

**NORFOLK COUNTY A.S.A.**  
**Minutes of Competitions Sub-Committee – Tuesday 17 April 2012 – Hewett School**

**PRESENT** S Murray (President/West Norfolk), K Belton (Treasurer), A Smith (Assistant Secretary), R Barrett (Championship Secretary), Mrs D Barrett (Trophies), Mrs E Bowen (Norfolk Junior League), G Garner (Officials Liaison), J MacDonald (Development Secretary/UEA City of Norwich SC), J Digby (Norwich Swan)

**APOLOGIES** Mrs J Blackwell (Secretary), G Jarvis (Competitions Secretary/Team Manager/Great Yarmouth), Mrs J Bowyer (North Norfolk Vikings), A Pinniger (UEA City of Norwich SC)

**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 24 JANUARY 2012**

Agreed as a true record.

**MATTERS ARISING**

The first round of the Norfolk County Junior League galas had taken place on Saturday 17 March. The final round galas will take place on Saturday 28 April at Wymondham and Thetford. Details have been sent to clubs.

The date for the 2012 Three Counties Gala, which is to be hosted by Norfolk at the Dereham Pool, is still thought to be subject to agreement with Suffolk and Cambridgeshire County ASAs. GaryJarvis had agreed to contact both counties.

The Treasurer had contacted the Lion Hotel, Worksop, about food arrangements for the 2012 National Inter Counties Gala. The hotel will happily provide a specific menu for the evening meal and packed lunches before and after the gala. Alex Pinnegar has suggested appropriate food. It had yet to be decided if the coach should call in at the hotel for tea after the gala or if a packed tea should be requested to avoid a further stop. The coach driver's hours might be a factor. The Treasurer will explore both options and obtain costs for a decision to be made at the next meeting.

Alex Pinnegar had provided a proposed County Team Development Programme. This went beyond the idea of a Team Building Day and would need further discussion with Gary Jarvis (Team Manager) and Stewart Park (County Coach). It was suggested that the Development Sub Committee would need to be involved with this proposal and a detailed breakdown of the costs would also be needed before any decision could be made.

**REPORT ON THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS & AGE GROUPS – FEBRUARY & MARCH 2012**

There were 3090 entries for the County Championship & Age Group galas – the highest ever under the current format. This had caused some sessions to be excessively long and needs to be addressed in time for next year. Seven new county records and 40 new championship records had been set.

At the Distance galas at the UEA Sportspark, the first session (boys 1500m, girls 800m) had been very long exacerbated by an AOE problem initially. The second session (girls 1500m, boys 800m) had been much shorter. For the second year running it was suggested that there was no need for the girls 1500m and the boys 800m as neither are national events. Suffolk is also again considering if these events are needed. One proposal was to reduce to just boys 1500m and girls 800m but invite Cambridgeshire, who had previously asked to join in, though it was thought that they are now happily accommodated at the new 50m pool at Corby. It was agreed just to provide the boys 1500m and the girls 800m races in future and Robin Barrett will let Suffolk know our views on this. It might be possible to accommodate both events on one day over two sessions subject to pool availability – the Treasurer will check this possibility.

The galas at Thetford had run relatively smoothly though there had been some problems. There had been a complete scoreboard failure the first weekend - a temporary scoreboard had been set up for the second weekend. On one morning the incorrect plugging of the starter unit by pool staff had generated erroneous results which had had to be corrected manually later. There had also been a higher than usual rate of pad failures towards the end of the first weekend. Several other comments were made including pool temperatures, chipped tiles, slow lifeguards and grumpy officials (!).

This was a card-less gala and there had been an increasing number of empty lanes during the galas. A system of fines should be introduced, as happens at other such galas, if withdrawals are not notified in accordance with the gala rules.

There needs to be more support at County galas from members of non-hosting clubs. Robin Barrett will draw up guidelines of requirements for the promoters at clubs hosting galas and Diane Barrett will liaise with other clubs to seek more support – perhaps a minimum of two nominated helpers from every competing club?

In an attempt to reduce the overlong sessions at Thetford, a suggestion was made that, if the 1500/800m events can be contained in one day at the UEA Sportspark, the second day could be used to accommodate the 400m events. Otherwise it might be necessary to tighten up the qualifying times – but this would eliminate some competitors.

For 2013, it was agreed that 100m events for 11 year old boys should be included in BAGCATS. It was also agreed to include 14 year old girls in BAGCATS. It was agreed to retain Top Swimmer awards for 15 and for 16 & Over age groups based on BAGCATS. No decision was reached on whether the Top 3 or the Top 6 swimmers should receive BAGCATS awards.

Concern was expressed about the late return of some trophies. Of even more concern, two winners are still (after 6 weeks) waiting for trophies which have not been returned by the previous year's winner. Despite pleas to the UEA City of Norwich club and direct to a parent, the trophies have still not been returned. In accordance with the County rules the club will be fined on a daily basis (increasing each day the trophies remain unreturned) unless the club prefers to replace them with like-for-like trophies.

