

NORFOLK COUNTY A.S.A.
Minutes of Competitions Sub-Committee – Tuesday 19 July 2016 – Hewett Academy

PRESENT Mrs K Woodhouse (President), K Belton (Treasurer), A Smith (Assistant Secretary), L Harvey (Championships Secretary/Great Yarmouth), Mrs C Rose (Competitions Secretary/Team Manager), G Applin (Officials Liaison), Mrs D Barrett (Trophies), R Barrett (Records/County Colours), J Digby (County Coach), Mrs C Fasey (Thetford Dolphins), Mrs L Goodswen (Harleston Stingrays), P Kendall (Open Water), S Murray (West Norfolk), D Peck (Development), A Pinniger (UEA City of Norwich), Ms S Rate (Thetford Dolphins), J Rush (Diss Otters)

APOLOGIES K Rumsey (Chairman), Mrs E Bowen (County Junior League Secretary), C Galer (Officials Tutor), Mrs D McRoberts (Secretary), T Moore (Disability Swimming), Mrs T Spinner (UEA City of Norwich)

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 10 MAY 2016

The minutes were agreed as a true record.

MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Swimability Gala had taken place at Riverside Pool on Saturday 2 July and had been well received with some 40 severely mentally and physically disabled swimmers participating. There are funds ring-fenced in the accounts to support this gala. It was proposed and agreed that the gala should take place again in 2017, probably on Saturday 1 July.

It had been agreed at the previous meeting that one of the county galas in 2017 should be entitled 'The Warwick Thompson Memorial Gala'. It has yet to be decided which gala will bear this title as the intended County Qualifier Gala will not now be taking place.

NORFOLK COUNTY JUNIOR SWIMMING LEAGUE AGM

In 2016, 10 teams (including two 'B' teams) had participated with two galas of 5 teams in each round. The UEA City of Norwich won the Copeman Cup at Wymondham and Thetford Dolphins won the Christine Clark Cup at Thetford. Some suggested changes to the league format for 2017 had been discussed during the recent Coaches' Forum including holding just a single 8 lane gala with no 'B' teams at the UEA Sportspark. However it was eventually agreed to retain the present format with provision for 'B' teams. It was proposed and agreed that the dates of the galas will be brought forward, with the first round taking place towards the end of 2016, so avoiding clashes with the county championship galas. No rule changes were proposed.

It was suggested that the rounds take place on the dates and at the venues shown in the fixture list below. The league secretary was invited to make the necessary pool bookings, confirm the arrangements, make a draw for the first round galas and send invitations to clubs to enter.

REPORT ON THE COUNTY CHALLENGE GALAS – DEREHAM – SUNDAYS 19 & 26 JUNE 2016

The galas ran well apart from some problems with the starting equipment which had not been charged up after its previous use. Starting equipment was then borrowed from the Thetford Pool. Nevertheless problems persisted during the second day of the gala.

REPORT ON THE EAST REGION INTER COUNTIES GALA – UEA SPORTSPARK - SUNDAY 10 JULY 2016

Norfolk finished in 5th place out of the six counties competing but the results were very close and the team had swum well.

REPORT ON THE COUNTY RELAY GALA – UEA SPORTSPARK – SATURDAY 16 JULY

The presentations that took place during the gala on the poolside rather than in a separate room had been well received. However it was disappointing that only a few swimmers and spectators remained at the end of the gala for the presentation of the gala trophies. Gary Applin, who had been absent due to an injury, thanked Stewart Murray (lead referee) for sorting out the officials. The reasons for the 'special relay', which is for 9 and 10 year olds and excludes a butterfly leg, were explained. The need to include 'B' and even 'C' teams in the gala was queried. It was felt that this gives swimmers from larger clubs the opportunity to participate in this popular gala and gain experience of relay racing. It was agreed to retain the non-scoring 'B' and 'C' team concept. It was reported that a good number of the past presidents had attended the gala, some spectating whilst others were officiating.

REPORT ON THE COUNTY & EAST REGION OPEN WATER CHAMPIONSHIPS - WHITLINGHAM BROAD -

SUNDAY 17 JULY

This had been a really good day with much praise received from visiting swimmers. Whilst the full results were not available at the meeting, it was understood that 12 of the Norfolk swimmers had qualified for the Nationals. A proposal

was made that the 12-16 age group be split to give younger swimmers a chance to do well. This will be considered by the gala organisers.

FIXTURE LIST 2017

In view of the very provisional nature of the fixture list discussed during the previous meeting, it had been decided to take the suggestions to a Coaches' Forum during the County Challenge Galas in June. Two separate meetings took place and the notes of the meetings have since been widely circulated.

