

# Minutes

Minutes from the Tyne and Wear Club Network Meeting  
Monday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2021

Venue: Online Meeting – Zoom  
Time: 19:15 – 20:00

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## Attendees:

**Sarah Small** – Swim England North East (SS)  
**Jacqueline Robson** – Tynemouth Swimming Club (JR)  
**Stephe Hannant** – North Tyneside (SH)  
**Darren Dodd** – Hetton (DD)  
**Stevie Speight** – Gateshead and Whickham (SSp)

## Apologies:

**Gary Kirsop** – South Tyneside (GK)  
**Donna Robinson** – Gateshead Synchro (DR)

## 1. Welcome

SS thanked those attending the meeting.

## 2. Minutes from the last meeting and updates on any actions

None

## 3. Brief Updates from clubs

**Hetton:** Lots of new swimmers joining, senior swimmers have left for University. Encouraging swimmers to be competitive and enter competitions. Christmas party night planned for a couple of week time, trying to increase the community aspect of the club. Losing officials.

**North Tyneside:** Attended the shrimp gala in October. A lot of swimmers have left as a result of Covid, a lot of the squads are inexperienced at competitions. Interest in the beginner side of the club. Will be closing the club over Christmas. AGM planned for the next couple of weeks, all committee members are looking to be replaced, no one has come forward to fill the roles. JR – suggested looking outside the club for volunteers, contact VODA

**Gateshead Whickham:** Club have attended a number of galas over the next couple of months, have own gala planned for 18<sup>th</sup> Dec. Have a number of new officials coming through training. Had AGM in November which was well attended. Restructured the coaches within the club. Have a lead performance coach instead of a head coach, looking at developing the bottom end of the club with the previous head coach.

**Tynemouth:** Gala was stopped on the weekend due to the storm, seeing if they can re-run the competition. Swimmers have been going to a lot of competitions. Struggling with

coaches and teachers. Have a waiting list but don't have the teachers to run the sessions. Have someone interested in attending a coaching course but struggling to get places on a course. Stevie to speak to Jacqueline about the coaching programme within the club.

**Gateshead Synchro – Update provide via email:** *Gateshead Synchro are doing well, we have more or less made up for lost pool time pre COVID. Although we don't have the same amount of land sessions as the club is now bigger and it would be impracticable to have all swimmers in the studio at once. Being bigger is a great position for us to be in though so we are not complaining.*

*Unfortunately all of our competitions have been virtual and Swim England decided each swimmer could only enter one of three national competitions. Which has caused a logistical nightmare as we are a comparatively small club and competitive swimmers had to choose between competitions and as a result our teams are at their lowest limit for size and therefore vulnerable to COVID absences. North East have not done any competitions, they had one virtual land one earlier in the year.*

*We are noticing the impact of COVID absence at the moment. We would also appreciate any guidance on returning to training post COVID. We have a few swimmers struggling and I think coaches feel vulnerable. I could find one for returning to swimming as a non athlete but if anyone has anything for athletes that would be very helpful.*

*We have two swimmers on the DiSE at the moment one in year 1 and one in year 2.*

#### 4. Updates from Swim England and Swim England North East

- **Return to pool guidance FAQ's** updated regularly, please check Swim England website: <https://www.swimming.org/swimengland/coronavirus-faqs-answered/>. This may be updated with the recent changes to mandatory face coverings.
- The **Water Polo Guidance for Competitions** has been updated to reflect some minor changes; <https://www.swimming.org/swimengland/pool-return-guidance-documents/>.
- **Swim England Updated Swimming Competition and Declaration form guidance:** <https://asaner.org.uk/swim-englands-covid-guidance-updated/>
- **Sport England Crowdfunding** have released additional funding: <https://asaner.org.uk/extra-funds-for-sport-englands-crowdfunder-club-scheme/>
- **Live Events Reinsurance:** <https://asaner.org.uk/live-events-reinsurance-scheme/>
- **Club Bank Accounts** information: <https://asaner.org.uk/club-bank-accounts/>.
- Two **useful websites around isolation and Covid precautions** are:
  - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-coronavirus-covid-19-measures-for-grassroots-sport-participants-providers-and-facility-operators>
  - <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/when-to-self-isolate-and-what-to-do/>.
- The **qualifying window for the Swim England Summer Championships 2022** is from 11<sup>th</sup> March – 8<sup>th</sup> May 2022.
- The **Northumberland and Durham Swimming Championship** information has been released: <https://asaner.org.uk/northumberland-and-durham-county-championships-2022-meet-information/>.
- Steve Dougal at the **Sunderland Aquatic Centre has 50m lanes available to hire** on a Saturday afternoon on Saturday afternoons throughout January, February and March 2022. Please email him on [stevedougal@everyoneactive.com](mailto:stevedougal@everyoneactive.com).

## 5. Workforce development

- **Swim England** Club Welfare and Chairs sessions are being held throughout the winter. More information on these sessions can be found in the links below:  
<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/ClubChairSessions>  
<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Welfareofficerworkshops>  
Swim England are also running a number of Club Secretary and Membership Officer workshops: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/NVK7FXW>
- **North East and Northumberland and Durham coaches forums** have started again. Please keep an eye on the regions social media pages for more information on forum topics, dates and times. All coaches are welcome to attend.
- **FREE Time to Listen online workshop, Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2022 at 6pm:**  
<https://asaner.org.uk/event/online-time-to-listen-workshop-3/>
- The Swim England Artistic Swimming Team are launching a new series of webinars for athletes and coaches. Due to the success of the virtual training and education webinars Artistic Swimming ran over lockdown, they are launching a full years' worth of 8 athlete sessions and 5 coaching sessions: <https://shop.swimming.org/artistic-swimming>.

## 6. SwimMark and Stronger Affiliation

- Clubs due for **accreditation at the panel in January 2021** are: **Newcastle Swim Team, Gateshead and Whickham, Tynemouth, Washington, City of Sunderland, Newcastle Aquajets, Panama Whitley Bay, Hebburn Metro and Blaydon and District.**
- Clubs who complete their SwimMark renewals don't need to complete Stronger Affiliation as SwimMark covers the required affiliation elements. Need to complete elements for SA as won't be affiliated.
- Please contact SS if you have any questions. More information can be found here: <https://www.swimming.org/swimengland/affiliate-your-club/>.
- Reminder that if your club doesn't have SwimMark and just has Stronger Affiliation, this also needs to be renewed annually. We will send out reminders for this.

## 7. AOB

None

## 8. Date for next meeting

Next meeting 14<sup>th</sup> February 2022, 19:15 p.m. Zoom meeting.

| Action Points                                        | Who |
|------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Distribute meeting minutes                           | SS  |
| Speak to BS about learnings from L4 meets – on going | SS  |
| Schedule next network meeting                        | SS  |