

NORFOLK COUNTY A.S.A.

Minutes of Competitions Sub-Committee – Tuesday 24 January 2012 – Hewett School

PRESENT S Murray (President/West Norfolk), K Belton (Treasurer), A Smith (Assistant Secretary), G Jarvis (Competitions Secretary/Team Manager/Great Yarmouth), R Barrett (Championship Secretary), Mrs D Barrett (Trophies), Mrs E Bowen (Norfolk Junior League), P Kendall (Open Water), J MacDonald (Development Secretary), S Park (County Coach/Dereham Otters), A Lelean (Diss Otters), M Bateman (UEA City of Norwich SC), A Pinniger (UEA City of Norwich SC), Mrs K Woodhouse (Norwich Swan)

APOLOGIES K Rumsey (Chairman), Mrs S Lelean (President Elect), Mrs J Blackwell (Secretary), Mrs J Bowyer (North Norfolk Vikings), J Digby (Norwich Swan)

CO-OPTION OF OFFICERS TO COMPETITIONS SUB COMMITTEE

Membership of the sub-committee is restricted to county officers, the sub-committee secretary, the county coach and representatives of affiliated clubs (with only one representative from each club entitled to vote). It was proposed and agreed that the following should be co-opted with voting rights: Mrs D Barrett (Trophies), R Barrett (Championship Secretary), Mrs E Bowen (County Junior League), G Garner (Officials Liaison), P Kendall (Open Water) and J Macdonald (Development). The County Chaperone and the Press & PR Officer should also be co-opted when appointed but both posts are currently vacant.

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 18 OCTOBER 2011

Agreed as a true record.

MATTERS ARISING

Affiliation letters for the County Junior League were sent to all affiliated clubs on 17 December 2011 requiring confirmation from clubs by 31 January 2012. It appears that 9 clubs will participate with 'B' teams from UEA City of Norwich, Norwich Swan and Dereham Otters taking up the remaining three places. There had been a booking problem at Thetford, a clash with Swimathon, but this now appears to have been resolved. Saturday galas at Wymondham can now start earlier and Elaine Bowen will check with the clubs involved if a 5.30 pm warm up is acceptable. There was also some doubt about the booking of the Dereham pool which Robin Barrett will follow up as a matter of urgency.

The date for the 2012 Three Counties Gala which is to be hosted by Norfolk at the Dereham pool, is still subject to agreement with Suffolk and Cambridgeshire County ASAs. Gary Jarvis will contact both counties to ensure that they are happy with the date and venue and make sure that the booking of the pool has been confirmed.

Congratulations to UEA City of Norwich SC which finished in 6th place in the National Junior League Final at Corby on 27 November.

NATIONAL INTER-COUNTIES CHAMPIONSHIPS - SHEFFIELD – SUNDAY 16 OCTOBER

Alex Pinnegar (UEA City of Norwich SC head coach) had expressed a number of concerns about the trip to Sheffield. He wanted to make it clear that it was not intended as direct criticism of any individual but, rather, to give some constructive ideas on how to improve matters on future trips.

1. Food (at overnight hotel and on the day of the gala).

The food offered was not considered suitably nutritious for a national competition and the poor quality of food (e.g. high fat content) does affect performance. Also the food could have caused the illnesses suffered by two or three of the swimmers. It was a pity that the evening menus, circulated in advance, were not queried at the time. If food such as burgers is included in menus it is likely that the younger swimmers in particular will select that option. This, of course, also applies to the stop at McDonalds (made as a matter of convenience rather than choice) during the return journey. No criticism of the Lion Hotel, Workshop, is intended and Keith Belton has already enquired about changes in future years. The hotel will provide more suitable menus if we can advise them in advance as to what is preferred in the evening and at breakfast time. Although the stop on the return journey may seem less important, coming as it does after the gala, a suggestion was made that the 'loo' and food stop might be made at the hotel in Worksop if they are agreeable. Lunch time on the day of the gala falls between the warm up (spread over several hours to accommodate all the teams) and the gala itself. Possibly the hotel could provide a light packed lunch comprising a small sandwich (with a degree of choice), fruit and a fruit drink. Alex Pinniger will pass ideas to Keith Belton so that he can liaise with the hotel. Currently Norfolk County ASA funds the accommodation including the evening meal and breakfast. It might consider also funding the light lunch before the gala and the tea during the return journey. This is a matter for the County Executive to consider once approximate costs less the ASA subsidy (£1000) have been calculated.

2. Drinking alcohol.

The Code of Conduct issued to staff and swimmers is quite clear that alcohol is not drunk in front of swimmers. It was not known who might have transgressed this rule.

