

NORFOLK COUNTY A.S.A.
Minutes of Competitions Sub-Committee – Tuesday 20 January 2015 – Hewett School

PRESENT P Kendall (President/Open Water), K Belton (Treasurer), A Smith (Assistant Secretary), G Smith (Competitions Secretary/Team Manager), L Harvey (Championships Secretary), G Applin (Officials Liaison), Mrs D Barrett (Trophies), R Barrett (Records/County Colours), J Digby (County Coach), Mrs E Bowen (Norfolk Junior League), J Rush (Diss Otters), C Searle (North Norfolk Vikings), E Lavelle (Dereham Otters), J Macdonald (UEA City of Norwich SC), Mrs K Woodhouse (Norwich Swan)

APOLOGIES K Rumsey (Chairman), Mrs D McRoberts (Secretary), A Moore (Disability), D Peck (Development), S Murray (West Norfolk)

CO-OPTION OF OFFICERS

Membership of the Sub Committee with voting rights is restricted to County Officers, the Competitions & Championship Secretaries, the County Coach and one representative from each affiliated club. It was proposed and agreed that the holders of the following posts should be co-opted with voting rights: Records & County Colours, Trophies, County Junior League, Officials Liaison, Masters, Disability Liaison, Development and Press & PR (though this last post is currently vacant). It was suggested that the rules be amended to incorporate these posts for future years.

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 21 OCTOBER 2014

Agreed as a true record.

MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Affiliation forms have been sent to clubs for the County Junior League in 2015. Replies are required by 31 January. It is hoped to have 10 teams including two 'B' teams' competing.

The Holiday Express Hotel in Sheffield has been booked for the National Inter Counties Championships in October 2015. A letter of thanks will be sent by the Treasurer to the Lion Hotel, Worksop, thanking them for their help over the past few years.

The proposed supplier of the new County Polo Shirt wanted a larger order than could be justified. Another supplier has now been identified.

The Disability Liaison Officer proposed that Norfolk County ASA should support a Swimability Gala for physically and mentally handicapped swimmers in 2015 as no alternative organiser had been identified and no gala had taken place in 2014. A proposed entry form and details were presented to the meeting with a proposal for the gala to be held at Norwich Riverside Pool on one of two dates in July. This was agreed. Saturday 4 July was preferred (as a gala due to be held at the UEA Sportspark on the following Saturday would reduce the number of officials and helpers available).

The Treasurer had drafted a table of hosting responsibilities for County Galas for discussion and agreement. A final version will be circulated.

CANCELLATION OF AND FUTURE PLANS FOR THE THREE COUNTIES GALA

Despite many attempts by Norfolk to get the Three Counties Gala for 2014 off the ground, it was eventually and very belatedly cancelled after Cambridgeshire, the hosts, tried to change first the date and then the rules. Suffolk withdrew as they would not agree to the rule changes and, despite a willingness by Norfolk to proceed, Cambridgeshire then cancelled the gala. As the hosts for 2015, Norfolk needs to decide with the other two counties if there is a desire to continue with this event before booking a pool and making the other arrangements. The Competitions Manager will contact the other counties accordingly.

FINAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS AND AGE GROUPS 2015

Qualifying times and entry forms have been distributed to clubs based on the new arrangements announced by the ASA and as discussed at some length and agreed at the previous meeting. Licences have been applied for on this basis. Gerry Metcalf, the East Region President, would like to attend on Sunday 8 March. *(Secretary to reply please)*.

Dereham Otters had circulated a note from its committee expressing concerns about the changes, particularly the age changes, and seeking to return to the previous arrangements. It was pointed out that the original ASA draft proposals had been circulated to clubs in June 2014 and that the County had made representations to the ASA via the East Region at the time, but to no avail. The proposal to regard 2015 as a 'transition' year, as adopted by Suffolk, had been turned down at the previous meeting with the majority preferring to make all the changes immediately. Only the gala dates

remained unchanged as pools had already been booked and any changes would conflict with other galas since announced. It was agreed that we must now proceed as planned.

A note had been received from Alex Pinniger, Head Coach, UEA City of Norwich SC, explaining the reasons why his group of some 24 swimmers would not enter the short course sections of the county championships as, by then, they would already be in training for the long course programme and attending long course open meets.

The closing dates for entries are 30 January (400/800/1500m events) and 6 Feb (all other events). UEA City of Norwich is hosting the Long Distance (800/1500m) gala on Saturday 14 February at UEA Sportspark, Norwich Swan is hosting the 400m Freestyle Gala on Saturday 21 February at Wymondham, and Thetford Dolphins are hosting the other galas on Sat 28 February/Sun 1 March/Sat 7 March and Sun 8 March at Thetford. Trophies must be returned to the Trophies Secretary as soon as possible please. Tony Smith is lead referee. Gary Applin has sent out a request to all licensed officials. A reminder was given that helpers are needed from all competing clubs for all sessions at Thetford. Meal orders for the Thetford galas are in hand for officials and nominated helpers. **Clubs are asked to notify Dianne Barrett of the number of their coaches requiring meals at each session please.**

There will be two separate sessions at the Long Distance Meet (Girls 800m/Boys 1500m) and the 400m Gala (Girls 400m/Boys 400m) with separate warm ups and, possibly, a separate set of officials in each session. Light refreshments will be provided between the Long Distance Meet sessions (but not for the 400m gala).

Clubs are reminded that, if their affiliation fees to Norfolk County ASA have not been paid by 31 January, their swimmers will not be eligible to compete in these galas.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR COUNTY RELAY GALA – UEA SPORTSPARK - SATURDAY 28 MARCH

Norwich Swan will host the County Relay Gala. Warm up will be at 5.00pm. Entry forms will be distributed in mid February for return in early March. BAGCATS and other presentations will take place from 4.00pm in the Town Close Room and swimmers need to be made aware by their coaches of these arrangements (as some always say that they didn't know!), and a note will be put in the county championships gala programme. The Secretary will invite Past Presidents to attend the presentations and the gala. The Treasurer will book a small buffet for the Past Presidents and the County President will act as their host.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE COUNTY CHALLENGE GALAS – DEREHAM – SUNDAYS 21 & 28 JUNE

Dereham Otters were invited to host the galas with session warm ups normally scheduled for 8.30am and 12.45pm.

Entry cut off criteria has normally been on the basis of the time of the sixth placed swimmer in each county age groups event. However, in view of the changes of arrangements in 2015, it was felt that a separate discussion is needed to finalise the details for this gala. **It was proposed and agreed that a coaches' forum take place during the lunch interval at Thetford on Saturday 28 February with the Championship Secretary to discuss and agree the outline format for the gala and that a final draft be agreed at a further coaches' forum during the interval at Thetford on Sunday 8 March. Can all clubs please ensure that one of their coaches attends each forum.** The final arrangements will then be agreed at the next meeting after which a Level 3 licence may be applied for.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Hertfordshire is due to host the East Region Inter Counties Gala but the date and location have yet to be announced.

Amongst changes to licensing conditions needed for 2016 is that pools must be measured. This includes Thetford and Wymondham if not already done.

It was agreed that Open Water training at Fritton Lake should continue in 2015.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The dates for the next two meetings, both in Room A17 at Hewett School at 7.30pm, were agreed. The first meeting will take place on Tuesday 24 March 2015. The main purposes of this meeting will be to make final arrangements for the County Challenge Galas and to draft a county Fixture List for 2016. The second meeting will take place on Tuesday 12 May mainly to make the arrangements and select the team for the East Region Inter Counties Gala.