

**NORFOLK COUNTY A.S.A.**  
**Minutes of Competitions Sub-Committee – Tuesday 21 October 2014 – Hewett School**

**PRESENT** Mrs M Tallwin (President), A Smith (Assistant Secretary), P Kendall (President Elect/Open Water), L Harvey (Championships Secretary), Mrs D Barrett (Trophies), R Barrett (Records/County Colours), J Digby (County Coach), Mrs E Bowen (Norfolk Junior League), Mrs P Moore (Great Yarmouth), S Murray (West Norfolk), J Rush (Diss Otters), C Searle (North Norfolk Vikings), Mrs J Weston (Dereham Otters) Mrs K Woodhouse (Norwich Swan)

**APOLOGIES** K Rumsey (Chairman), Mrs D McRoberts (Secretary), K Belton (Treasurer), G Smith (Competitions Secretary/Team Manager),

**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 15 JULY 2014**

Agreed as a true record.

**MATTERS ARISING**

Pool bookings have been made for the County Junior League galas on the dates previously agreed. The withdrawal of Little Fish from competitive swimming leaves a vacancy in the draw to be filled. A proposal for clubs to field 'C' teams was not favoured. It was understood that the ASA changes mentioned below do not affect league galas. The death of Cathy Copeman was reported: she had in the past presented the Copeman Cup which had been named after her husband, Dick Copeman, to the winners of the league.

**REPORT ON THE NATIONAL INTER COUNTIES CHAMPIONSHIPS -  
SHEFFIELD – SUNDAY 19 OCTOBER**

Norfolk had finished in 16th place in the Division 2 gala in a tough competition. It was felt that there needed to be a review of why the team had done less well than in previous years despite virtually the whole of the team selected being able to attend the event. Arrangements had generally gone well. It was mentioned that no funds had been made available for such items as face paint. However it was generally agreed that there needed to be a change in the hotel used. A hotel in Sheffield, preferably in walking distance of the pool, would be preferable to one some miles away in Worksop which required an earlier start to a long day. The Team Manager is invited to follow this requirement up as a matter of urgency please.

**TEAM SELECTION & ARRANGEMENTS FOR THREE COUNTIES GALA – SUNDAY 14 DECEMBER**

Cambridgeshire have confirmed the date but not the venue (Cambridge or Peterborough). It was assumed that the programme and other requirements will be the same as in previous years. If this is so, each county will have two lanes, two swimmers from each county will compete in each individual event, and each county will have two relay teams. Swimmers are allowed a maximum of two individual events each plus relays in their own age groups (10 & under, 12 & under, 14 & under, 16 & under). Age is as at the date of the gala. The Team Manager had made a provisional selection of two teams from the ranking list and, due to his unavoidable last minute absence from the meeting, the team list will be circulated to clubs for their comments.

Two coaches will be required to transport all the swimmers and accompanying adults. The times, routes and pick up points will be decided as soon as the venue is announced. The County Coach needs to select a second coach to help out with the two teams. Four marshals are needed (two for each team, one male and one female). Two JL2 and two JL1 officials need to be provided. Orders for T-shirts, hats and 'hoodies' need to be with Dianne Barrett at least four weeks before the event.

**ARRANGEMENTS FOR COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS AND AGE GROUPS 2015**

The ASA has finally announced long awaited major changes and expressed a preference for their introduction in 2015 if possible but with full implementation in 2016. The Open Meet Licensing Guidelines will be rewritten to reflect the new structure. In the meantime competitions can continue to use 'age on day of the gala' but must comply with the minimum ages. The meeting discussed at some length those changes that will relate to the County Championship and Age Group galas.

Calendar: County championships to take place in weeks 2 – 9 inclusive. Currently the Norfolk championship dates run through February and up to the weekend at the end of the first week in March (i.e. week 10) but, as dates have been announced for some time and pool bookings made (though a doubt was raised in respect of the Thetford Pool which Dianne Barrett will check), it was decided that the 2015 dates will remain as previously agreed. (It is assumed that the County Relay Gala, as it is not a licensed meet, is not affected by these changes).

