

NORFOLK COUNTY A.S.A.

Minutes of Competitions Sub-Committee – Tuesday 12 January 2016 – Hewett Academy

PRESENT Mrs K Woodhouse (President), K Belton (Treasurer), A Smith (Assistant Secretary), L Harvey (Championships Secretary), Mrs C Rose (Competitions Secretary), Mrs D Barrett (Trophies), R Barrett (Records/County Colours), J Digby (County Coach), Mrs E Bowen (County Junior League Secretary), G Applin (Officials Liaison), Ms R Horne (North Norfolk Vikings), A Lelean (Diss Otters), Mrs S Lelean (Masters), P Kendall (Open Water), D Peck (Development), C Searle (Dereham Otters), Mrs T Spinner (UEA City of Norwich), Ms S Vanderloo (West Norfolk), Mrs J Weston (Norwich Swan), B White (West Norfolk)

APOLOGIES Mrs D McRoberts (Secretary), C Galer (Officials Tutor)

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 20 OCTOBER 2015

The minutes were agreed as a true record.

MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Cheryl Rose has volunteered to take on the role of Competitions Secretary/Team Manager after the Three Counties Gala.

The pools at Wymondham and Thetford have both been measured by an ASA representative and they both conform to short course requirements. Thanks to Keith Belton for organising these visits. The county championship galas to be held at these venues have now been upgraded for level 2 licences. In addition a risk assessment has been carried out at Wymondham pool, where temporary arrangements are in force during the refurbishment of the leisure centre, in respect of the forthcoming 400m gala. This had been carried out by Liam Harvey as promoter, Tony Smith as lead referee and Jane Weston for the host club. Some suggestions had been made to the duty manager. There was an overflow car park at the adjacent school to compensate for the lack of spaces around the pool and the number of spectators was restricted to 174. The only problem related to the changing room area where the exit at one end was currently not available, but it was felt that this was acceptable provided there was a changing room marshal posted in the area throughout the gala.

The 400m Freestyle Gala at Wymondham pool has been moved to Saturday 23 January as the originally announced date is no longer available. Licences for all of the appropriate County Championship galas have now been agreed.

As the County Relay Gala has been moved from March to July in 2016, presentations of county colours will take place during the county championship galas at Thetford and/or at a subsequent occasion yet to be decided.

County Junior League application forms have been sent to clubs. For the first round, in view of the on-going building work at Wymondham, it was suggested that the first round gala should be moved from there to Thetford if that pool is available (though the host club and the draw would remain unchanged). It was thought that the gala would attract far greater numbers of spectators and swimmers than the 400m and that the Wymondham pool in its present state would not be suitable. The gala would necessarily have to start at a slightly later time at Thetford. The league secretary will make the necessary arrangements and advise clubs accordingly.

The hotel booking for the National Inter Counties Competition at Sheffield (22/23 October weekend) has not yet been confirmed. Keith Belton will follow this up.

REPORT ON COUNTY QUALIFIER GALA – THETFORD – 28 & 29 NOVEMBER 2015

This new licensed gala had run well and there had been a good atmosphere, but the number of entries had been lower than had been hoped (not helped by the fact that Dereham Otters, which had proposed the gala in the first place, had opted out of competing) and the warm up sessions could have been shorter. The estimated loss was £3000. However it was agreed to run the gala again in 2016 when it is hoped that all clubs will compete. There were discussions and a number of suggestions made (both at the meeting and by email in advance of the meeting) about the gala including matters relating to the qualifying and cut-off times and the age being at the last day of the gala rather than at the end of the year. Also, it was noted that Suffolk run a similar gala but as an open meet allowing clubs from outside of the county to compete. These matters will be considered further at the next meeting when decisions need to be made.

FINAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP & AGE GROUP GALAS 2016

There were no changes to the arrangements previously made (other than in respect of the 400m gala reported above). Entry forms were distributed in November. It was confirmed that Norwich Swan are hosting the 400m gala at Wymondham and UEA City of Norwich are hosting the 800/1500m gala at the UEA Sportspark.

There had been a problem with the supplier of medals but this had now been resolved though ribbons supplied separately need to be attached to the medals (volunteers please). Some clubs have yet to return the trophies for the 2016 galas. Two volunteers from each of the competing clubs are required to act as helpers at each gala session please: contact Diane Barrett. More licensed and qualified officials are still required for the galas please: contact Gary Applin.

