

NORFOLK COUNTY A.S.A.

Minutes of Competitions Sub-Committee – Thursday 28th February 2019 – Hewett Academy

PRESENT: G Applin (President Elect), K Belton (Treasurer), Mrs K. Woodhouse (Secretary), R Barrett (Records/County Colours), Mrs E Bowen (Jnr League), L. Harvey (Championships), Ms R Horne (North Norfolk Vikings), S Murray (East Region Representative), S Park (Norwich Swan), C. Rose (Team Manager), S Rose (Press & PR), A Smith (Technical Director), Mrs T Spinner (CON).

- 1. APOLOGIES:** D Peck (President), Mrs D Barrett (Trophies), Mrs C Fasey (Thetford Dolphins), C Galer (Officials Exams), K Hall (Water Polo), K Rumsey (Chairman), C Searle (County Coach), Ms S Vanderloo (West Norfolk).
- 2. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 6th November 2018**

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as a true record.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

National Inter-Counties Team Gala: The Team Manager was not present at the previous meeting and asked about the feedback concerning the quality of food after the event. She requested that any feedback should be directed to the Team Manager prior to discussion at Competitions meetings.

Records: In an attempt to address the number of County Records yet to be claimed it was agreed to review the records using the National Rankings database going back to 2010. **ACTION: R Barrett.**

4. REPORT ON COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS – 2019

The Technical Director submitted a report to the meeting:

The objective of giving a more professional feeling to the Championships in line with the East Region Championships had been achieved but could still be improved.

Radios were used for the first time and helped the galas to run smoothly.

The parading of officials ensured that all personnel were in place at the start time. Using music next year would add to the atmosphere.

Several complaints were received some of which seemed personal and aimed at the promoter. All were resolved in a professional manner.

Clubs need to realise that non-withdrawal of swimmers (resulting in empty lanes) could result in fines.

Sunday 27th January was postponed due to a heating failure at the Sportpark and swum on Sunday 10th February instead. Swimmers unable to compete due to the change of date would be offered a refund. **ACTION: L Harvey** in consultation with A Smith.

There were a number of issues with pool staff, equipment and facilities and a formal complaint was made to the Duty Manager. Assurances were made and things improved.

A fifteen minute break was introduced between heats and finals.

Mentees were unable to be offered lunch, mainly due to a lack of space in the dining area. Offering lunch would encourage people to volunteer.

All officials were sent a Technical Officials Handbook which they were encouraged to read. This is designed to help inform officials prior to the gala so everyone is aware of procedures and knows what is expected of them.

The Championship Working Group was felt to be a good idea and should be continued next season. A debrief meeting will take place next month.

5. REPORT ON WARWICK Thompson Gala - 2019

There were more entries this year and the gala ran smoothly.

The fire alarm went off, which the swimmers and spectators could not hear properly. There were no visuals to assist with evacuation and it was generally felt that the situation was poorly handled by the life guards in attendance.

With so many inexperienced swimmers and their parents attending it was agreed that some guidance on expectations/protocols at galas could be distributed either in a leaflet or printed in the programme. There is also a responsibility for this at Club level. The idea of having a meeting for parents was raised.

Similarly requests for volunteers and new officials could be publicised in the programme.

6. ARRANGEMENTS FOR NORFOLK JUNIOR GALA - 6th April 2019

Programmes are in hand **ACTION: K BELTON**

Key officials are in place. Competing clubs to declare their officials in advance please.

Representatives of the Copeman and Clark families will be invited to present the trophies. **ACTION: K Woodhouse.**

CON and Dereham are reminded to return the trophies they won last year on the day of the gala please.

A Sports System file has been set up for the gala.

The following lanes were allocated following a draw at the meeting:

- L1. City of Norwich
- L2. Great Yarmouth
- L3. Diss Otters
- L4. North Norfolk Viking
- L5. Norwich Swan
- L6. Thetford Dolphins
- L7. West Norfolk
- L8. Dereham Otters

7. ARRANGEMENTS FOR NORFOLK COUNTY CHALLENGE GALA – 22nd & 23rd June 2019

The entry forms are complete and details will be sent out as soon as session start times are confirmed with Dereham.

