

**NORFOLK COUNTY A.S.A.**  
**Minutes of Competitions Sub-Committee – Tuesday 10 May 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), C Galer (Officials Tutor), P Kendall (Open Water), T Moore (Disability Swimming), S Murray (West Norfolk), C Searle (Dereham Otters), Mrs T Spinner (UEA City of Norwich), Mrs J Weston (Norwich Swan)

**APOLOGIES** G Applin (Officials Liaison), Mrs D McRoberts (Secretary), D Peck (Development)

**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 12 JANUARY 2016**

The minutes were agreed as a true record.

**MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

The County Junior League galas resulted in UEA City of Norwich winning the Copeman Cup at Wymondham and Thetford Dolphins winning the Christine Clark Cup at Thetford. There had once again been problems with some clubs not providing sufficient or, in at least one case, any officials for these galas. Some information sent to clubs seemed to have gone astray. The league AGM will take place, as in 2015, as part of the next Competitions Sub Committee meeting where some suggested changes to the league format will be discussed.

The Holiday Inn Express hotel has been booked for the National Inter Counties Competition at Sheffield (22/23 October weekend).

It had been agreed that, following the inaugural County Qualifier Gala, the future of the gala would be discussed at this meeting. It was noted that several clubs were organising licence level 4 club galas which served the same purpose. It was suggested that, if the gala is to go ahead again, it should take place after the turn of the year to get over the age problem. Please note that the suggested dates below replace the November dates set out in the 2016 fixture list.

As previously agreed, the Norfolk Masters County Championships and Open Gala had taken place as a full day (3-session) event in long course mode on 7 May. The day had proved to be very popular in its new format and the only problem was the lack of officials. Only 11 officials were available in the first session – effectively meaning that there were no judges whatsoever!

**REPORT ON THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP & AGE GROUP GALAS 2016**

There had been no problems in getting enough officials for these galas especially those held at Thetford. Lots of new officials were mentored or assessed. Overall the galas had run very well. Thanks to all those who helped make the galas a success. 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 2 short course meet. Any move from the present arrangements would need to be discussed with Suffolk which jointly participates in the gala: it is possible that they would withdraw and hold their own short course gala in Suffolk. It was also suggested that the main events might be transferred to the UEA Sportspark, (in 25m mode using the other end of the pool for warming up) and, with 8 lanes, so that they could be held over three days rather than four unless the 400m freestyle events are also included. It was also suggested that the county qualifying times should be slightly harder (e.g. by 1%) for 2017.

**REPORT ON THE THREE COUNTIES GALA – UEA SPORTSPARK – SUNDAY 6 MARCH 2016**

The gala had been won by Suffolk, with Cambridgeshire in second place and Norfolk finishing in third place. There had been a problem with the Sportssystem communicating with the recording system (a problem overcome at the subsequent regional galas there). It is understood that Suffolk will host the next Three Counties gala and that it, too, may be held at the UEA Sportspark.

**TEAM SELECTION & ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE EAST REGION INTER COUNTIES GALA – SUNDAY 10 JULY – UEA SPORTSPARK**

The gala will take place at the UEA Sportspark in long course mode but hosted by Suffolk. It has been licenced as a level 1 gala. Although the final gala details had yet to be received from Tom Baster on behalf of East Region, it was understood that the programme and other arrangements will remain unchanged. Swimmers can enter two events plus relays in their own age group (11/12, 13/14, 15/16 and 17 & over). It was agreed that the Norfolk team will be selected by John Digby (County Coach) after the forthcoming regional age group galas and sent to clubs advising a reply date. Cheryl Rose (Team Manager) will select officials (three are needed from Norfolk) and marshals for the Norfolk team. The County President was invited to attend.

John Digby outlined a proposed new team selection policy. This covers the three main inter-county galas taking place this year but excludes the ‘new’ (to Norfolk anyway) junior inter counties gala though a similar policy would

presumably apply. A copy is attached to these minutes. This policy was discussed at length. It was then proposed and agreed by most of those present with one against and one abstention.

### ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE COUNTY CHALLENGE GALAS – DEREHAM – SUNDAYS 19/26 JUNE 2016

Dereham Otters will host these galas. The warm up sessions are scheduled for 8.30 am and 12.45 pm each day. A level 3 licence has been applied for. Entry forms have been distributed to clubs. Lead referee will be Tony Smith.

### ARRANGEMENTS FOR COUNTY RELAY GALA – UEA SPORTSPARK – SATURDAY 16 JULY

UEA City of Norwich SC is to host the gala this year. It was agreed that warm up would commence at 4.00 pm for a 5.00 pm start: (note that this is one hour earlier than previous years). Entry forms will be distributed at the beginning of June. Lead referee will be Stewart Murray. There will be no preceding awards ceremony as, due to the later date for the gala this time, many awards have already been presented. However there will be some awards presented on the pool side (under the score board) during a break.

