

NORFOLK COUNTY A.S.A.
Minutes of Competitions Sub-Committee – Tuesday 24 March 2015 – Hewett School

PRESENT P Kendall (President/Open Water), K Belton (Treasurer), A Smith (Assistant Secretary), G Applin (Officials Liaison), Mrs D Barrett (Trophies), R Barrett (Records/County Colours), J Digby (County Coach), E Lavelle (Dereham Otters), J Macdonald (UEA City of Norwich SC), A Pinniger (UEA City of Norwich SC), Ms S Rate (Thetford Dolphins), C Searle (North Norfolk Vikings), Mrs K Woodhouse (President Elect/Norwich Swan)

APOLOGIES Mrs D McRoberts (Secretary), G Smith (Competitions Secretary/Team Manager), D Peck (Development)

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 20 JANUARY 2015

Agreed as a true record.

MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Treasurer has not yet been asked for a deposit relating to the booking of The Holiday Express Hotel in Sheffield for the National Inter Counties Championships in October 2015. Is a deposit required? (**Action:** Competitions Secretary/Team Manager to let Treasurer know please).

Another supplier has now been identified and is being pursued for the new County Polo Shirt. A small supply of the present polo shirts is still available. (**Action:** Trophies Officer/Stock Controller)

The Swimability Gala has been booked at Norwich Riverside Pool on Saturday 4 July. Further details are to follow. (**Action:** Disability Swimming Liaison Officer).

The first round galas of the County Junior League took place on Saturday 21 March. Results and arrangements for the final round are yet to be published. (**Action:** County Junior League Secretary).

The table of hosting responsibilities for County Galas was circulated (with the agenda for this meeting) but there was an omission relating to the County Masters Gala duties. A revised, final version will now be circulated. (**Action:** Secretary).

The East Region Inter Counties Gala will take place on Sunday 5 July at Borehamwood. (**Action:** Competitions Secretary/Team Manager to note and get details for next meeting).

The future of the Three Counties Gala which, currently, Norfolk is due to host in December has yet to be announced. (**Action:** Competitions Secretary/Team Manager to follow up with Suffolk & Cambridgeshire).

REPORT ON COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS AND AGE GROUPS 2015

In the absence of the Championship Secretary, others present at the meeting put forward a few matters, though, overall, it was felt that the galas, with the revised arrangements introduced by the ASA late in 2014, had all run quite smoothly.

There had been a problem at the Long Distance (800/1500m) gala as the host club had not made proper arrangements for the warm up. Suffolk was still running under the old age group arrangements and so had extra, younger, age group entries. Suffolk also has its own separate qualifying times but this does not cause a problem. A few more officials, especially from Suffolk who had only sought their officials at the last minute, would have been helpful.

As expected, there were fewer entries than previously in the other galas but there was a more pleasant atmosphere and the shorter sessions were welcome. The AOE system at Thetford had worked well this year. There was a problem with the air temperature on the first afternoon at Thetford which was the fault of the pool management. There had been an adequate number of officials and a good supply of helpers from the competing clubs so thanks to all of them.

FINAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR COUNTY RELAY GALA – UEA SPORTSPARK - SATURDAY 28 MARCH

Norwich Swan will host the County Relay Gala. Warm up will be at 5.00pm. Entry forms were distributed and have been returned. It was assumed that the event programme was now being prepared. BAGCATS and other presentations will take place from 4.00pm in the Town Close Room. (Several of those present claimed not to be aware of these arrangements even though it was organised at the previous meeting and a note was put in the county gala programme). A number of the Past Presidents have accepted an invitation to attend the presentations and the gala. A small buffet has been booked for them and the County President will act as their host.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE COUNTY CHALLENGE GALAS – DEREHAM – SUNDAYS 21 & 28 JUNE

Dereham Otters will host the galas with session warm ups remaining unchanged as 8.30am and 12.45pm.