Age As At: Galas to be based on age as at 31 December rather than a date at the end of the gala series. It was agreed to move to age as at 31 December in 2015.

Minimum Age: 10 years of age in the year of the competition (i.e. could still be 9 at the date of the competition but must be 10 by the end of the year). For 400 IM, 800m and 1500m events the minimum age will be 12 years of age in the year of the competition. This was agreed for 2015.

Age Bands: These will be 10/11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16 and over. It was agreed to adopt these age bands for 2015.

Heats and Finals: There will be heats and finals for 50m and 100m events; heat declared winners as a minimum for 200m events; and heat declared winners only for 400+m events. This is our present practice.

Heat Grouping: Counties to consider grouping the 10/11 and 12 age bands, the 13 – 15 age bands, and keep the 16 and over age band separate. Currently all age groups are mixed according to submitted times and it was felt unnecessary to change the current practice in order to avoid too many heats with less than the full number of swimmers.

Seeding: The last three heats of events with finals should be cyclically seeded. Other heats and heat declared winners to be 'spearhead' seeded. This is accepted if it does not present a problem.

BAGCATS: It had been expected that BAGCATS would be discontinued, but it has now been left for counties to make their own decisions on this. (It is understood that East Region is discontinuing BAGCATS). The majority of those present were in favour of retaining BAGCATS at least for 2015 and perhaps even extending the age groups covered. It will then be reviewed again for 2016.

There was then a long discussion on qualifying times which, in most cases, had not changed for the past six years and some felt that they needed 'tightening up'. Eventually it was agreed that the 10/11 age group would be based on the present 11 year old times, the 12, 13 and 14 age groups will remain unchanged, the 15 age groups would be 2% faster than the 14 times, and the 16 and over age groups would be 4% faster than the 14 times.

It was calculated that omitting the 9 year age group (though accepting that age is now at the end of the year), the use of the 11 year qualifying times for younger swimmers and the tightening up of qualifying times for 15 years and older swimmers could result in a reduction of the number of swims by up to 30%. Whilst some felt that this seemed a little pessimistic, it was acknowledged that gala sessions had been getting over long and, disregarding the financial aspect, it would be helpful to have shorter sessions. Qualifying times are to be reviewed again for 2016 and publication of them must be earlier in the year.

Licences for the county galas will be sought on the basis of the above decisions and entry forms distributed by the end of November.

UEA City of Norwich was invited to host the Long Distance (800/1500m) gala: Saturday 14 February: UEA Sportspark  
Norwich Swan was invited to host the 400m Freestyle Gala: Saturday 21 February: Wymondham  
Norwich Swan was invited to host the County Relay Gala: Saturday 28 March: UEA Sportspark  
Thetford Dolphins were invited to host the other galas: Sat 28 February/Sun 1 March/Sat 7 and Sun 8 March: Thetford Club representatives to take these invitations back to their committees please.

## **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

An invitation had been received for Norfolk to compete in a Junior Inter-Counties Gala. After favourable feedback from an inaugural gala at Biggleswade in 2014, the organisers (Beds ASA) have suggested moving to the 8-lane, 50m pool at Luton and hold the gala on Sunday 8 February 2015. The Team Manager and the County Coach discussed the invitation and decided against participation in 2015 particularly as the date is within the county championship period and as it clashes with a major Level 1 gala in Norwich. However some value could be seen in supporting this type of gala so, if more notice is given and the date is more suitable, Norfolk might be interested in 2016.

Dianne Barrett showed the meeting a new style of polo shirt and suggested its use for the county. It was agreed she should obtain prices and a proposed design for the next meeting.

## **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 20 January 2015 at Hewett School in Room A17 at 7.30 pm. The main purposes of this meeting will be to make any final arrangements for the County Championships and Age Groups, and to arrange the County Relay and County Challenge Galas (particularly with the ASA changes and revised qualifying times in mind).