

NORFOLK COUNTY A.S.A.

Minutes of Competitions Sub-Committee – Tuesday 30th January 2018 – Hewett Academy

PRESENT: K Belton (Treasurer), C Galer (Past President), Mrs E Bowen (County Junior League Secretary), Mrs C Fasey (Thetford Dolphins), L Harvey (Championships Secretary), Mrs R Horne (North Norfolk Vikings), P Kendall (Open Water), Mrs S Lelean (Masters), Miss C Markwell (City of Norwich), S Murray (East Region Representative), Mrs C Rose (Team Manager), K Rumsey (Chairman), C Searle (Dereham Otters), A Smith (Officials Co-ordinator), Mrs T Spinner (Assistant Secretary)

APOLOGIES G Applin (Officials Liaison), Mrs D Barrett (Trophies), R Barrett (Records/County Colours), A Crafer (North Norfolk Vikings), J Digby (County Coach), Miss L Goodswen (Harleston Stingrays), D Peck (Development), Ms S Vanderloo (West Norfolk), Mrs K Woodhouse (Norwich Swan)

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 31st October 2017

The minutes were agreed with minor amends and redistributed.

MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Chris Galer provided update on East Region legal team analysis of difference between membership (which all county clubs pay) and affiliation. Anticipate that response from ASA Legal working group will most likely take over 2 years. Chris Galer to notify the Committee of any updates.

It was noted that East Region will hold an additional day of Regional Gala activity in Basildon on 19th May for the Mens 800m and Womens 1500m Freestyle events. Details are on the East Region Website.

REPORT ON COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS 2018

The Championship Secretary highlighted the following positive aspects to the Championships for 2018:

- Highest number of entries ever received.
- Timings went completely to plan and the 10m breaks between heats and finals ran well.
- Swimmers all seemed to be happy and enjoying themselves with no major issues.
- The shift to long course, though commented on by some parents and coaches, did not seem to phase the swimmers, all of whom seemed to take the shift to long course format in their stride.
- The Relay Gala was well attended by Past Presidents.
- Despite there being no formalised host for the event volunteers from around the county stepped up and filled all roles, thanks to City of Norwich SC for co-ordinating.
- Very few issues encountered overall.

In response to feedback from Clubs, as well as general committee discussion, it was agreed that the key areas to focus on in 2019 were:

- **Gala timing:** as a one off the gala was held early to ensure swimmers could qualify for British Championships. This decision was made by the full Committee with just one abstention. For 2019 it was agreed that the Championships should move back 1-2 weeks, but could not be confirmed until there was more clarity on British Champs qualifying windows. The gala would still need to be held within the required window communicated by British Swimming, ie 12/13 January – 23/24 February 2019. February half term also to be avoided. Clubs to be asked for preferred dates.
- **Course:** Some coaches felt Long Course was too much for the Norfolk Swimmers; others felt it was great – and are keen that the County doesn't revert back to Short Course. It was noted that despite concerns, most swimmers appreciated the opportunity to swim in a 50m pool. Coaches commented that a return to SC format would exclude the event as a qualifier for British Championships. Retaining the LC format would allow for qualification. Coaches to be surveyed to confirm.
- **Schedule:** minor glitches to be considered when redesigning, try to avoid boys doing 400Fr and 400IM in same day. Need to work out when/whether to add the 800m for boys, and 1500m for girls. Need to understand whether coaches would prefer distance events to take place in the mornings, or be scheduled on Friday nights before main events. Should the events be separated, would this suit Suffolk (Liam Harvey to engage Suffolk representatives). Also need to understand when and where to keep Skins (not before finals, but when would swimmers be most capable of competing, and when audience will still be there to support swimmers). Parents commented on amount of down time between sessions (not just the session with talk

by East Region Development Officer). Do the swimmers need 1 hour after final, then 1 hour of warmup, or can it be adjusted? Coaches to be surveyed to understand preferences.

- **Qualifying Times:**

- Need to agree and release QTs by end of June 2018 at the latest. Preferable out before the County Challenge gala.
- Certain age groups pose certain challenges, particularly with the boys. Particular attention to be paid to 10-11 year old boys, and some of the other boys form strokes.
- Need to agree proposals for QTs for 800m Fr Boys, and 1500m Fr Girls.

Rather than redo all the QTs it was recommended that Liam Harvey liaise with 1-2 coaches to produce first draft, and distribute this **before end of February** to all Clubs with a view to confirming the times at the next Competitions Committee Meeting.

