

NORFOLK COUNTY A.S.A.

Minutes of Competitions Sub-Committee – Tuesday 20 October 2015 – Hewett Academy

PRESENT P Kendall (President/Open Water), A Smith (Assistant Secretary), L Harvey (Championships Secretary), Mrs K Woodhouse (President Elect/Norwich Swan), Mrs E Bowen (County Junior League Secretary), G Applin (Officials Liaison), C Galer (Referee Tutor), C Searle (Dereham Otters)

APOLOGIES K Belton (Treasurer), Mrs D McRoberts (Secretary), G Smith (Competitions Secretary/Team Manager), Mrs D Barrett (Trophies), R Barrett (Records/County Colours), J Digby (County Coach), S Murray (East Region Rep), E Lavelle (Dereham Otters)

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 21 JULY 2015

The minutes were agreed as a true record.

MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

One of the changes to licensing conditions for 2016 was a condition that pools must be measured before licensed meets can take place in them. A list of measured pools is on the British Swimming website and two of the pools used for Norfolk county galas but which do not appear on the list are Thetford and Wymondham. Rob Barrett had previously asked the pool manager at Thetford for the pool to be measured but still appears to be awaiting a response. A suggestion was made that Norfolk County ASA should offer to fund the work. Keith Belton had asked that the Wymondham pool be measured as part of the refurbishment (which had just finished with the pool re-opening today). A report in respect of the Wymondham pool is awaited. **Action: Rob Barrett/Keith Belton**

Confirmation of the availability of the Wymondham pool for the Championship & Age Group 400m Freestyle Gala is still awaited. Now that the pool has re-opened, Liam Harvey will follow this up. Licences for all of the appropriate County Championship galas will be sought before the end of October. **Action: Liam Harvey**

It was noted that the arrangements for licensed meets are now much stricter than previously with all applications and post-gala reports (from the promoter and the lead referee) now going to an East Region committee. Clubs are understandably anxious to get their galas licensed to give their swimmers the opportunity to obtain qualifications for county and regional meets but they are tending to overlook the need for a minimum number of licensed and qualified officials which the club may be unable to provide from its own ranks. For Level 1 & 2 galas all officials must be qualified and licensed. For level 3 galas all officials need to be qualified except that timekeeping and inspector of turn duties can be performed by those who are currently undertaking the Judge Level 1 course and have already completed the timekeeping elements (i.e. timekeeper workshop and review questions) and successfully completed a poolside timekeeper assessment. For Level 4 galas, the inspectors of turn and timekeepers must be qualified to a minimum of timekeeper but it was agreed that any courses run to obtain more timekeepers should be as part of a Judge Level 1 course to encourage as many as possible to continue to do turn judge training even if not all candidates eventually complete the course.

In recent years presentations of awards (e.g. BAGCATS) had taken place immediately prior to the County Relay Gala but this gala had been moved from March to July in 2016. It was pointed out that BAGCATS was no longer taking place but other awards, e.g. best swimmers in various categories, still need to be presented. For the moment it was left that presentations would still wait to be done immediately before the County Relay Gala.

REPORT ON NATIONAL INTER COUNTIES CHAMPIONSHIPS – SHEFFIELD – 18 OCTOBER 2015

Norfolk had finished in 14th place in the Division 2 gala, a slight improvement on the previous year. Several personal bests and some best relay times were achieved. The team had stopped at the Hollywood Bowl for a bonding session before going to the hotel in Sheffield (as there had been no opportunity for a bonding session prior to the weekend of the gala). This had been well received and the behaviour of the team during the weekend had been excellent. The Holiday Express Hotel had been good, including the food, and hopefully can be booked again for next year. Some concern was expressed that two marshals were not wearing county T-shirts and a couple of swimmers had not been wearing county swim hats – something that should be addressed at future inter county galas.

FINAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR COUNTY QUALIFYING GALA – THETFORD – 28 & 29 NOVEMBER 2015

This is a new licensed gala designed for swimmers to obtain qualifying times for County Championships. There were no changes to the arrangements previously discussed. However the individual age groups are 9/10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 & over and not as reported in the previous minutes. Also, the qualifying times originally published have since been corrected. Some concerns have been expressed that age will be as at 29 November 2015 and not as at the end of the year. It was explained again that the use of the November date affects the fewer number of swimmers. The pool has been booked and details have been sent to clubs. The closing date for entries is Friday 6 November. Gary Applin has started to seek officials for the galas. Two volunteers are required from each competing club for non-official duties: names to Dianne Barrett please. It was disappointing that the club which had originally suggested holding this event will not be participating in it, preferring to run its own gala the same weekend!

ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP & AGE GROUP GALAS 2016

No changes to the arrangements previously made. Entry forms will be distributed by the end of October with the entries for the main events due back by 16 January and for the long distance events by 9 January.

One club representative had asked about the possibility of organising another 800/1500m gala later in the year to provide qualifying times for the East Region Winter Championships for which the closing date for entries is around early October. Given the lack of support for the Qualifying Gala from the same club, it was agreed that the county would not add another qualifying gala for long distance events to its programme. Clubs will need to seek opportunities at Level 1 and 2 Open Meets which include these events in their programmes.

THREE COUNTIES GALA – UEA SPORTSPARK – SUNDAY 6 MARCH 2016

The Three Counties Gala will take place on Sunday 6 March at the UEA Sportspark in 50m mode with Norfolk County ASA hosting it. Provisionally the warm up will be 1.00 or 1.15 pm for a 2.00 pm start. It will be licensed level 3. As before each county will have two lanes with 10 & U, 12 & U, 14 & U and 16 & U age groups. Age will be as at the date of the gala. Gary Smith (not at the meeting) was to confirm the final details with the other counties, firm up the pool booking and possibly invite a fourth county (e.g. Bedfordshire) to compete provided that Suffolk and Cambridgeshire agree. **Action: Gary Smith**

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Pools have been booked for the County Junior League except that confirmation is still awaited from the Thetford pool.

The East Region Swimming Committee has been considering a suggestion from the ASA that qualifying times should be consistent across all regions. East Region rejected the suggestion. East Region qualifying times are due to be published by 1 November and no significant changes are expected. 800/1500m events will be included in both the Age Group and Youth Championships in 2016. No dates have been announced for these events.

An East Region Open Water training camp is being planned by Mike Parker in 2016. It will possibly include pool training at Basildon in March followed by open water training in June. The idea is to encourage swimmers into open water competitions. It is planned to accommodate around 30 swimmers between 12 and 18 years.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 12 January at Hewett Academy at 7.30pm primarily to make the final arrangements and select teams for the Three Counties Gala.