

Minutes

Minutes from the County Durham Club Network Meeting
Tuesday 8th March 2022

Venue: Online Meeting - Zoom
Time: 19:15 – 20:10

Attendees:

Sarah Small – Swim England North East (SS)
Tracy Donnelly – NDSA Secretary (TD)
Wico Van Mourik – Teesdale Tiger Sharks (WVM)
Ian Frame – Consett (IF)

Apologies:

Su Cooper – Wear Valley (SC)
John Moore – Sedgefield Swimming Club (JM)
Colin Vallance – Chester-Le-Street (CV)
Paul Woodley – Derwentside and Durham County Council (DCC) (PW)
Angela Callan – Wear Valley (AC)

1. Welcome

SS thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

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

Nothing

3. Club updates – short update from each club

Sedgefield Swimming Club – Update via email: *Training is going well with 7 gold 2 silver and 4 Bronze at the 2022 N&D Championships. The lack of volunteers, assistant Coaches etc is a major concern. As an individual I (John Moore) am unable to go along with the detail set out in the invitation to be part of the NDPP. However with two swimmers training at Sunderland I would like the club to continue to be part of NDPP.*

A question for PW. Would any swimmers competing under the banner of NDPP without their home coach present be given full coaching support and be under the supervision of the NDPP team Manager? I ask this as I'm sure the question will arise at the next club committee meeting. SS – Swimmers would be supported by NDPP Coaching staff and Team Managers, PW to confirm.

The club is holding a sponsored swim with all monies raised going to UNICEF to support the people of Ukraine. Sincere good wishes to you all.

Wear Valley – Update given via email - *We are having to increase our fees in April so not sure how many swimmers we will lose. This is a very worrying time for us. Good news we have had two people complete their assistant swimming coach course. We are starting to get a few swimmers from the swimming lessons.*

Teesdale Tiger Sharks – Had a positive meeting with DCC, good to get to know the team and enable them to get to know the local situation. Have managed to secure funding for starting blocks. Have started to approach local business to provide support to the club. Pool hire is going to increase by 100% by April 2023. Looking at bursaries for club members who are in financial difficulties, looking at launching new fee structures within the club. Currently up to around 40 members. Why can't the NER fund teaching courses and only fund coaching courses and why are their loads of teaching courses available locally and not coaches? SS explained that:

- In previous years, pool operators and private swim schools were putting people on courses and using NER funding and no support was being given to the clubs – so region decided to only fund coaching course.
- With the SE Coaching Policy stating there needs to be a L2 coach on poolside at all sessions, it's a priority to support clubs to achieve this.
- Covid has affected the delivery of coaching courses locally. Lot of candidates did theory online while pools were closed, has been an IoS priority to get these people through their practical sessions.
- Large demand for coaching courses locally, SS and David Parry have tried to get courses in the area since the Autumn of last year. Changes in personnel and roles in the IoS has made course planning really hard to achieve.
- Good number of clubs have offered to host courses in the area, need to find tutors to run these courses.
- Slowly getting courses organised (Billingham and Morpeth for example).
- We are still waiting for a course planner for 2022 from the IoS.

Consett – Competitive side of the club is going well, doing OK at competition. Have a lot of people asking if they can re-join the club when back in Consett. Met with DCC, have changed times at Consett, currently in discussions with club around pool hire. Might be back in the pool in May / Spring 2022, can't do any planning at present. There was then a discussion around DCC taking learn to swim from clubs. SS mentioned that there are very few clubs nationally that offer learn the swim anymore, most operators have brought this in-house to enable them to generate income. IF – Consett being in an area of social deprivation, people unable to pay DCC prices and like the flexibility of pay as you go scheme. DCC also have a shortage of teachers. SS – DCC like a number of operators will be considering hardship funds for customers, shortage of teachers is a national problem, many have walked away from the profession during Covid, into other roles. DCC aren't the only ones who are struggling for teachers. Clubs are also struggling with coaches and volunteers. SS – positive that Consett have open dialogue with DCC and to continue this to reach an agreement. This is a period of change, operators have to work in a different way to ensure they are financially viable and clubs also need to look at new ways of working. Also positive that the pool in Consett is due to reopen soon.

TD – NDSA board meeting in a couple of weeks time. AGM – 17th May, will be held online, information will be sent out in due course.

4. Network finances

There is currently £3843.66 within the network bank account. The bank account now incurs a charge of £5 a month, are there any alternatives? SS happy to continue to look after the bank account while on maternity leave. Only has two signatories now, SS and PW, Gill Hulme and Michelle Crombie will need removing as no longer active within the network. IF suggested asking Kevin Hughes for information.

