

Minutes

Minutes from the County Durham Club Network Meeting
Monday 25th January 2022

Venue: Online Meeting - Zoom
Time: 19:15 – 20:55

Attendees:

Sarah Small – Swim England North East (SS)
Paul Woodley – Derwentside and Durham County Council (DCC) (PW)
Anna Patrick-Lord – Durham County Council (AP-L)
Andy Jack – Swim England Club and Operator Relationship Manager (AJ)
James Paramore – Swim England Engagement Manager (JP)
Lorraine Lawrence – Chester-Le-Street (LL)
Kelly Phillpot – Peterlee (KP)
Barbara Littlee – Wear Valley Swimming Club (BL)
Dave Low – Acting chair of NDSA board (DL)
Tracy Donnelly – NDSA Secretary (TD)
Su Cooper – Wear Valley (WV)
Wico Van Mourik – Teesdale Tiger Sharks (WVM)
Ian Frame – Consett (IF)
Eric Pratt – Sedgefield Water Polo (EP)

Apologies:

Kelly Dunbar – Durham City (KD)
Vicky Alderson – Sedgefield Water Polo Club (CH)

1. Welcome

PW thanked everyone for attending the meeting and introductions were given.

2. Presentation County Durham Pathway review by Durham County Council and Swim England

Anna Patrick-Lord led a presentation on the pathway review within DCC. The slides from this presentation will be distributed within the minutes.

WVM – Expanding stages 8-10? Lot of membership starts at stages 8 within the club. PW depends on individual circumstances, need to have conversations with each club.

KP – Works at Peterlee leisure centre, have links with stages 8-10 as head coach is teacher at the pool as well. This works well.

SC – Used to pick swimmers up through school galas, not sure when this will happen again.

PW – your locality manager will be in touch to arrange individual meetings.

3. Club updates – short update from each club

Wear Valley – Everything is going well. Pleased about coaching courses, have 2 people booked on the course in Billingham. Pool fees will impact on the club, thanks to the Eric who has started the petition about the pool hire increase. Able to provide officials for N&D, will club be fined if not having enough officials? – DL, hoping not to fine clubs, please get in touch with Chris Johnson to see if an official can be borrowed from another club for a specific sessions if you are short.

Consett – Competing again, finding problems with people entering galas due to Covid. Have people going to N&D champs but some have been out of the water due to testing positive for Covid. Difficulty with planning. How does learn to swim within DCC feed into club from shared pools? PW – this needs to be looked at. Really good gala with Durham City, Consett and Derwentside – Conor King fundraiser.

Teesdale Tiger Sharks – Struggling with pool hire increase, have new treasurer who is looking into various options for addressing this. Having problems with retaining and attracting new members. Dual membership, where to fees go? PW – have a discussion with dual club. Funding for coaching and teaching courses? No funding for teaching courses, could consider the teaching academy? SS – ensure MOU in place with dual club for membership fees and affiliation fees to Swim England.

Sedgefield Water Polo – Beginners sessions on Sunday afternoon which has led to 10 new members. Hoping to continue with this. Men's national league team, division 5, 2nd, now into playoffs in championships 4 at the moment. Hoping to be promoted. In October 05 boys from the club chosen to play for England youth team, 1 chosen for England men's team. Still have pool hire cost problems, started a petition for this. Have lost a number of members due to Covid.

Derwentside / Performance Programme – Going well, need swimmers at the lower end. Fantastic winter short course, 12 swimmers looking at commie trials in April. Lyndon will be heading up to Aberdeen for World Para-swimming trials.

Peterlee – Pool had been closed for 16 months during Covid, lost 70% of swimmers during this time. Gill Hulme retired in December, assistant coach has taken over running of 3 competitive squads. Advertised twice for coaches, but haven't had much success. Lack of swimmers. Have met with DCC, now able to advertise the club within the facility which is great news.

TD – Nothing specific, NDSA board meet next week, if anything significant to clubs, will be fed out. Anything want to bring to attention of board, please contact TD or SS.

