

NORFOLK COUNTY A.S.A.
Minutes of Development Sub-Committee –8 February 2011 – Hewett School

PRESENT A Lelean (President), J Macdonald (Sub Committee Secretary), A Smith (Hon. Assistant Secretary), K Belton (Treasurer), G Jarvis (Competitions Secretary), S Murray (President Elect), J Peggall (Facilities), A Pinniger (UEA City of Norwich SC), Mrs M Tallowin (Synchro).

APOLOGIES Mrs J Blackwell (Secretary), Mrs J Baker (Education), P Kendall (Open Water), Mrs S Lelean (Masters)

INTRODUCTIONS & BACKGROUND

James Macdonald introduced himself to the meeting, having volunteered to take on the vacant role of Secretary of the Development Sub Committee. His nomination will be put formally to the Executive Committee Meeting in March. A Pinniger, new head coach at UEA City of Norwich SC, had been invited in an advisory capacity.

The last formal meeting of the Development Sub Committee took place on 26 February 2008. A development plan had been produced in 2006/7 by Keith Sutton of the Norfolk Swimming Action Group and Janet Baker (Norwich Swimming Development Officer) covering the period up to March 2010 and had been presented to a specially arranged meeting of the Executive Committee on 12 April 2007. Active Norfolk, partially funded by the ASA, provided a part-time project officer each year to co-ordinate swimming development. Swimming Action Groups were set up in each of the Norfolk local authority districts and several initiatives such as swimming festivals were organised. Then, towards the end of 2009, the Government funded a full time Swimming Co-ordinator post in each county. However the funding was withdrawn and the Norfolk post-holder made redundant in September 2010. Following the 2008 meeting, it was agreed that Norfolk ASA and the Norfolk Swimming Action Group (SAG) should move together jointly to develop swimming and that the minutes of the joint meetings should be presented to the Executive Committee – but this did not happen. With the demise of the project officer post, the Norfolk SAG meetings discontinued. Some of the responsibilities of the county co-ordinator have been taken on by the ASA Aquatics Officer for Norfolk & Suffolk, Phil Lown.

REVIEW OF THE AIMS & DUTIES OF THE DEVELOPMENT SUB COMMITTEE

The membership and the duties of the Development Sub Committee, as agreed at past AGMs, are set out in the County Handbook. The duties are split into two sections.

The first section relates to the implementation and monitoring of the County Development Plan. A copy of an action plan drawn up by SAG and covering the period October 2008 – March 2010 was distributed. One of the aims of the sub committee should be to update and drive forward the County Development Plan

The second section relates to the training of swimmers. This responsibility was transferred several years ago from the then entitled Competitions & Training Sub Committee (now just Competitions Sub Committee). Many years ago Norfolk ASA organised central training of county standard swimmers by the county coach. There were plans to re-introduce centralised training about five years ago, but they did not proceed due to the move of the UEA City of Norwich SC chief coach, Fred Furniss, away from Norwich at that time.

REVIEW OF CURRENT DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The meeting then proceeded to review the most recent action plan and endeavoured to identify those actions which should remain under the control of Norfolk ASA and those which would be the responsibility of the local authorities, the School Sports Partnerships and the ASA East Region. Several items from the action plan were then discussed:

Competitive Swimming: the plan was to increase 50m training sessions for swimmers, and to set up a development day for all swimmers who are just below county standard. There is some availability of lanes at the UEA Sportspark for swimmers from clubs outside Norwich (and not just from Norfolk) but this is on an informal basis at present. It was suggested that it could be formalised and that land training facilities and coach mentoring could also be provided alongside a swimmer education programme (nutrition, psychology and other topics).

Disability: Several disability swimmers have been identified in the affiliated clubs since Ben Banham's appointment as Disabled Liaison Officer in 2010. Further swimmers from private clubs and schools also need to be identified and included in a pathway for disability swimmers interested in competitive swimming.

Open Water: There has been good progress in encouraging swimmers to participate in open water competitions and training at Whitlingham Broad, which is regarded as one of the best open water facilities in the country.

Synchro: There is only one small club in the county and the size of the club makes Swim 21 accreditation difficult. Swimmers come to the club from a variety of sources – there is no formal pathway. There needs to be improved awareness of synchro swimming in Norfolk.

Water Polo: There is only one club which, in the past, has drawn its members from the Thetford area and Norwich Swan SC. There is a small UEA City of Norwich water polo squad developing at Hewett School. There is no formal pathway from competitive swimming clubs to water polo.

Diving: There are no diving facilities in Norfolk – and this is likely to remain the position in the present financial climate!

ASA Awards for Volunteers: Norfolk ASA put forward the names of several volunteers for Regional awards in 2010.

Coaches & Teachers: There is no formal coaching action plan at present. Development days for coaches were also needed. It was proposed that a Coaches Forum might be held at the UEA Sportspark prior to the County Relay Gala on Saturday 26 March. Alex Pinneger agreed to organise this and Keith Belton will book a room.

Swimming Officials: This is a busy area with candidates regularly coming forward from some, but not all, competitive clubs. Courses are being taken to various locations in Norfolk rather than being held centrally to encourage more applicants. Courses for officials at disability galas are held twice a year by ASA East Region.

Swim 21: More help is needed to get clubs through the initial or renewal processes.

Swimming Action Groups: These are not currently active but, if they are convened again at district or county level, Norfolk ASA representatives should attend.

PROPOSALS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE AND PLAN

It was agreed that James Macdonald would draw up a revised development plan covering those activities which Norfolk ASA could reasonably drive forward and put it to the next meeting for discussion. It was noted that Masters Swimming did not feature in the old plan and should be included. There needed to be more on the development of and investment in coaching and teaching. Any proposed changes to the duties of the Sub Committee, as currently set out in the handbook, would need to be put to the Executive Committee meeting and agreed at the AGM.

BUDGET

The Treasurer said that funds are still available from Active Norfolk for items on the development plan. Swim 21 clubs currently get a subsidy for coaching and teaching courses (though this is thought to be under review). Norfolk ASA has substantial funds which it could decide to put towards the support of courses for coaches and teachers, and other associated events. Proposals need to be made on how organised swimming development at the UEA Sportspark might be funded: (currently clubs book and pay for lanes themselves).

ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

The present membership of the Sub Committee, as per the County Handbook, was briefly reviewed. It is important that all swimming disciplines are included. The Norfolk & Suffolk Aquatics Officer should be included in the absence of a county based swimming development officer. Membership would therefore be:

President	Water Polo Secretary	Championship Secretary
Chairman	Open Water Secretary	Competitions Secretary
Secretary	Masters Secretary	County Coach
Treasurer	Synchro Secretary	Facilities Officer
Assistant Secretary	Disabled Swimming Secretary	Development Sub Committee Secretary
President Elect	Education Secretary	Norfolk & Suffolk Aquatics Officer

OTHER BUSINESS

UEA City of Norwich SC will be running a Development Camp for swimmers during the Easter period. Alex Pinneger will send details to all county clubs and their coaches are also invited.

Four coaching courses, mainly aimed at young volunteers, are being arranged by Alex Pinneger. Two 5-day Level 1 courses are planned for July 2011 and February 2012. Two 9-day Level 2 courses are planned for October 2011 and Easter 2012.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed to hold a further meeting on Tuesday 5 April in Room A17, Hewett School, Norwich