5. Updates from Swim England and Swim England North East

- **Return to pool guidance** hasn't been changed recently. If it is changed, any changes will be made the document on the website: <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. **The region are encouraging clubs to update their constitutions within the next 12-24 months.** All constitution updates will need to be approved by the region. Please send them through the swimnortheast@swimming.org.
- **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 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>.
- **NDSA Talent Camp 2022** – Selections for this have been made based on the Northumberland and Durham Swimming Championship. The camp will be held on the 27th March and the Louisa Centre in Stanley.
- **North East Young Volunteer opportunities within the region** in March 2022. More information can be found here: <https://asaner.org.uk/young-leader-event-volunteering-workshops-2022/>.
- Steve Dougal has provided details of times **50m lanes can be hired at the Sunderland Aquatics Centre** over the coming months. These are 12.30pm to 1.30pm / 1.30pm to 2.30pm / 2.30pm to 3.30pm on the 9th / 16th / 23rd / 30th April 22, 7th / 14th / 28th May 22 and the 4th / 11th / 18th June 22. Please email Steve on stevedougal@everyoneactive.com.
- It has been agreed that the temporary relaxation on the number and level of qualification of officials required for licensed meets will end as planned on 10th March 2022. This was the intention outlined in the document currently on the Swim England website. From 11th March it will revert to pre-pandemic levels: <https://www.swimming.org/sport/licensed-meets/>.
- Sarah Small will be off on Maternity leave from the 9th March 2022. Until a replacement is appointed, please contact Linda Tjaguns in the regional office: linda.tjaguns@swimming.org. Linda will continue to facilitate the online network meetings until a replacement for Sarah's role is recruited.

6. 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 has been approved by Swim England, the county and region and is in the process of completing it's Swim England club affiliation. Club is holding it's first committee meeting this week. Please contact ndswimpp@gmail.com if you have any questions about the programme or the club.

IF – Club is undecided if they will be part of the club this year, is the club aiming for people to compete for them at the regional champs? SS – Yes, this is the aim ATM, clubs will be able to opt in next season if they would like to get involved.

7. Workforce development

- The Swim England North East Region are continuing to work with the Institute of Swimming to schedule **Assistant Coach and Coach education courses for each aquatic disciplines**. Thanks to those who completed our online survey.
- Swim England Diving Judge 1 on 8th March 2022. Registration of interest via <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/BXHVRJ3>.
- Swim England Diving Judge 2 has been moved from March 2022 to the 21st – 23rd May 2022. Registration of interest via <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/PWDS5BV>.
- **CIMSPA/Sport England Digital Marketing Hub Workshop - March 2022**, Monday 14th March - 7pm - 8pm and Monday 21st March - 11am - 12pm (both sessions are the same, you only need to attend one). Open to all levels and all discipline coaches and club officers. The Digital Marketing Hub is a free resource for anyone in sport and physical activity across England – provided by CIMSPA and funded by a National Lottery award from Sport England. It has been designed to help organisations, groups and clubs to enhance their digital marketing skills for free. Registration closes on Friday 11th March at noon:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdYYbufpQhTuGRSnxPdw5fzo_d7xfmtQN4hliwHgPVWsnramw/viewform.
- **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 over the coming months. More information can be found in the links below:
 - Club Secretary and Membership officer:
<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Secretary-Membership>.
 - Club Welfare Officer:
<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Welfareofficerworkshops>.
 - Club Chairs: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/ClubChairSessions>
- **Swim England Coaching Policy** - Their existing Coaching and Teaching Statement from 2018 has been reviewed and a new Coaching Policy developed **to focus on expected coaching qualifications** whilst delivering any club activity or attendance at competitions. The new policy is a minimum expectation for affiliated clubs and is **applicable for all disciplines**. Details of it can be found here:
<https://swimming.app.box.com/s/bfduu1xflo13kw1dx6p5iqok5iu7lak2>

8. SwimMark and Club Affiliation

- Clubs that are due for **accreditation at the next panel are**: Sedgefield Water Polo Club.
- Please ensure SwimMark coordinator contact details are up to date on OMS.

9. AOB

Nothing to raise

10. Date for next meeting

Next meeting will be on **Monday 23rd May, 7:15pm via Zoom**.

Action Points	Who
Distribute meeting minutes and presentation slides	SS
Schedule next meeting	SS
Network bank account – discuss at next meeting	All
PW to respond to JM question around the NDSAPP Club	PW