

NORFOLK COUNTY A.S.A.
Minutes of Competitions Sub-Committee – Tuesday 19 April 2011 – Hewett School

PRESENT A Lelean (President), K Belton (Treasurer), A Smith (Assistant Secretary), S Murray (President Elect/ West Norfolk), G Jarvis (Competitions Secretary/Team Manager), R Barrett (Championship Secretary), Mrs D Barrett (Trophies), Mrs E Bowen (County Junior League), Mrs J Bowyer (North Norfolk Vikings), C Galer, M Kleinau (Thetford Dolphins), J MacDonald (UEA City of Norwich), Mrs A Salter (Dereham Otters), M Woods (Dereham Otters)

APOLOGIES Mrs J Blackwell (Secretary), G Garner (Officials Liaison), J Rush (Diss Otters)

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 25 JANUARY 2011

Agreed as a true record.

MATTERS ARISING

The Three Counties Gala will be held on Sunday 11 December and hosted by Cambridgeshire but the venue has yet to be decided. Suffolk has proposed that 12 year old age group events should be 100 metres for both boys and girls and, after a brief discussion, Norfolk agreed to this proposal. The Assistant Secretary will notify Suffolk accordingly.

REPORT ON THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS AND AGE GROUPS FEBRUARY & MARCH 2011

The galas had run smoothly with no major problems. Almost everyone had agreed that the inclusion of a 16 & over age group final was an improvement.

There was a discussion about the continuation of both 800 and 1500 metre freestyle events for both boys and girls (as regional and national championships have reverted to 800m for girls and 1500m for boys). There was a preference to continue with the present arrangements at least in 2012 but it was agreed to ask Suffolk for its views before making a final decision.

A number of matters relating to the County Championships and Age Groups had been raised at the Coaches Forum held on Saturday 26 March at the UEA Sportspark, and these were discussed at the meeting:

Hire a larger scoreboard. Thetford only has a 'one-line' scoreboard unlike Dereham and the UEA Sportspark which have lines for each lane. A discussion considered the relative costs and feasibilities of purchasing or renting (though the pool operator would be unlikely to contribute) and where such a board would be placed. No decision was reached.

Swim the Championship Final as the first final. It is currently the last final (when many spectators will have left the pool) after the age group finals in order of oldest to youngest. However the whole order could easily be reversed with the championship final preceding the age group finals in order of youngest to oldest, and this was considered to be a good suggestion which would be incorporated into the 2012 programme.

Invest in Hytek Meet Manager Software. Coaches felt that Sports Systems Software had limitations and reported that UEA, Dereham and Great Yarmouth had converted to Hytek software. It was not clear exactly what benefits would be achieved – perhaps clubs can advise the County please? A greater benefit would be to link the recording computers with the Dactronics AOE system on-line. It was understood that Regional and National galas still use Sports Systems software. What is the cost of Hytek software? Further consideration is needed.

Warm-ups. Have wider age groups or event specific warm-ups to give swimmers longer in the water. It is currently organised in terms of numbers of swimmers, not events. No decision reached.

Programme. It was suggested that Sunday mornings (especially on the second weekend) were quiet but Sunday afternoons too busy. It was also suggested that Saturday mornings should not start with 50m backstroke (which provides most AOE problems) but, rather, a longer race such as 200m breaststroke. It was agreed the order should be altered to make the first event at least a 100m one. It was agreed that the programme could be altered to address these issues when discussing the 2012 programme later in the year.

Venue. Up until now any move of the short and middle distance events from Thetford to the UEA Sportspark has been resisted on grounds of higher cost and non-availability of further weekends at the latter venue. However it is likely that some Regional weekends will move soon from Norwich to 50m pools being built in Basildon and Luton and to any 25m pools capable of taking a large number of spectators – this would be the time to reconsider the suggestion.

REPORT ON COUNTY RELAY GALA – UEA SPORTSPARK – SATURDAY 26 MARCH 2011

This had been a well run and busy gala with entries up 20% on the previous year. 500 programmes had been printed and nearly all of them had been used. There was overcrowding in the access area prior to the opening of the changing rooms and this aspect needs to be considered before the 2012 gala.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR COUNTY CHALLENGE GALAS – DEREHAM – SUNDAYS 19 & 26 JUNE 2011

Dereham Otters will host these two sessions (am and pm) galas on each date. Warm ups are scheduled for 8.30am (for a 9.30am start) and 12.45pm (for a 1.45pm start). Event entry remains at £4 and door admission at £2 but a single programme will be produced covering both weekends and will be sold for £1.

