

NORFOLK COUNTY A.S.A.
Minutes of Competitions Sub-Committee – Tuesday 1 November 2016 – Hewett Academy

PRESENT Mrs K Woodhouse (President), K Rumsey (Chairman), Mrs D McRoberts (Secretary), 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), Mrs E Bowen (County Junior League Secretary), J Digby (County Coach), Mrs L Goodswen (Harleston Stingrays), P Kendall (Open Water), S Murray (West Norfolk), D Peck (Development), C Searle (Dereham Otters), Mrs T Spinner (UEA City of Norwich)

APOLOGIES R Barrett (Records/County Colours), C Galer (Officials Tutor), Miss S Vanderloo (West Norfolk).

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 19 JULY 2016

The minutes were agreed as a true record.

MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

It had previously been agreed that one of the county galas in 2017 should be entitled 'The Warwick Thompson Memorial Gala'. The meeting decided that this title should be given to the new County Development Gala in June 2017.

Applications had been received from clubs wishing to enter the County Junior Swimming League. There will be ten teams including two 'B' teams. Details of the first round galas, to be held at Wymondham and Thetford on Saturday 26 November, have now been sent to participating clubs.

REPORT ON THE JUNIOR INTER COUNTIES GALA – LUTON – SUNDAY 18 SEPTEMBER

This was the first occasion that Norfolk had competed in this relatively new event but the county had finished in 8th place. The team had performed well but had been considerably weakened by the withdrawal by the head coach of all of the eligible UEA City of Norwich swimmers (not just those required to swim for the club at the Eastern Junior Swimming League gala the same weekend). The county needs to decide if it is seen as worthwhile to participate in this gala in future years.

REPORT ON THE NATIONAL INTER COUNTIES CHAMPIONSHIP GALA – SHEFFIELD – SUNDAY 23 OCTOBER

Norfolk had finished in 12th place in the Division 2 gala, its highest position for several years. There was good spirit in the team which was well behaved. The President had attended and thoroughly enjoyed the weekend. There had been some points lost due to relay take-over disqualifications and a suggestion was made that there might be some relay take-over practice prior to a future gala possibly in a couple of lanes at the UEA Sportspark. The Development Sub Committee was invited to look at the possibility of organising and funding such training sessions. There was a short discussion about a swimmer who had not been selected but, apparently, this had been due to a total lack of communication between the county representatives and the club's head coach. The County Coach had been unavoidably unable to attend the gala and so Sarah Vanderloo and Chris Searle had ably taken over the coaching role at short notice. The Team Manager had booked the Holiday Express Hotel in Sheffield again for the 2017 championships which are scheduled to take place on Sunday 8 October (**Club Secretaries: please note this earlier date to avoid a clash with club galas**).

CONFIRMATION OF FIXTURE LIST FOR 2017

It was confirmed that the fixture list would be as follows (**all clubs please note**):

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
Sat 26 Nov 2016	County Junior League First Round	Wymondham/Thetford
Sat 21/Sun 22 Jan	(County Championships & Age Groups incl.800/1500m	(
Sat28/Sun 29 Jan)	(events in first session on Sat 21 Jan	(UEA Sportspark
	(and 400m freestyles in first session on Sat 28 Jan	(
Sat 4 Feb	County Junior League Final Round	Wymondham/Dereham
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
Sat 24/Sun 25 Jun	County Development Warwick Thompson Memorial Galas	Thetford
Sun 16 Jul	County & East Region Open Water Championships	Whitlingham Broad

(Note the switch between Thetford and Dereham for rounds of the County Junior League Galas. Also it was confirmed that Dereham will host the County Challenge Galas over two consecutive days instead of on two separate Sundays as previously).

FINAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP & AGE GROUP GALAS 2017

It had been agreed at the previous meeting that all of the County Championship & Age Group events in January would be held in short course mode with the other half of the pool being used for warm ups and swimming down. Despite having apparently agreed to these arrangements for the shared 800/1500m long distance events, Suffolk had just (only the day before this meeting) written to Norfolk requesting that these events now be held long course. It was understood that two of the most successful Suffolk clubs had made this request.

It was stated that long course times might enable qualification for National long course events although it was understood that the gala date would be outside the qualifying window. Nevertheless, it was felt that this would give swimmers a rare opportunity to get long course practice for these events. The meeting discussed Suffolk's request and the Norfolk coaches present also expressed a preference for these events to take place in the 50m pool despite the Coaches' Forum held in June apparently agreeing to hold the events in short course mode.

There was a suggestion that the pool might be set up in long course mode for the first morning and then, during an extended lunch break, be converted back to short course (a process that apparently takes some 2 hours to complete). It was agreed that the Championships Secretary should approach the UEA Sportspark about this possibility and, if it is agreeable, alter the licence application accordingly and, whatever the response, let Suffolk know the outcome (so that they can then confirm whether or not they will be sharing the long distance gala with Norfolk on this occasion).

[Secretary's Note: It is understood that the UEA Sportspark is not agreeable to switching from long to short course during the day due to the fragility of the boom which needs some repairs which are not likely to have been carried out by the time of the gala].

All the pools have been booked and the dates agreed as above. Qualifying times have already been circulated. Provisional schedules were distributed to those present at the meeting. The programme mainly mirrors the usual programme. Full gala details and entry forms will be distributed shortly. The closing date for entries is Friday 16 December. Tony Smith will be lead referee for these galas. Gary Applin will be seeking gala officials who need to have current licences and he requested that the names of volunteers be passed to him promptly please. It was agreed that UEA City of Norwich SC will host the Championship & Age Group events at the UEA Sportspark.

It was also noted that it was UEA City of Norwich SC's turn to host the County Relay Gala on 25 February. Final details relating to this gala will be discussed at the next meeting.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR THREE COUNTIES GALA 2017

It had previously been suggested that the Norfolk/Suffolk/Cambridgeshire Gala should again take place in March. Suffolk are due to host the gala and had expressed a wish to hold it again at the UEA Sportspark. However no details or dates had been received from Suffolk yet. It would be good to get the date onto club calendars as soon as possible. (The Secretary will chase this up with the other counties).

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

A suggestion was made that Norfolk County ASA should hold its own long course Licence Level 1 Open Meet at the UEA Sportspark at a time appropriate for swimmers to obtain qualifying times for National events. A date in March was suggested. However it was pointed out that this would clash with the annual City of Norwich Easter Licence Level 1 Open Meet.

The Assistant Secretary mentioned the increasing number of Licence Level 3 Open Meets being held by different clubs during the September to December period and, as a result, the numbers of entries to each were below expectations. Some clubs were not supporting other clubs' galas which presumably meant that financial losses could be incurred. Perhaps clubs need to liaise with each other and support each other in drawing up their gala programmes?

Paul Kendall reported on his attendance at the recent England Programmes County Conference. The Secretary will circulate details.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 10 January 2017 at Hewett Academy at 7.30pm mainly to make any final arrangements for all the forthcoming county galas, including the relay gala, and arrangements for the Three Counties Gala.