In view of the changes of arrangements in 2015, separate discussions took place during two of the lunch intervals at the Thetford galas. It was agreed to follow the pattern of the age group galas with age as at the end of the year. The same age groups will be used except that there will be separate 10 and 11 age groups. It was agreed that the individual medley events should be 100m for 10 and 11 year olds, and 200m for older age groups. Entry cut off criteria will generally still be on the basis of the time of the sixth placed swimmer in each county age group event but with some adjustments if necessary. Some arrangement will, as previously, be necessary if sessions or events look to be oversubscribed – the slowest swimmers by entry time will need to be excluded and the gala conditions will need to make it clear that the promoter has the discretion to reduce the number of entries to keep sessions at a manageable length. It was agreed that a Level 3 licence should now be applied for. (**Action:** Championships Secretary to draw these points together and prepare a revised entry form ready for distribution around the beginning of May and also to apply for a licence as a matter of urgency).

FIXTURE LIST 2016

There was considerable discussion about the dates for the early county championship galas. Amongst the considerations were that the galas need to fit into the ASA calendar's weeks 2 – 9 and that Easter is very early in 2016 (25-27 March when UEA City of Norwich will be holding their annual open meet at the UEA Sportspark). It was also noted that UEA City of Norwich have already booked the UEA Sportspark for a Level 1 open meet on 6-7 February though this seems inappropriate in the middle of the allocated county dates as other counties, if not Norfolk, are likely to be running their county galas that weekend. The dates, already fixed, of some league galas (e.g. the Fenland League) were also mentioned. There was also a suggestion, though not widely agreed, that the 800/1500m gala could be short course (but this would then omit Suffolk). If the gala remains long course, the date will need to be agreed with Suffolk. There were also suggestions that that the 400m freestyle gala might be held at UEA Sportspark on the morning of the 800/1500m gala (though there would be a large cost if the pool has to be switched from short to long course mode between the galas) or, preferably, on the day following the long distance gala rather than later in the calendar. Another suggestion, though not decided, was that the County Relay Gala might take place later in the year. The possibility of holding the County Challenge Gala over one weekend was suggested but this would depend on the availability over two full days of the Dereham pool: this is to be checked. A provisional list of dates is set out below subject to pool availability and confirmation of County Junior League dates with the league's secretary. It was suggested that coaches should discuss the proposals, perhaps prior to the County Relay Gala at the UEA Sportspark, and confirm their views at the next meeting so that the list can be firmed up.

(**Action:** County Coach to convene a meeting with coaches and the Championship Secretary).

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
Sat 30 Jan	County Championship/Age Group 800/1500m events	UEA Sportspark
Sun 31 Jan	County Championship/Age Group 400m free	Wymondham or UEA Sportspark?
Sat13/Sun 14/Sat20/Sun 21 Feb	County Championship/Age Group other events	Thetford
Sat 12 Mar <u>or</u> Sat 16 Jul	County Relay Gala	UEA Sportspark
Sat 19 Mar	County Junior League First Round	To be confirmed
Sat 23 Apr	County Junior League Final Round	To be confirmed
Sat 14 May	County Masters Championships	UEA Sportspark
Sat25/Sun26 Jun	County Challenge Gala	Dereham
Sun 17 Jul	County & East Region Open Water Championships	Whitlingham

- (**Action:** 1. Championship Secretary to agree dates with Suffolk
2. Dereham Rep to check availability of Dereham Pool for a full weekend gala
3. Delegates come ready to decide final dates at the next meeting so that pools can be booked).

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The possibility of a further county gala at a lower level than the County Challenge Gala was again suggested. There was some agreement to this though a format and date in the swimming calendar would need to be decided. Clubs were asked to bring their views to the next meeting though it was thought unlikely that it could now be fitted in during 2015.

There needs to be agreement about county championship and age group records following the move from age at end date of galas to age as at end of year. This was left for discussion at the next meeting.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 12 May in Room A17 at Hewett School at 7.30pm to confirm the 2016 fixture list and to make the arrangements and select the team for the East Region Inter Counties Gala.