Graham Garner will appoint a lead referee and organise officials. Dianne Barrett will liaise with Dereham over the provision of other helpers and she will call a separate working group meeting nearer the time to iron out other details including the catering arrangements. Entry forms will be issued by Robin Barrett before the end of April and will be due back to him by the end of May. It will be a card-less gala with electronic entries. Age is as at 13 March (the final date of the County Age Groups). Entry criteria will be determined, as previously, on the basis of the time of the 6th fastest swimmer at the County Age Groups with odd exceptions where necessary (which Robin Barrett explained to those at the meeting). If a time is slower than the county qualifying time then that time will be used instead. It was agreed to amend the rules to cover these points. A question was raised about why 11 year old girls swim 100m events at the County Age Groups but only 50m events in the County Challenge Galas. It was discussed and agreed to alter the 12 girls age group to 100m events. Also it was agreed that 11 year olds should swim 200m rather than 100m IMs.

FIXTURE LIST FOR 2012

A provisional fixture list is set out below subject to pool availability and, in the case of the County Junior League, confirmation at the league AGM. Dates and locations will be confirmed at the next meeting. **Club secretaries are asked to note the dates to avoid clashes with club and other galas in 2012 please.** Robin Barrett will book pools as appropriate (except for the County Junior League which Elaine Bowen will book after the league AGM). The dates for the Long Distance Galas are subject to agreement with Suffolk County ASA.

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Events</u>	<u>Locations</u>
Sat 11 & Sat 18 February	County Championship 800m/1500m events	UEA Sportspark
Sat 3/Sun 4/Sat 10/Sun 11 March	County Championships: other individual events	Thetford
Sat 17 March	County Junior League Round 1 (2 Galas?)	Wymondham/Dereham
Sat 24 March	County Relay Gala	UEA Sportspark
Sat 14 April	County Junior League Final Round (2 Galas?)	Wymondham/Thetford
Sun 17 & Sun 24 June	County Challenge Galas	Dereham
Not yet decided	East Region Inter Counties Championships	Not yet decided
Sun 21 October (tbc)	National Inter Counties Championships	Sheffield
Sun 9 December	Three Counties Gala	Dereham

(The date for the 2012 Three Counties Gala, when it is Norfolk's turn to host again, is subject to agreement with Suffolk and Cambridgeshire County ASAs. The meeting decided to switch from Thetford to Dereham on this occasion).

TEAM SELECTION & ARRANGEMENTS FOR EAST REGION INTER COUNTIES CHAMPIONSHIPS - PETERBOROUGH – SUNDAY 3 JULY

Age is as at date of gala. Age groups are 11/12, 13/14, 15/16, 17 & over. Swimmers can only enter two individual events (incl. Open 200 IM) plus relays in their own age groups. Garry Jarvis produced a draft team selection from current rankings with alterations where it was known that any swimmers were unavailable. There was a problem in getting sufficient 17 & over girls for the relay teams and clubs were asked to let Garry know of any girls that were available. Otherwise a team was selected and a list will be sent to clubs shortly. Replies need to be back to Gary Jarvis by 1 June. Keith Belton will book a coach which will pick up from Hewett School, Norwich, at 11.00am and St James Pool, Kings Lynn, at 12.00pm to arrive at Peterborough by 1.00pm latest. Warm up is at 1.30pm. Stewart Park (County Coach) will accompany Garry Jarvis (Team Manager) and Jackie Snell (County Chaperone). One judge and two timekeepers are required: Stewart Murray will attend and will select two timekeepers to accompany him. It had been hoped to arrange a team building day for this gala but, unfortunately, Garry has not been able to fit this into the programme this time.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The results of the County Junior League have been distributed. Norwich Swan 'A' had won the Copeman Cup at Wymondham and Thetford Dolphins had won the Christine Clark Cup at Thetford.

A reminder that the East Region Open Water Championships will take place at Whitlingham Broad on Sunday 17 July. The County President will attend and present medals to the most successful Norfolk swimmers.

The National Inter Counties Championships will take place at Sheffield on Sunday 16 October. Accommodation has been booked once again at the Lion Hotel, Worksop. Team selection will take place at the next meeting.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 19 July 2011 at Hewett School in Room A17 at 7.30pm. The main purpose will be to select a team for the National Inter Counties Championships.