3. Qualifications of accompanying adults.

County Coach, Team Manager and Chaperones should all be CRB checked and regarded as reliable by their clubs. Swimming Officials (assuming that they do not also have responsibilities relating to the welfare and behaviour of the swimmers) do not need to be CRB checked. Alex Pinniger recommended that those attending with responsibility for the swimmers should attend the Team Manager course if they have not already done so. Parents need to feel confident in those adults carrying out these duties. There was a suggestion that, like Suffolk, Norfolk might consider convening a County Conference or Training Day covering a number of the CPDs so that adults can attend those most appropriate to their duties. This is possibly something that the Development Sub Committee could take on board: James Macdonald? Norfolk County ASA would be happy to accept the offer that at least one qualified member of UEA City of Norwich SC should participate in future trips (not just the overnight ones).

4. Competition Issues

Swimmers had been told to remove offensive marks from the bodies and, with one unfortunate exception, did so. Clubs should be informed if any of their swimmers misbehave so that the appropriate disciplinary action can be taken. The Team Manager was concerned that one or two swimmers felt that they had received negative remarks after their events and he denied that such remarks were made.

5. Lack of contact information

Before the event a request had been made that an itinerary be passed to parents including contact details for the Team Manager and hotel details. This should also have included details of all adults attending who were responsible for the team. The Team Manager accepted that more details needed to be provided in future.

6. Team building day.

In past years a team get-together has been organised in advance of the National Inter Counties Championship but, on this occasion, for a variety of reasons, this simply didn't happen. In its place Alex Pinniger offered to run a number of Saturday training sessions for a selected county squad of some 35 – 40 swimmers comprising both pool and land based activities. It was suggested that Alex Pinniger should set this up in conjunction with Garry Jarvis and Stewart Park. There would inevitably be a cost but this could possibly be met from budgeted Development funds. James Macdonald will consider the cost aspects.

REPORT ON THREE COUNTIES GALA – PETERBOROUGH – SUNDAY 11 DECEMBER

The gala had been won by Cambridgeshire with Norfolk in third place. Several last minute withdrawals had made it difficult for Norfolk to field a strong team

FINAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS & AGE GROUPS

Entry forms had been despatched on 27 November but an amended version had subsequently been distributed on 11 December to accommodate 11 year olds in 100 metre events as agreed at the Executive Committee on 6 December. The closing date for the main events at Thetford is 2 February. Clubs were reminded that if affiliation fees have not been paid by 31 January, they will not be able to participate (and several competitive clubs have yet to pay!). There are no internet connections at Thetford to enable live results to be published – they are usually published every evening - but Adam Lelean will explore some wi-fi possibilities. Trophies are to be returned to Dianne Barrett by 5 February latest please. Dianne also asked for the names of two helpers from each club for duties off the poolside please. The need for a conscientious changing room marshal was emphasised.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR COUNTY RELAY GALA – UEA SPORTSPARK – SATURDAY 24 MARCH 2012

UEA City of Norwich was invited to host the gala. Warm up is 5.00 pm. Entry forms will be distributed to clubs in mid-February and need to be returned to Robin Barrett by Sunday 11 March. BAGCATS awards will be made in the Town Close Room from 4.00 pm. Swimmers involved need to be made aware please. Once again the Secretary, Jane Blackwell, was asked to invite all the Past Presidents and the East Region President to attend from 4.00 pm including a small buffet (Keith Belton to book please) after the BAGCATS awards. The County President (Stewart Murray) will host the reception.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR COUNTY CHALLENGE GALAS – DEREHAM – SUNDAYS 17 & 24 JUNE

Dereham Otters were invited to host these galas with two sessions (warm ups 8.30 am and 1.00 pm) each day. Entry criteria will be determined, as usual, after the County Age Groups and will be confirmed at the next meeting when further gala details can also be discussed. Kevin Rumsey to check that Dereham pool has now been booked (see above) all day on both dates for the County Challenge Galas, also for the County Junior League on the evening of Saturday 17

March and the Three Counties Gala on the afternoon of Sunday 9 December. A suggestion was made that the galas should be licensed (level 3) to allow times to go forward to the National Ranking List. Robin Barrett will do so for 2012 then there will be a cost/benefit review before making a decision for future years. (The cost is 25p per swim).

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

East Region Open Water Championships will take place at Whitlingham Broad on Sunday 15 July. Support is required both before and after the event please: contact Paul Kendall. The format has changed this time: 1500m for 11, 12 & 13 age groups, 1750m for 14 & 15 age groups, and 2000m for 16 & 17 age groups.

Alex Pinniger said that he hoped to give more support to the National and East Region inter-county galas in future. The Three Counties gala may be more difficult due to clashes with other key events around that time.

It was thought that the East Region Inter Counties Championships may not take place in 2012 due to its close proximity to the Olympic Games. Norfolk is still waiting to hear from East Region.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 17 April 2012 at Hewett School in Room A17 at 7.30pm. It is assumed that the East Region Inter Counties Championships is not taking place in 2012 (and so there needs to be no selection meeting). Therefore the main purposes of the April meeting will be to create a fixture list for 2013 and to finalise the details for the County Challenge Galas.