.
- ii. That Marc would prepare a draft submission to the FCA
- iii. To hold a Special Meeting of the Committee on **Monday** 2nd June to consider that draft submission.

6. Date of next Meeting

There will be a Special Meeting at 7pm on Monday 2nd June 2025 at Marc's home.

The next routine meeting is schedule at 7pm on Tuesday 19th August 2025 at a venue to be decided.

The meeting ended at 8.35pm