

NORFOLK COUNTY A.S.A.
Minutes of Competitions Sub-Committee – Tuesday 15 April 2014 – Hewett School

PRESENT Mrs M Tallwin (President), Mrs D McRoberts (Secretary), K Belton (Treasurer), A Smith (Assistant Secretary), P Kendall (President Elect/Open Water), G Smith (Competitions Secretary/Team Manager), L Harvey (Championships Secretary/Diss Otters), R Barrett (Records/County Colours), Mrs D Barrett (Trophies), Mrs E Bowen (Norfolk Junior League), C Galer (Past President), C Crafer (North Norfolk Vikings), J Macdonald, M Bateman & A Pinniger (UEA City of Norwich), A Moore & Mrs P Moore (Great Yarmouth), Ms S Rate (Thetford), Ms S Vanderloo (West Norfolk), Mrs K Woodhouse (Norwich Swan)

APOLOGIES J Digby (County Coach)

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 21 JANUARY 2014

Agreed as a true record.

MATTERS ARISING

Only 10 teams entered the County Junior League 2014, including two 'B' teams, so there were only 5 teams per gala. Results from the first round have been distributed along with the draw for the final round galas which will take place at Wymondham and Thetford on Saturday 26 April.

The inaugural junior inter-county competition had taken place at Biggleswade on Saturday 1 February and was deemed a success. Norfolk had decided not to participate. However the organisers are considering making it a 50m gala in an 8-lane pool in 2015. Norfolk may wish to reconsider its position once details for 2015 are available.

TEAM SELECTION & ARRANGEMENTS FOR EAST REGION INTER-COUNTIES CHAMPIONSHIP – BASILDON – SUNDAY 6 JULY 2014

Unfortunately final details had not been received at the time of the meeting. The draft details specified age as at the date of the gala. Swimmers can enter two individual events plus relays in their own age groups which are 11/12, 13/14, 15/16 and 17 & over. The only change from the previous year seemed to be the inclusion of mixed relays. Gary Smith had produced a list of eligible swimmers based on the latest rankings (but without times). Once final details are received, he will discuss the draft selection with the County Coach and then distribute final lists to clubs. Replies to invitations will need to be back to him by the end of May. Once gala times have been confirmed, Gary Smith will book the coach and determine the pick-up times and places. He will also select chaperones and appoint appropriate poolside officials (usually three are needed). The President expected to travel with the team and would require details please. Dianne Barrett will require early notice of clothing (e.g. T-shirt) requirements from team members.

FIXTURE LIST FOR 2015

A provisional list is set out below subject to pool availability and, in the case of the County Junior League, confirmation at the league AGM in June. Dates and locations are to be confirmed at the next meeting but **club secretaries are asked to note the dates and copy them to their coaches to avoid clashes with club and other galas in 2015**. The Treasurer will book the pools (except for the County Junior League which will be booked by the league secretary). The date for the long distance gala is to be confirmed with Suffolk by the Championship Secretary. (There have been rumours that the ASA is slightly altering the annual slot for county galas but, unless confirmation is received quickly, it will be necessary to go ahead with the dates selected to ensure that pools are available).

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
Sat 14 Feb	County Championship/Age Group 800/1500m events	UEA Sportspark
Sat 21 Feb	County Championship/Age Group 400m freestyle events	Wymondham
Sat 28 Feb/Sun 1, Sat 7 & Sun 8 Mar	County Championship/ Age Group other individual events	Thetford
Sat 21 Mar	County Junior League Round 1 (2 galas)	To be confirmed
Sat 28 Mar	County Relay Gala	UEA Sportspark
Sat 25 Apr	County Junior League Final Round (2 galas)	To be confirmed
Sat 16 May	County Masters & Open Masters Championships	UEA Sportspark
Sun 21 Jun/Sun 28 Jun	County Challenge Galas	Dereham
Sat 19 Jul	County & East Region Open Water Championships	Whitlingham

The possibility of a further County level 3 event was suggested but left for discussion at the next meeting.

REPORT ON THE COUNTY RELAY GALA – SATURDAY 29 MARCH – UEA SPORTSPARK

As always there was a great atmosphere at this gala. A good number of Past Presidents were in attendance. Two heats per event (for nearly all events) worked well. The scoring (A) teams were in the final heats though this arrangement

could be reviewed for next year. The warm up arrangements need to be reviewed: it was suggested that warm up should be in age groups rather than boys and then girls.

