

**NORFOLK COUNTY A.S.A.**  
**Minutes of Development Sub-Committee –29 November 2011 – Hewett School**

**PRESENT** S Murray (President), J Macdonald (Sub Committee Secretary), K Belton (Treasurer), A Smith (Assistant Secretary), Mrs S Lelean (President Elect/Masters), P Lown (Norfolk & Suffolk ASA Aquatics Officer), J Digby (Norwich Swan), A Pinniger (UEA City of Norwich SC), Mrs A Salter (Dereham Otters), M Woods (Dereham Otters).

**APOLOGIES** K Rumsey (Chairman), Mrs J Blackwell (Secretary), M Bateman (UEA City of Norwich), C Galer, J Pegnall (Facilities), Mrs M Tallowin (Synchro).

**MINUTES OF MEETING ON 28 JUNE 2011**

Agreed as a true record.

**MATTERS ARISING**

There had still been no action taken on the problem of a lack of swimming clubs across North Norfolk between Hunstanton and North Walsham. This matter was discussed with Phil Lown who will give it some thought.

**ASA STRATEGY PRESENTATION**

A presentation was given to the meeting by Phil Lown. A similar presentation is being given to all other counties and regions across the country over the next few months. Its purpose is to gather information in order to prepare a Swimming Strategy for Britain by August 2012 to cover the period 2013 – 2017.

The presentation was followed by a series of four questions for discussion in small groups:

1. What will aquatics and the swimming 'industry' look like in 5 years time?
2. What are the challenges and what are the solutions to these challenges?
3. What should be the role of the ASA in meeting the needs of the 'industry'?
4. What are the top three things that the ASA can do for us?

Feedback from the groups was not discussed at the meeting but was passed to Phil Lown for inclusion with that from all the other presentations from all the counties.

**Given that attendance at the meeting was embarrassingly poor, Phil Lown said that there is an on-line questionnaire that clubs might wish to complete in order to feel that they have participated in the strategy consultation progress rather than opting out altogether. This can be found at**

**[www.swimming.org/get-involved/have-your-say/influence-the-future/11546/](http://www.swimming.org/get-involved/have-your-say/influence-the-future/11546/)**

**Club secretaries are invited to put this questionnaire before their committees please.**

**DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

The Sub Committee Secretary distributed an updated development plan. Progress was discussed under each of the headings.

Competitive Swimming (Swim 21): James Macdonald had prepared a list of Norfolk's Swim 21 clubs: these are: Dereham Otters, Great Yarmouth, North Norfolk Vikings, Norwich Swan, UEA City of Norwich and West Norfolk. Diss Otters had dropped off the list (though the status was still incorrectly shown on the club's website). Norwich Synchro and Thetford Dolphins were both keen to get involved with the process but needed some hand-holding from Phil Lown please.

The original plan was to develop a 'conference' of Swim 21 clubs but it had subsequently been felt that any such 'conference' should include all clubs. It was not clear who should be involved from the clubs, e.g. coaches, teachers, or who? It was noted that Suffolk had held an Education Day covering topics of wide interest. The possibility of a further Coaches Forum was also raised and is discussed separately below.

Competitive Swimming (Training Sessions): The original plan was to provide 50m training sessions for swimmers who are at or just below county standard and do not currently get the benefit of the facility. This matter had been raised, as requested during the previous meeting, at the Competitions Sub Committee in July but

the attendees there felt that it a matter for Stewart Park (County Coach) and the other club coaches to decide. It was suggested more appropriate for the matter to be discussed at any future Coaches Forum.

Competitive Swimming (School Partnerships): Some clubs already have a process of linking with local schools (e.g. arranging trials and offering assessments), but other clubs have no such links. Swim 21 clubs should be doing this already in their own areas. Norwich City Council Swimming Co-ordinator, Janet Baker, had contacted Norwich schools and leaflets setting out club details had been distributed - but Janet leaves her post (and the Norwich area) at the end of 2011 and is not being replaced. Phil Lown promised to obtain details of funding that might be available to help establish school partnerships.

Competitive Swimming (Development Days): The plan to organise development days for swimmers had not proceeded. Alex Pinniger would explore ideas further with Phil Lown. A £200 budget had previously been agreed. It was felt that such an event should not just be limited to swimmers at or close to county standard.

Disability: A disability swimming day. 'Playground to Podium', had been held at the Norwich Riverside Pool on 6 July, and a 'Swimability' event, open to disability swimmers from all (not just ASA) clubs was held at the same venue on 17 September. Two clubs now have disability sections (with UEA City of Norwich regarded as the local 'hub' club) and disability swimmers from Norfolk are now competing at all levels.

Open Water: Five Norfolk officials successfully completed a JL1 open water course with the practical aspects being covered during the East Region Open Water Swimming Championships at Whitlingham Broad in July. No progress was reported on linking open water and club swimming with the triathlon group

Synchro: Phil Lown has yet to discuss Swim 21 possibilities with the officers and coaches at Norwich Synchro. Several members attended an East Region development day in Kimbolton in September.

Water Polo: Not represented and any development plans or needs remain unknown.

Masters: The planned East Region 'Coaching for Masters' CPD has yet to be organised and a tutor identified.

Coaches & Teachers (Courses): An ASA UK Coaches Certificate Level 1 Course was held at Hewett School in July and it is planned to run a further course in February 2012. A Level 2 Course is then to be arranged later in the year. The subsidy arrangements for Swim 21 clubs (currently 50% from East Region and 25% from Norfolk ASA) will alter in 2012 and there will be a restriction on the number of participants that can be subsidised.

Coaches & Teachers (Coaches' Forum): Several changes have been made to the format of the County Championships following suggestions made at the previous forum. There was support for a further Coaches Forum to take place (see above) and the possibility was suggested of organising this during the County Championships.

Young Leaders' Training Programme: 28 young swimmers attended the development day at the UEA Sportspark incorporating two modules: The Young Aquatics Organisers' Course (for 14-18 year olds) and an ASA Team Managers' Course (open to the complete age group range). Karen Pinniger tutored both courses. Candidates then attended the evening gala at which they were able to demonstrate what they had learnt. Candidates also need to go on to do a minimum of 5 hours voluntary experience at club level which needs to be organised and mentored by individual clubs. The third module is the ASA Judge Level 1 (or just the Timekeeper Course for 14 year olds) and Tony Smith will run this at the UEA Sportspark on 21 January 2012 including poolside timekeeper assessments at the evening gala. If candidates wish to go on and qualify as JL1s, they will need to be mentored at subsequent galas at their own pace before completing a turn judge assessment. James Macdonald produced costs for the first two modules but needs to add in the costs of the third module and bear in mind that the ASA subsidy only totals £1000 (with a first tranche of £500 received to date).

Swimming Officials: Only 5 candidates turned up for the JL1 course in July in Norwich and there was only one applicant for a planned (but cancelled) JL1 course in November. Meanwhile JL2 courses proceeded successfully in Norwich, Diss and Downham Market. A budget of £200 towards the costs associated with these courses had previously been agreed. New JL1, JL2 and JL2(S) courses would be advertised early in 2012.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

There was none.

## **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting will be confirmed later.