Updates from Swim England and Swim England North East

- **Return to pool guidance** has been updated to reflect the recent Government announcement <https://www.swimming.org/swimengland/pool-return-guidance-documents/>.
- **Swim England have updated their model constitution:** <https://www.swimming.org/swimengland/becoming-a-members-club/>. Clubs will need to use this when updating their constitution from now on. TD - **Guidance notes are very helpful**

- **Queens Platinum Jubilee Activity Fund** Sport England have announced a new funding stream to celebrate the Jubilee. The funding aims to use sport and physical activity to bring communities together and tackle inequality. The funding can be used for things such as a facility hire and coaching costs, or small capital improvements. For more information please see the website: <https://www.sportengland.org/news/queens-platinum-jubilee-activity-fund-launched>.
- The region have recently recruited and appointed a third Regional Development Manager. Louise Graham joined the team last week and will be supporting Sarah Small and David Parry in the delivery of the regional objectives. She will cover areas of work including Governance, Para-Swimming, Open Water, Funding and Sponsorship, Officials Training, Diversity and Inclusion and Masters.
- Sarah Small will be off on Maternity leave from mid-March 2022. A replacement for her role is yet to be appointed by the region. They will be covering the running of the network meetings while Sarah is off.

4. Northumberland and Durham Performance Programme Update

NDSA Performance Programme is pushing ahead with the development of its club arm to allow athletes to compete under the programme should they choose too (as a dual club member). Club is working towards club affiliation with Swim England and an application is now in with the region to approve them becoming established. Please contact ndswimpp@gmail.com if you have any questions about the programme.

5. Workforce development

- The IoS have provided us with a draft course calendar for 2022 and courses are slowly starting to be booked in. There are still a number of people who need to complete their practical assessments and these are in the process of being booked in as well.
- The Swim England strength and condition course is in the process of being piloted and there have been initial discussions around running a course in the North East this year.
- Swim England have recently put out an expression of interest for the **Diving J1** course. Those who may wish to attend can register via the following link: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/BXHVRJ3>.
- There is a fantastic opportunity for Diving Judge 2s to gain skills to become Senior Judges. This would enable them to judge at the British Diving Cup and British Diving Championships. In order to gain the skills the J2s would shadow judge and be evaluated at either of those British Diving events. Dates for this year are: British Diving Cup (11th - 13th Feb) and British Diving Championships (17th-19th June). Those wishing to take part can express their interest via the link below by 24 Jan 2022: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/LN8VZ7R>.
- **Swim England Connecting with Coaches. The first open developmental session is Over-intensification of Age Group Programmes: The impact on long term athletic development**
 - **Date:** Thursday 27th January
 - **Time:** 10:00am – 1:00pm (latest)
 - **Open to:** Swimming
 - **Free to attend. Sign up link:** <https://forms.gle/2V8YebqxeZKVHzeRA>
 - **Sign-ups close:** Tuesday 25th January – noon
- **North East and Northumberland and Durham coaches forums** are continuing to run. Please keep an eye on the regions social media pages for more information on forum topics, dates and times.
- **Swim England England Good Club Governance workshops** continue to run:

- Club Secretary & Membership officer - Monday 7th February, Wednesday 9th March: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Secretary-Membership>.
- Club Welfare Officer - Wednesday 23rd February, Thursday 24th March: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Welfareofficerworkshops>.
- Club Chairs - Monday 28th February: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/ClubChairSessions>

6. SwimMark and Club Affiliation

- Stronger Affiliation will now be known as Club Affiliation
- Clubs that are due for **accreditation at the panel this month are**: Derwentside, Peterlee, Teesdale Tiger Sharks, Durham University, Sedgefield Swimming Club, Wear Valley, Teesdale Swimming Club and North East Disability Swimming Club.
- Please ensure SwimMark coordinator contact details are up to date on OMS.

7. AOB

JP – Great to listen into meeting, have an understanding of what's going on. Support is there if needed from Swim England.

8. Date for next meeting

Next meeting will be on **Tuesday 15th March 2022, 7:15pm via Zoom.**

Action Points	Who
Distribute meeting minutes and presentation slides	SS
Schedule next meeting	SS