

NORFOLK COUNTY A.S.A.

Minutes of Competitions Sub-Committee – Tuesday 7 July 2009 – Hewett School

PRESENT K Rumsey (President), M Watkins (Chairman/Secretary), A Smith (Assistant Secretary), Mrs D Barrett (Trophies/Thetford Dolphins), R Barrett (Championship Secretary), Mrs S Thompson (Competitions Secretary/Team Manager), J Digby (Norwich Swan), A Lelean (Diss Otters), G Jarvis (Great Yarmouth), R Sheperdson (UEA City of Norwich), Mrs J Snell (Dereham Otters)

APOLOGIES G Garner (Officials Liaison), Mrs K Woodhouse (Aylsham Vikings)

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 12 MAY 2009

Agreed as a true record.

MATTERS ARISING

The meeting of club coaches took place on 14 June at the UEA Sportspark (see below).

There were no changes to the Fixtures List provisionally agreed at the March meeting and Robin Barrett has provisionally booked the pools.

The AGM of the Norfolk County Junior League took place on Tuesday 23 June and, so far, 10 teams have agreed to compete but two further teams, including 'B' teams, could be accommodated.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS & AGE GROUPS 2010

Several suggestions had been made at the Coaches Meeting in June and clubs were asked to confirm their views before this sub committee meeting, but only one club had responded. As previously stated, some leading Norfolk and Suffolk clubs had suggested that all events, not just the long distance ones, should take place at the UEA Sportspark in long course mode and be shared between the two counties. Roy Sheperdson explained that other counties hold their championships in long course pools wherever they are available and added that long course competition is important during the first half of the calendar year leading up to regional and national events. The smaller clubs thought that this would discourage many less experienced swimmers from competing. In any case it was doubtful that the UEA Sportspark would be available for further full weekends of competitive galas. A compromise view was that senior and youth swimmers might compete at the UEA Sportspark in long course mode with, possibly, Norfolk and Suffolk combining leaving the age groupers to compete at a 25 metre pool in their separate counties as now. It may not be feasible to alter the arrangements for 2010 in which case perhaps these proposals could be considered for 2011. It was agreed that a working group comprising Sally Thompson, Robin Barrett, Roy Sheperdson and Garry Jarvis should meet to consider the possible formats of the proposed competitions, the likelihood of Suffolk joining in, the availability of the UEA Sportspark on appropriate dates and, particularly important, the net cost of the changes compared with the present arrangements. It was hoped that they could report back before the next sub committee meeting so that appropriate decisions can be taken.

REPORT ON THE COUNTY CHALLENGE GALAS – DEREHAM – SUNS 21 & 28 JUNE 2009

The sessions had run smoothly and had, for the first time, included a card-less system. Norwich Swan had won the team trophy. There had been a 50% increase in entries this year including welcome support from UEA City of Norwich swimmers. There had been a number of events not included because there had been no swimmers in these events at the County Championships from which to obtain a qualifying time. It was agreed that such events should be included in the programme in future and appropriate cut-off times calculated. Thanks were expressed to those officials and current JL1 candidates who had turned out and enabled us to run the gala. The opportunity had also been taken to assess JL1 and JL2 candidates during all the sessions.

REPORT ON THE EAST REGION INTER COUNTIES CHAMPIONSHIPS – THETFORD – SUNDAY 5 JULY

The gala had been won by Hertfordshire (230 points) followed by Suffolk (223), Essex (202), Bedfordshire (146), Norfolk in 5th place (138) and Cambridgeshire (111). Several of the top swimmers from UEA City of Norwich had been away at an open meet in Cardiff for reasons explained by their head coach who also asked to be kept informed of swimmers selected from his club for county events in future. He would also welcome seeing a draft selection list in advance of future selection meetings so that he is able to confirm (or otherwise) the availability of his swimmers. The gala had been well supported by a huge number of spectators and had been attended by the East Region President and four of the county presidents.

TEAM SELECTION & ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE NATIONAL INTER COUNTIES CHAMPIONSHIPS - SHEFFIELD – SUNDAY 18 OCTOBER 2009

Swimmers are permitted 2 individual events plus relays in their own age groups (12/13, 14/15, 16/17). The team was selected using British Swimming rankings and the most recent county event times. It was explained that split times from galas cannot be accepted but a few changes were made where club representatives present could show that a swimmer had recently obtained a faster time than the one in the draft selection. An enquiry will be made about the availability of Anne Bochmann who is now training at Leeds but still qualifies to swim for Norfolk this year. Sally Thompson will then distribute invitation with a Code of Conduct form and a medical form. Replies will be due back to her by 31 August.

Sally Thompson has arranged transport. The coach will leave Hewett School, Norwich, on Saturday 17 October at 2.00pm, picking up at St James Pool, Kings Lynn, at 3.00pm. The coach should arrive back in Norwich on Sunday 18 October around 7.30pm. The Lion Hotel, Worksop, has been booked for Saturday night (provisionally 18 doubles and 2 singles) including an evening meal on arrival and full breakfast. Swimmers will require cash for lunch before the gala and tea during the return journey. If any swimmers (perhaps from West Norfolk) are already in Sheffield competing in the Lincoln Vulcan Open Meet, they will not require transport on the Saturday but will need to be taken to Worksop on Saturday evening and may wish to join the coach home on Sunday.

Several adults will need accommodation. These include Sally Thompson (Team Manager) and Paul Thompson (Chaperone). Sally Thompson will enquire about the availability of Stewart Park (County Coach) who is leaving West Norfolk SC at the end of July. John Digby (Norwich Swan coach) was also invited to attend and other suggestions were made about inviting another coach should Stewart Park not be available. Two officials, who must be full judges, were required and Sally Thompson will enquire about the availability of suitable officials who have children in the team. One or two further chaperones would be needed. The coach driver also needs to be accommodated. Sally Thompson confirmed that she has the county banner and will organise other 'regalia'.

A team building day will be organised once the coaches have been appointed.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The East Region Open Water Championships take place at Whitlingham Broad on Sunday 19 July and it was agreed that, once again, the Norfolk open water championships should be incorporated in it with the most successful Norfolk swimmers receiving medals. In the absence of the President on that day, the President Elect (Julie Andrews) has been asked if she will be available. Diane Barrett needs to know the number of medals and ribbons required.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place on **Tuesday 20 October 2009** at Hewett School in Room A17. The main purposes will be to **select the teams for the Three Counties (Norfolk/Suffolk/Cambridgeshire) Gala** and to discuss further the **arrangements for the County Championships & Age Groups if the Working Group has reported by that date.**

[SECRETARIES: Please note the date and ensure that your club is represented at the meeting in view of the important matter of changes to county championship formats that may be discussed. Also to ensure that your swimmers are given every opportunity to be selected for the county teams at the Three Counties Gala].