The high number of officials causing crowding on the poolside was also mentioned. The problem relates to a number of candidates being assessed or being mentored during the galas. There was a particularly high number during part of one session when 18 candidates attending a parallel JL1 course came on poolside for timekeeping assessments, otherwise they had spread fairly evenly throughout the two weekends and the opportunity has to be taken to do assessments when assessors are available and mentoring at galas where there are qualified referees and officials available to mentor candidates otherwise we will not get new officials coming through.

#### **REPORT ON THE COUNTY RELAY GALA – UEA SPORTSPARK – SATURDAY 24 MARCH 2012**

The number of relay gala entries had increased to 313 swims, the highest since the gala moved to the UEA Sportspark, with some clubs having several teams in the heats. The meeting discussed limiting the entries by having no more than three (A, B & C) teams per event and/or there should be no more than two heats per event. It was also suggested that all scoring (A) teams should, if possible, be in the same heat. One new championship record had been set.

The East Region President and his wife together with many Norfolk Past Presidents had attended the gala and participated in the awards ceremony before the gala.

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

Dereham Otters will host these galas with two sessions (warm ups 8.30 am for 9.30 am start and 12.45 pm for 1.45 pm start) each day. Event entry remains at £4 and door admission £2 with a single programme covering both days at £1. Tony Smith volunteered to act as lead referee. Graham Garner will appoint officials. Robin and Diane Barrett will liaise with Dereham Otters over the various gala requirements including helpers, catering arrangements and drinks. Entry forms will be issue by Robin Barrett later this month for return by 31May. Electronic entries are required. Age will be at 11 March (the final day of the County Age Groups). Entry criteria will be determined, as previously, on the basis of the time of the sixth fastest swimmer at the County Age Groups with odd exceptions where necessary. The gala has been licensed Level 3 (the cost/benefit of this will be reviewed afterwards) and the gala will also therefore have qualifying times (cut-off times plus 50%). However the promoter will have the discretion to limit entries to ensure the galas are not totally overloaded for health and safety reasons. The basis for this will be left for the promoter to determine (but first come, first served, is not an option).

#### **EAST REGION INTER COUNTIES CHAMPIONSHIPS**

The East Region Inter Counties Championships will not take place in 2012 due to the close proximity of the Olympic Games. However, Ian Mackenzie, Chairman of East Region, has circulated a note about future galas and a discussion took place to determine Norfolk's view of this event. There were differing views about the value of the competition and whether, when and where it should be held but the shortage of club representatives at the meeting made it difficult to reach agreement. Until the last few years Norfolk competed in six separate inter-county galas each year allowing swimmers to gain county colours quickly, but there were now just three such galas including the Three Counties (Norfolk, Suffolk & Cambridgeshire two-team gala) providing more limited opportunity for swimmers to compete for their county – a valuable addition to any cv. The East Region Championship is the only one allowing in older swimmers – the other two have age restrictions. It was stated that the UEA City of Norwich head coach, with the largest number of swimmers likely to be involved, favoured the format and date of the gala. The Norwich Swan head coach felt that, as some of the swimmers do not get to be selected for the National Inter Counties, this is a good alternative for them to compete in. The timing is good for swimmers not involved in the Nationals in July/August.

In the end it was felt that Norfolk should continue to support the East Region Inter Counties Championships in its present format at the same time of the year as previously (early July) and there was no objection to the gala being

hosted in rotation around the six counties. The Assistant Secretary will advise Ian Mackenzie of this decision and ask him to ensure that Robin Barrett, as our nominated East Region Swimming Committee representative, is invited to future meetings.

### **FIXTURE LIST FOR 2013**

A provisional list is set out below subject to pool availability and, in the case of the County Junior League, confirmation at the league's AGM. Dates and locations are to be confirmed at the next meeting. **Club secretaries are asked to note the dates please to avoid clashes with club or other galas in 2013.** The Treasurer or Robin Barrett, as appropriate, will book the pools except those for the County Junior League which Elaine Bowen will book after the league's AGM. The date(s) for the Long Distance gala is subject to agreement with Suffolk ASA.

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Events</u>	<u>Locations</u>
Sat 9 Feb (if so decided)	County Championship 400 m events	UEA Sportspark
Sat 16 Feb	County Championship 800/1500 m events	UEA Sportspark
Sat 2/Sun 3/Sat 9/Sun 10 March	County Championships – other individual events	Thetford
Sat 16 March	County Junior League Round 1 (2 galas)	Thetford & Dereham
Sat 23 March	County Relay Gala	UEA Sportspark
Sat 27 April	County Junior League Final Round (2 galas)	Wymondham/Thetford
Sat 18 May	County Masters & Open Championships	UEA Sportspark
Suns 23 & 30 June	County Challenge Galas	Dereham

The future of the East Region Inter Counties Championships has yet to be decided (see above), the National Inter Counties Championships will be held at Sheffield in October (date to be confirmed) and the Three Counties Gala will be hosted by Suffolk in December (date and venue to be decided).

### **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.

### **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 17 July 2012 at Hewett School in Room A17 at 7.30pm. The main purposes of the July meeting will be to select a team for the National Inter Counties Championships, to confirm the fixture list for 2013 and to resolve the matters raised above in respect of the County Championships for 2013.