



## NORFOLK COUNTY A.S.A.

### Minutes of Competitions Sub-Committee – Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> October - 2019 – Hewett Academy

**PRESENT:** D. Peck (President), K. Rumsey (Chairman), K. Belton (Treasurer), Mrs K. Woodhouse (Secretary), Mrs D. Barrett (Trophies), R. Barrett (Records/County Colours), Mrs E. Bowen (Junior League), C. Galer (Officials Training), L. Harvey (Championships), Mrs C. Rose (Team Manager), S. Rose (Press & PR), A. Smith (Technical Director), Mrs T. Spinner (CO Norwich).

1. **APOLOGIES:** G. Applin (President Elect), S. Murray (East Region Representative), J. Naylor (CO Norwich), S. Park (Norwich Swan), C. Searle (County Coach).
2. **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 9<sup>th</sup> July 2019**

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as a true record.

### 3. **MATTERS ARISING**

The Special Olympics Event has been changed to the 27<sup>th</sup> June not the 20<sup>th</sup> of June. The Fixture List will be updated.

### 4. **REPORT ON JUNIOR Inter-County Gala – 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2019**

This gala is hosted by Bedfordshire so some counties competing were not from the East Region. Norfolk was placed a creditable sixth which was our best result to date. This reflects improving strength over most age groups.

We had three first places: Sienna Gilman 10yrs 50m freestyle, Isla Hamilton 11yrs 50m breaststroke and 10yrs mixed freestyle relay.

The County Coach had queried why the coaches were not allowed at the end of the lane when there were very young swimmers (9 year olds) competing. C Galer explained that this was expected procedure at a L1 meet.

### 5. **REPORT ON NATIONAL COUNTY TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS GALA – 6<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2019**

Norfolk competes in Division 2. This was an exciting gala with the lead positions constantly changing. After the first event, Norfolk were in 1<sup>st</sup> place thanks to a convincing victory by Sacha Thomas in the 16/17 years 100m freestyle. Norfolk eventually finished in 11<sup>th</sup> position out of 17 counties with 364 points, just two points behind Hertfordshire and ten points behind Gloucestershire. We had a fairly strong team with most swimming on par with their best times. Although some swimmers had declined to participate (instead choosing to swim for their club) this did not affect the standard of swimming too much, showing increasing depth across the County. Two National Winter Championships times were achieved by Norfolk swimmers on the day.

### 6. **ARRANGEMENTS FOR COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS 2020**

The 2020 qualifying times have been published.

Following feedback given at the meeting, it was decided to review the qualifying times for the distance events:

- Norfolk shares the pool hire costs equally with Suffolk for this part of the Championships but the qualifying times for each county differ. In some events the times set by Suffolk were over a minute slower than Norfolk's which would mean that Suffolk's entries would be considerably higher across the board. The meeting felt that this would be unfair to our swimmers and also unfair in terms that Norfolk would be in effect subsidising Suffolk who would have twice as many swimmers competing.

- It would not be feasible to run the County Championships alone as this would result in a huge drop in the quality of swims. Competing with Suffolk also means that our swimmers have competitors of a similar standard to race against and gives a larger pool of officials.
- There are no more meets at which to gain qualifying times before the close date, some age groups would only have one or two qualifiers.
- The times have been set on the previous year's cohort. When dealing with small numbers the number of qualifiers may be skewed if a very strong age group precedes a weaker age group.

It is possible to review the times because the license has yet to be applied for. It was agreed see if the gala timings would work if we matched the Suffolk qualifying times. Mrs, C Rose, K. Belton and L. Harvey will carry

out the review by the end of October.

Subject to Sportspark availability, the distance events will be swum on the morning and afternoon on both days as

this was thought to be preferable to afternoon and evening sessions. Warm up for the morning sessions will be 10am.

## 7. ARRANGEMENTS FOR JUNIOR/SENIOR INTER-CLUB GALAS 2020

It was agreed to run a senior inter-club competition alongside the junior gala, both of which will be held at the Sportspark on the same day. It is hoped to book the Sportspark for Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March with Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May as a second choice. Both galas will be licensed at L1 as both the choice dates are within the National Qualifying window. The age groups could be 13/14/15/16+ which would immediately follow on from the junior gala age groups. Mrs E. Bowen and C. Searle were asked to produce a draft senior gala programme to be agreed as soon as possible as the entry packs will need to be with clubs before the next Competitions meeting.

## 8. FIXTURE LIST

18th/19th January 2020	County Championships (Long Distance Events) – Sportspark, UEA
25th/26th January 2020	County Championships (Main Events) – Sportspark, UEA
1st/2nd February 2020	County Championships (Main events + skins and relay) – Sportspark, UEA
22nd/23rd February 2020	Warwick Thompson – Thetford
29 <sup>th</sup> March 2020 (TBC)	NCASA Junior Inter-Club Gala and Senior Inter-Club Gala - Sportpark, UEA
10 <sup>th</sup> May 2020	Norfolk Masters – Sportspark, UEA
27 <sup>th</sup> June 2020	Special Olympics – Sportspark, UEA
20 <sup>th</sup> /21 <sup>st</sup> June 2020	County Challenge – Dereham
19 <sup>th</sup> July 2020 (TBC)	NCASA and East Region Open Water Championships – Whitlingham
September 2020 (TBC)	Junior Inter-County Gala – Luton
4 <sup>th</sup> October 2020 (TBC)	National County Team Championships – Ponds Forge, Sheffield

## 9. OFFICIALS SOFTWARE

The County were asked to consider purchasing Swim Meet software to help with organising officials at galas. G. Applin, K. Belton, L. Harvey and S. Murray met to discuss a number of salient points:

- Is there any value to the County over existing software?
- Can it be 'licensed' to clubs to use if we buy it? It would not be fair for it to be 'free' to some clubs and others not need it e.g. NNV. There would have to be a cost.
- Have all GDPR issues been resolved to the satisfaction of Swim England, East region or any other body that may look at it?
- Are there any benefits for officials, referees, administrators etc?

The project group deliberated the request and agreed that they would not recommend the purchase for County use or for sub-licencing to County Clubs and that the County should continue using the current format for officials' organisation.

It was agreed that there was nothing to stop Norfolk clubs from purchasing the software on a group license should they wish to do so.

#### **10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The East Region Championship qualifying times have been published. Clubs should note both the change of format for 2020 and the change of date to allow for the spring bank holiday on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May. A summer LC meet has also been added to the schedule.

R. Barrett confirmed that this year's County Colours would be awarded according to the current rules.

The Warwick Thompson Gala times will be altered to reflect this season's County qualifying times.

There will be no Competitions Sub-Committee meeting before the County Championships. A working party will meet, as they did last year to discuss final arrangements and to sort out any issues that occur.

The meeting was advised that Chris Searle will be stepping down as County Coach at the AGM. As previously advised, the County will also be seeking a new Team manager.

The County Welfare Officer has also tendered her resignation. This position needs filling urgently so representatives were asked to inform their clubs and help to secure an appointment.

#### **11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2020