REPORTS ON COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS & AGE GROUPS 2014

Long Distance 800/1500m – UEA Sportspark – Sat 15 February

Held jointly with Suffolk, the gala was split into two sessions (800m girls, 1500m boys), each with its' own warm up. The warm up time for the first session had has been brought forward to 1.00pm to avoid a late finish.

400m Freestyle Events – Wymondham – Saturday 22 February

Well supported and ran well in two separate (boys and girls) sessions, each with its' own warm up.

Other Individual Events – Thetford – Sat 1, Sun 2, Sat 8 & Sun 9 March

There were two particularly long sessions (see below) even after having removed the 400m freestyle events to a separate gala.

General Points for Discussion (mostly submitted by UEA City of Norwich SC)

*It was proposed that age entry criteria should reflect that of Regional Championships - in particular 400IM where county entries are 12 years and over. This was agreed. However, there are rumours that minimum age for entry to county competitions is to increase (and that age at 31 December might be re-introduced) but no decisions yet.

*Faster qualifying times (but with leniency for 9 and 10 year age groups) would reduce the number of entries and the lengths of some sessions. Current times were set using ASA tables but have remained unchanged for several years. (An alternative ploy of increasing event entry cost had little effect). It was agreed that a tightening up of qualifying times might be made to achieve the objective. Liam Harvey, Robin Barrett and Keith Belton will form a working group to consider this issue. The working group was also invited to look at the County Challenge gala qualifying times (though it is too late for the 2014 event).

*The good work of the lead marshal was emphasised in chasing up missing swimmers. However there was concern that, for some events with a huge number of entries, swimmers for later heats do not need to be called up so quickly as, after waiting a good while, they might then wander off. Ultimately it should be up to team managers to send up their swimmers at appropriate times. A suggestion was made that team managers might meet with the lead marshal at the outset of each championship to determine the most appropriate arrangements.

*The availability of a check list of requirements might be helpful to clubs hosting county galas. Lists have been produced in the past and Dianne Barrett does liaise closely with host clubs, holding meetings with them where appropriate. Nevertheless the possibility of producing an up-to-date list of requirements will be taken on board.

*The benefits of Hytek software, used by UEA City of Norwich SC and some counties, were explained to the meeting. Norfolk County ASA currently uses Sportssystem software, one of a number of products currently available. Sportssystem does all the results for British Swimming and the ASA. It is not designed to provide team management facilities but the county does not need that facility. Sportssystem software is regularly updated and is used to put results on the website. For the moment Norfolk County ASA and some of the clubs are content with the present software.

*Several clubs proposed that the county championship events currently held at Thetford should move to the UEA Sportspark which has the benefit of eight lanes and, if used in 25m mode, would provide a parallel facility for warm ups and swim downs, both of which advantages would reduce the length of pool time needed, possibly reducing the number of days and the overall cost. There was, however, some doubt that the UEA Sportspark would be prepared to set aside yet more weekends for gala swimming. It was also doubtful that the galas could be contained in a reduced number of days and it was thought that the claimed cost benefits, if there were any at all, might be marginal.

FINAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE COUNTY CHALLENGE GALAS – SUNDAYS 22 & 29 JUNE - DEREHAM

Dereham Otters SC is hosting these galas (two sessions each day). Liam Harvey has applied for a level 3 licence. Warm ups will be 8.30 am and 12.45 pm each day. Entry criteria determined by the County Age Group results. Tony Smith is lead referee. Event entry is £4. Entry forms are due to be issued around 1 May. Admission is £2 per session. A composite programme will be prepared by Keith Belton covering all four sessions. Dianne Barrett will liaise with Dereham Otters SC about the provision of helpers. Entry forms will be issued late April. Age is as at 9 March (final day of County Age Groups). Entries will be restricted, as per gala conditions, if too many are received.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There will be trophies for participants in the Open Water Championships. (Dianne Barrett will need to know the number of trophies required).

Following discussions with the Past Presidents, it had been agreed that the Past Presidents' Tray, previously used for the now defunct inter-counties gala hosted by Norfolk, should replace the ageing cup awarded for first place in the County Relay Gala.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 15 July 2014 at Hewett School in Room A17 at 7.30 pm. The main purposes of this meeting will be to make arrangements and select a team for the National Inter Counties Championship Gala in Sheffield on Sunday 19 October and to confirm the County Fixture List for 2015.