The opportunity to invite together all the Past Presidents for a buffet tea during the warm up and then to watch the gala should continue as before. **The Secretary is asked to send out invitations and book a small buffet please.** The current President should host the tea.

### FIXTURE LIST 2017

Firstly, apologies from the Assistant Secretary for omitting this item from the agenda. In view of the many suggested changes made during the meeting, it was difficult to organise anything other than an outline fixtures list at this stage. Therefore the following list is necessarily, for many of the events, very provisional.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
Sat14/Sun15 Jan	County Qualifier Gala****	Thetford
Sat 4 Feb	County Championship & Age Group 800/1500m events*	UEA Sportspark
Sat 11 Feb	County Age Group & Championship 400m freestyle events**	Wymondham
Sat18/Sun19/Sat25/Sun26 Feb	County Age Group & Championship other events**	Thetford <u>or</u> UEA Sportspark
Sat 18 Mar	County Junior League First Round***	Wymondham/Dereham
Sat 22 Apr	County Junior League Final Round***	Wymondham/Thetford
TBA	County Masters Championships	UEA Sportspark
Sun 18/Sun 25 Jun	County Challenge Galas	Dereham
Sat 15 Jul	County Relay Gala	UEA Sportspark
TBA	County & East Region Open Water Championships	Whitlingham Broad

However, amongst the changes being considered are:

- \*Reducing the 800/1500m gala to short course (see above) and reconsidering Suffolk's involvement.
- \*\*Moving the other events to the UEA Sportspark and possibly including the 400m freestyle events there too.
- \*\*\*Holding the County Junior League at the UEA Sportspark as an 8-lane gala possibly in one session.
- \*\*\*\*Making the Qualifier Gala, possibly renamed (see below), an open event.

NB. Later dates for some of the county championship galas have been brought back into February as, otherwise, they would have fallen outside of the ASA's calendar for such events.

### ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There were several views that a suitable memorial to Warwick Thompson should be included amongst the county galas. The possibility of a 'skins' event within the county championship galas was suggested but Norwich Swan was already including such an event, named after their club member, within their current club championship galas. However, it was felt that one of the events, perhaps the hurriedly and rather blandly named County Qualifier Gala, might be re-titled the Warwick Thompson Memorial Gala. This idea was well received.

It was agreed that a Coaches Forum should be held at an early date, and no later than the County Challenge Gala dates, to discuss and agreed (or otherwise) some of the changes proposed during this meeting before the fixture list for 2017 can be finalised. **The County Development Officer is invited to make the necessary arrangements please.**

Clubs are reminded that Open Water training will resume at Fritton Lake on Sunday 29 May and continue through the summer (except on 17 July, the date of the East Region Open Water Championships at Whitlingham Broad). An Open Water Officials Level 1 course is being held at Barnet Copthall on Sunday 22 May.

New officials' Norfolk shirts have arrived and will be distributed against orders already placed.

Trophies for the Relay Gala and the Open Water Gala are required back to the Trophies Secretary please.

### DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 19 July at Hewett Academy at 7.30pm to make the arrangements for the East Region Junior Inter Counties Gala at Luton on Sunday 18 September and the National Inter Counties Gala at Sheffield on 23 October, and the meeting will also incorporate the County Junior League AGM as well as attempting to finalise the Fixture List for 2017 following the decisions made at a forthcoming Coaches Forum.

## **NORFOLK COUNTY ASA**

### **Norfolk ASA County Team Selection Policy 2016**

The following document is intended to set out Norfolk County ASA team selection for the Inter County galas we currently compete in.

#### A) General Notes

1. Swimmers are expected to swim at any gala if selected by the Team Manager
2. Declining an invitation to participate in an individual gala excludes that swimmer from competing in other inter county galas in that year (unless there are medical grounds or other extenuating circumstances)

#### B) Specific Details & Timings

- 1) Three Counties Gala (6 March) –long course pool
  - Times to be achieved between 1 September and 24 January (to include County Qualifier Gala)
  - Team is primarily selected on short course times
  - Team selection to clubs by 31 January
  - Replies to Team Manager by 14 February (3 weeks before the gala)
- 2) East Region Inter Counties (10 July) – long course pool
  - Times to be achieved between 1 January and 31 May (to include regional age groups)
  - Team is primarily selected on long course times
  - Team selection to clubs by 5 June
  - Replies to Team Manager by 19 June (3 weeks before the gala)
- 3) National Inter Counties (23 October) –short course pool
  - Times to be achieved from start of National Qualifying Window (11 March) and mid-Sept
  - Team is primarily selected on long course times (faster short course times considered)
  - Team selection to clubs by 11 Sep (to allow times from early season galas)
  - Replies to Team Manager by 25 Sep (3 weeks before gala)