The cut off times are set at the Regional Qualifying time whilst the entry criteria will be County Qualifying time minus one year e.g. the 15 year QT will be the 14 years County Qualifying time. The exception will be for the youngest age-group where the entry criteria will be set to allow half of those swimmers who swam at the Warwick Thompson Gala to compete.

If the gala is over-subscribed then rejections will be slowest first.

Gogglebox will be attending.

Diane Barrett will support Dereham with organisation.

8. ARRANGEMENTS FOR NORFOLK COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS – 2020

The arrangements for next year's Championships will be discussed by the Working Group. The following are suggested points for discussion:

- The atmosphere at the County Championships felt quite flat this year. Could the introduction of spot prizes, camera footage and other measures liven things up?
- The introduction of a 16 year old age-group was raised.
- Mentees could march on with the officials if practical.
- Clubs are currently issued with two lunch passes for coaches/team managers/helpers which does not reflect the swimmer coach ratio stipulated. It was felt it was important to make sure personnel were catered for and valued in the same way as officials and other volunteers.
- The possibility of LC and SC County Championships was raised. The change in entry criteria for the County Challenge gala, allowing more swimmers to compete, may go some way to addressing the concerns raised.
- Were there a lot more disqualifications in some sessions than others? Could this be due to the large number of mentees in those sessions where there were more DQs or was it that there were more technical events and less freestyle?
- Qualifying times for the reverse distance events will need to be set. There could be 11 heats of 1500m next year especially if we add the additional age-group proposed. This would lengthen the gala and make officiating problematic. Do we continue to share the distance events with Suffolk?
- There needs to be a detailed timeline for the announcers to follow. A recorded safety announcement should be produced.
- The Relay Gala was considered dull by some.
- The Relay Gala is age on day to allow 9 year olds to swim, should this be age at year end, the same as the Championships?

- It was suggested that C teams should be scrapped
- Moving the 50m events away from the Relay Gala would help coaches make selections. .
- A child swam twice in the same relay. Although this was declared by that child's club and the team was disqualified, the rules do not allow for this and the swim should not have taken place.
- Half an hour should be added to the lunch break immediately prior to the Relay Gala to allow for adequate briefing of the Skins events.

9. FIXTURE LIST 2019 - UPDATE

6 th April 2019 (TBC)	Norfolk Junior Team Gala (name tbc)
11 th May 2019	Norfolk Masters – Sportspark, UEA
22-23 rd June 2019	NCASA County Challenge – Dereham
7 th July 2019	Regional Inter-County Gala – Sportspark UEA, NORFOLK ASA to Host
21 st July 2019	NCASA and East Region Open Water Championships – Whitlingham

Officials for the Norfolk Masters on May 11th are urgently requested. Please could all clubs request that officials volunteer. Norfolk are hosting the East Region Inter-County Gala at the Sportspark UEA in July. This means that we will need to provide key officials and run the AOE/results.

Date for the Inter-County Junior Team Gala held at Luton TBC.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- **East Region Committee:** The Development budget has increased due to the success of the coaches' forums and regional camps. A nominal fee of £10 per person will be charged for this going forward. Further Performance seminars are planned with motivational speakers to attend. More development camps are in the pipeline. Psychology videos are available to view on the ER website. A Regional team may attend an international meet. Individual online entries will be trialled at this year's Winter Championships National events are already entered this way. Championship entry fees will be raised to £8 from the Winter Championships onwards. Swim England will attend the ER Summer Championships to observe athlete experience. Winter Championships qualifying times will be slightly stiffer than last year as there is less poolside space for swimmers at Basildon. The 4x200m relay will be cut and replaced with 4x50m, 4x100m and a mixed event similar to challenge 68 which was swum for the first time at Nationals in 2018. In effect this is a skins style relay event. B finals will be added at Winter Championships. The East Region is considering radical changes for 2020 due to the qualifying window for Nationals being moved. These are yet to be approved.
- **Officials:** From November next year JL1 candidates will apply and complete an online course instead of attending workshops. Assessment will continue in the same way but there is likely to be a deadline to work towards.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting will be confirmed after the working party have met.