- **Medals:** Comments received on decision to move from medals/trophies for top 6 – to medals for top 3. History behind original decision was linked to venue and practical issues. At Thetford medals were given poolside and swimmers could collect. At the Sportspark there was insufficient space for medals to be stored and given to swimmers poolside, so decision was made to move to a room in the balcony. With parents collecting medals at the end of each session rather than as they were won, there were queues for over an hour at the end of each session – despite volunteers running around the gallery and poolside attempting to distribute. Parents queuing were very vocal and in some cases abusive. To avoid this happening again the decision was made to move medals poolside, but reduce to medals for top 3 per age group per event. This worked well this year. It was noted that both Bedfordshire and Herfordshire award top 3, not top 6 or top 8. Coaches to be asked to confirm that top 3 continue.
- **Top Swimmer Trophies/Presentations:** – With schedule changes the presentations to top age group swimmers could not be done after the Relay gala as the 800/1500m events had not been held. To be taken in to consideration next year. Coaches to be surveyed to confirm a) that presentations should be scheduled before Relay if distance gala is moved; and b) that individual event Junior/Senior medals/trophies be podium presented in organised schedule throughout the gala.
- **Refreshments:** General feedback was that there was insufficient refreshment provided. Liam based budget on historical spend at Thetford, but did not take Sportspark pricing. Need to ensure sufficient food, tea/coffee provided and costs to be baselined for Sportspark as venue. Noted that cakes cannot be “brought in” by parents/officials as Sportspark do not allow self-catering. Same goes for provision of tea/coffee.
- **Room Size:** Town Close room was not large enough to accommodate all officials, volunteers, and also Past Presidents. Attempts to locate additional room during the championships were unsuccessful. Need to book John Jarrold for next year, but adding the Town Close room for Past Presidents to view the relay gala.
- **Past Presidents:** mixups and crowding resulted in some of the Past Presidents not being provided with lunch. To be organised more effectively next year.
- **Resources:** Tony Smith expressed concern at the communication to and of officials for the County Championships – with requests for volunteers going out late, and despite clear guidance on the number of officials required (approx. 30-35 for County Championships) he was provided with lists 3 days before the start of the Championships and ended up with 54 Officials. As a result some were asked to stand down at late notice. For the distance events there was a distinct lack of Suffolk Officials (only needed to provide 12, provided 7). Assistance requested to make the officials liaison activity more smooth and co-ordinated.
- **Core Team:** Should the County use a Championships team moving forwards – consisting of:
 - Promoter
 - Technical Director/Field of Play
 - Lead Ref
 - Jury of Appeal

It was also suggested that officials parade on (no music required) to encourage officials to gather in timely manner, and start championships with appropriate ceremony.

It was agreed that Liam Harvey would send a note out to all Norfolk Clubs asking coaches/committees to state their preferences.

Committee discussed need to incorporate learning from East Region and improve gala for next year.

It was also evident from some of the feedback received that many Clubs may not distribute NCASA Competitions Committee Minutes within their Clubs, or direct parents to the County Website. Attendees were asked to remember to do this to avoid confusion or incorrect assumptions around decisions made as part of the Committee process.

Overall view was that the 2018 Norfolk County ASA Championships went very well and was a successful event. Thanks made to Liam Harvey for processing the high volume of entries, and the committee mentioned the breadth and depth of swimmers not only competing but making finals, with excellent representation from all clubs.

Top Swimmers Awards are yet to be published and presented. Stewart Murray agreed to liaise with Jo Banham and arrange to visit all Award winners at their clubs to present the awards in front of their peers. Keith Belton to produce list of winners.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR WARWICK THOMPSON DEVELOPMENT GALA – 24th FEBRUARY 2018

Forms went out and deadline for entries has passed (27th January 2018). Entries are double those received at the gala's inauguration in 2017. Pool booked and setup agreed. Gary Applin is officials liaison. It was noted that no requests for volunteers had been sent out. Gary Applin to send out as a matter of urgency. Keith Belton and Dianne Barrett to coordinate on best location for officials briefing as changes to the venue have resulted in the area previously used no longer being suitable.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR NORFOLK JUNIOR LEAGUE

All clubs have affiliated and paid for entry. Confirmed there would be no change to entry fees for spectators. Wymondham Pool booking challenging due to management team and attempts to switch timings. Committee confirmed 17.30 warmup, 17.50 start – anticipate finish by 19.30 if all runs smoothly. Dereham pool booked and confirmed.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR NORFOLK MASTERS CHAMPIONSHIPS 2018

Entry form is online on Norfolk ASA and Swim England East Region websites, promotion is in full swing. Officials Liaison for this event is Sally Lelean. Clash re revised date for distance events at Basildon noted. Gala is run long course. Entrants need to be ASA members if students are interested in competing.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR COUNTY CHALLENGE

Pools are booked. QTs to be confirmed. Cut off times to be 3rd place from County champs or RQT – whichever is most suitable. IM to be split – 100IM for 12/u, 200IM for 13/o. Need lower QTs too – County QT possibly. Confirmed medals for top 3 again. If the gala is oversubscribed the license will need to allow flexibility in how swimmers are rejected. Liam Harvey to assess.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- Report re Officials Training – JL1 course taking place on 10th February, candidates coming forwards for JL2 and JL2S. Courses will be arranged when sufficient numbers ready to be trained.
- Discussion of arrangements for 3-counties gala for 2018 or 2019. It was noted that the Competition Calendar is packed September to December, and with Arena Leagues and Qualifying Windows it is difficult to slot another gala into the schedule. Also have Junior Inter-County scheduled for 16th September 2018. Clubs asked to liaise with coaching teams to confirm whether they are able to support either gala.
- Rebecca Horne of North Norfolk Vikings asked about Clubs promoting open meets, and policy to close before licensed closing date when full, and whether policy was equitable for smaller clubs. Tracey Spinner (as City of Norwich SC promoter) explained that galas can be licensed as either first come first served or “reject if oversubscribed”. City of Norwich – and other Clubs in the area – often go with first come first served to ensure that the slower swimmers have the opportunity to compete as these swimmers get rejected on the generic galas as being the slowest. It was noted that the requirement to enter early rests with the host club as well as visiting clubs. Rebecca Horne to feed back to North Norfolk Vikings committee and coach.
- Norfolk Swimability Gala date – it was noted that nothing was on the website re the 2018 gala. Tracey Spinner to contact the Disabled Liaison Secretary, Tony Moore.
- It was noted that Nathan Wells would be retaining the 100m IM trophy until the event is reinstated in the Norfolk County Championships schedule.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place on **Tuesday 27th February 2018**, venue to be booked and confirmed, 7.30pm.
Discussion of the 2019 County Championships arrangements to be time-boxed to take no more than 45 minutes –
Clubs to come prepared.