The prime change is to move all of the county championship events forward by a week or two, swim them all at the UEA Sportspark (8 lanes) and hold all the sessions in short course mode with the other half of the pool being used for continuous warm ups and swim downs. It was felt that finals should take place in the same sessions as the heats and, possibly, the final session of the day reserved for heat declared winner events. The precise programme, which may well take place over three sessions on each date, has yet to be finalised but it is hoped that this will be done and details circulated by the beginning of September. It was intended that the entry forms for all the main county championship events should in by a week before Christmas to allow adequate time for processing and the production of programmes.

In addition it was decided not to proceed with the planned County Qualifier Gala, for reasons stated in the previous minutes, but to include an additional, lower level gala, possibly to be called the County Development Gala, to enable a third tier of swimmers to gain county medals. This gala would take place after the County Challenge Gala, preferably with each gala being held over one weekend rather than on successive Sundays, in order to reduce the number of weekends involved – but this will be subject to pool availability. Cut off and qualifying times for these galas will need to be agreed. After a long debate, it was agreed that all of these galas will be age at the end of the year.

It was proposed that the County Relay Gala should be brought back into the Spring period but with a reasonable time left after the other county galas to prepare the trophies for awarding during that event. It was suggested that the County Junior League should be brought forward, with the first round taking place in November 2016 (on the weekend previously put aside for the now defunct County Qualifying Gala). Dates were proposed for the very successful County Masters Championship Gala, which will again be held long course over a full day, and the County & East Region Open Water Championships.

The fixture list would now be as follows (**all clubs please note**):

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
Sat 26 Nov <u>2016</u>	County Junior League First Round	Wymondham/Dereham
Sat 21/Sun 22 Jan)	(County Championship & Age Group incl.800/1500m	(
Sat28/Sun 29 Jan)	(events in first session on Sat 21 Jan with Suffolk	(UEA Sportspark
	(and 400m freestyles in first session on Sat 28 Jan	(
Sat 4 Feb	County Junior League Final Round	Wymondham/Thetford
Sat 25 Feb	County Relay Gala	UEA Sportspark
Sat 13 May	County Masters Championships	UEA Sportspark
Sat 17/Sun 18 Jun	County Challenge Galas	Dereham (or
Thetford)		
Sat 24/Sun 25 Jun	County Development Gala	Thetford
Sun 16 Jul	County & East Region Open Water Championships	Whitlingham Broad

ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE JUNIOR INTER COUNTIES GALA – LUTON – SUNDAY 18 SEPTEMBER

The team has been selected using the current ranking list and invitations will be issued shortly. Coaches, marshals and officials will be selected to accompany the party. The Competitions Secretary has arranged transport. The Trophies Secretary will need to know the numbers of hats and T-shirts required for new county swimmers in good time please. It was pointed out that the gala date (which was arranged a long time ago by Bedfordshire) clashes with the Eastern Junior Swimming League Gala from which the winning club goes forward to the National Junior League Finals so that a few of the UEA City of Norwich swimmers might not be available for the county team. This situation was understood as UEA City of Norwich SC do need to defend their place in the finals of the National competition and the inter county gala is, for Norfolk, regarded as a 'one-off' event: the county had chosen not to participate in the inaugural and second years of this new junior gala and will decide after the gala whether it is seen as worthwhile to participate in future years.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE NATIONAL INTER COUNTIES GALA – SHEFFIELD – SUNDAY 23 OCTOBER

The full details of this gala have yet to be received from the ASA. The team will be selected using the current ranking lists and in accordance with the recently agreed selection policy document. Invitations will be distributed along with Code of Conduct and Medical forms. The Competitions Secretary has booked transport for the weekend. The Holiday Express Hotel in Sheffield has already been booked. It will provide an evening meal on arrival, and breakfast and packed lunch on Sunday. Swimmers will need to fund any additional food and drinks required. Several adults will need

to be accommodated at the hotel including the Team Manager, the County Coach, other chaperones, gala officials (JL2) and the coach driver. The County President will also be attending. The Team Manager will circulate a full itinerary and contact details to swimmers and their parents, and to travelling adults. The County Coach will take the team banner. As part of the 'team building' it was proposed and agreed that, as in the previous year, the team would go ten pin bowling on arrival in Sheffield.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was none.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 1 November at Hewett Academy at 7.30pm mainly to make the final arrangements for all the forthcoming county galas in their new formats and their new places in the swimming calendar.