A suggestion was made that, for future years, the 800/1500m gala, currently a level 1 long course meet, could be held as a level 3 short course meet. Any move from the present arrangements would need to be discussed with Suffolk which jointly participates in the gala: it is likely that they would withdraw and hold their own short course gala in Suffolk.

ARRANGEMENTS & TEAM SELECTION FOR THE THREE COUNTIES GALA – UEA SPORTSPARK – SUNDAY 6 MARCH 2016

The gala will be in long course mode with Norfolk County ASA hosting it. The warm up will be 2.00 pm for a 2.30 pm start. It will be licensed level 3. Each county will have two lanes with age groups. Two swimmers from each county will compete in each event and each county will have two teams in each relay event. Swimmers are allowed a maximum of two individual swims plus relays in their own age groups (10 & U, 12 & U, 14 & U and 16 & U). Age will be as at the date of the gala. Details have been sent to the other counties, the pool has been booked and a fourth county (Bedfordshire) has been invited to compete to fill the extra lanes, though no reply has yet been received from them.

Team selections were made using the ranking lists up to the beginning of January. It was recognised that some better times might have been achieved at the Resolution Meet only just held and that some swimmers listed may be unavailable: (the list already took account of two whole squads of swimmers made unavailable by the City of Norwich coaches). Clubs were asked to let the County Coach know within the next week of any other changes needed, then the final list will be published and swimmers invited to compete. Final selection is at the discretion of the County Coach. (Robin Barrett has updated the selection form). Replies to invitations should be back with the County Coach by 6 February. John Digby and Keith Belton were thanked for all their work to get this gala on the road following the sudden resignation of the Competitions Secretary.

Jane Weston was invited to be the promoter for the gala and she will seek helpers for all the off-pool duties (door, marshals, etc) plus an announcer and recorders to operate the Sportsystem and prepare the results. The pool provides the AOE operator. A provisional lane draw was made to cover either (three or four counties) eventuality (i.e. 6 or 8 lanes).

Each visiting county has been asked to provide two judges and two timekeepers for the gala. As the hosts, Norfolk needs to provide the referees (it was suggested that there should be three, preferably one from each county), the chief timekeeper, the starter, and (including its own quota as a competing county) four judges and two timekeepers. This assumes that three counties are competing: if a fourth county accepts the invitation to compete, that county could be asked to provide two of the judges and should be asked to provide two timekeepers for its own lanes. John Digby will invite an extra coach or coaches to assist him with the teams, and he will appoint marshals from a range of the Norfolk clubs of the swimmers competing.

Diane Barrett will need to know in good time the number of polo shirts required for new swimmers please. Presidents from the visiting counties will be invited and Karen Woodhouse will host them, escort them onto the poolside to be presented (and possibly award county colours to their team members) - and provide them with a cup of tea please!

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

A proposal was made to extend the one session Norfolk Masters Championships & Open Gala, scheduled for Saturday 7 May at the UEA Sportspark, into a full day event. Looking at other masters' events around that time, it was thought that it would be a very popular event but it could not be guaranteed, as a new venture, to cover the costs. Entry fees would be increased from £4 to £6 per event which is more in line with similar competitions. There would be a reduction in the number of medals required. After some discussion, including doubts about being able to find enough officials to run the gala, it was agreed by the majority of those present to try out the idea this year and then review for subsequent years. Sally Lelean will make the necessary arrangements.

The East Region Swimming Competition dates in 2016 have just been announced and they are:

30 April/1 & 2 May - Long Course Youth at UEA Sportspark

28, 29 & 30 May - Long Course Age Group at Luton

1 October - Regional Masters at Newmarket

4, 5 & 6 November - Short Course (venue to be confirmed)

It was agreed that, if Elaine Bowen is unable to represent Norfolk at any of the East Region Swimming meetings, Gary Applin would be invited to attend in her place.

The East Region Inter Counties Championships will take place on Sunday 10 July – further details awaited.

It was agreed that Open Water training would resume at Fritton Lake around the end of May. The East Region Open Water Training Camp will comprise pool training at Basildon on 5 March followed by an open water training session at Welwyn Garden City on 11 June. Please note that Paul Kendall's email address is now: ptekendall@gmail.com.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 10 May at Hewett Academy at 7.30pm primarily to make the final arrangements and select teams for the East Region Inter Counties Gala and to finalise the arrangements for the County Challenge and County Relay Galas.