

SWIM ENGLAND NORTH EAST REGION

President: H. Leighton

Minutes of the Second Online Annual General Meeting Meeting of Swim England North East held on Tuesday, 3rd May 2022 at 7.00 p.m.

Present D. Watson (Chairman); H. Leighton (President); with 18 Club Delegates (12 N&D SA; 6 Yorkshire SA); 1 County Representative; 3 Board Directors, 1 Discipline Manager, 1 Youth Forum (Chair)

Staff L. Graham, C. Leighton, D. Parry, L. Tjaguns

1 **Apologies**

Helen Dutton (NER Artistic Swimming Manager), Maureen Harrison (Blyth L&SC), Chris Charlton (Cleethorpes & District)

Welcome

The Chairman welcomed delegates to this the Second Annual General Meeting of the Region.

2 **Appointment of Tellers**

No tellers were appointed as this was not required.

3 **Minutes of the 2021 Annual Council Meeting**

The minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.

4 **Matters Arising from the Minutes**

None

5 **Finance Report**

- 5.1 The accounts are available to view on the website. Ray Gordon (Finance Manager) reported that the NE Region is in a relatively healthy financial situation. It made a small surplus during the year. There is an outstanding loan of £35,000 requested by Swim England.
- 5.2 Staffing levels fall under the Business Planning Fund. There is an additional Regional Development Manager (Louise Graham), and maternity leave cover for Sarah Small (Chris Leighton).
- 5.3 There has been a fall in membership over the year. Learn to Swim numbers are down. The Region managed to run a dual pool in Sheffield in September. Congratulations to Artistic Swimming and Water Polo who are now running regional academies on a monthly basis. Diving is running a National Skills Final in Leeds – this is the first time in the North East.
- 5.4 No increase has been made in membership fees 2021/22. Fees to be increased from £5.50 to £6.00 in January 2023. To be a review of entry fees for November by the Board. To be instated May 2023. To file the accounts with Companies House.
- 5.5 Liz Idowu (Newcastle Swim Team) asked “given the financial challenges, will the NE Region re-consider the price increase?” Ray Gordon reported that the fall in membership makes it difficult for the Region to generate income so this would not be considered. D Watson reported that the membership fees have been frozen previously. The Regional Officers will offer support to the clubs and assist to increase club revenue.
- 5.6 Michelle Worthy (Richmond Dales) put forward an expenses policy query. D Watson requested that this be discussed separately to the AGM.

6 **Minutes of the Management Board**

- 6.1 Members are invited to raise any questions on the Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting during the relevant period. None raised. Minutes are available to view on the website.

7 Installation of the President

- 7.1 Howard Leighton to continue for another year as President as he has been unable to fulfil the role due to COVID and lockdown. All agreed.
- 7.2 There is no Vice President in role so if anyone is interested please contact the regional office.

8 Election of Directors

- 8.1 Due to the procedure in respect of succession of the Board, Howard Leighton and Alasdair Thompson both requested to be re-elected. All agreed.

9 Swim England North East Region Impact Report (April – Dec 2021)

- 9.1 There has been a change in guidelines due to COVID and lockdown. All aquatic sports have shown the ability to adjust. Governance has been re-visited and refreshed development priorities. There have been fewer coach education courses delivered in the Region, however this is changing in 2022. More courses and workshops have continued to be delivered online which has been successful. There will be a mix of online and face to face moving forwards. Work with Young Leaders has been a success. Club affiliation remains unchanged however membership has decreased. Work has continued with regional forums/network meetings and funding opportunities. Academies have re-started and championships have been running. Swim camps have been virtual and face to face and will continue in the future.
- 9.2 Jack Naylor Dunn, chair of the Youth Forum, presented his experiences through the Young Leader Programme in the North East. David Watson wished to thank Jack and stated that he had set a great example to volunteers.
- 9.3 David Parry wished to thank Chris Halliday for his support with young volunteers.
- 9.4 Chris Leighton reported that the Region needed to re-grow membership. The Regional Development Team will support clubs with partnership organisations/pool operators as issues are expected to arise due to price increases. The Team are working with the IOS in respect of coach education courses. Clubs to contact the regional office if any members are short of particular qualifications to ensure needs are met.
- 9.5 Louise Graham explained that her role within the Team is look externally, such as applying for funding, sponsorship opportunities. Work has taken place for a volunteer intern to work on YouTube/Twitter to make the Region more commercially aware. She is working with County Partnerships and health initiatives, looking at community projects. Both Open Water and Para Swimming needed clearer pathways. Some areas within Masters Swimming have been identified to work with. If any clubs need assistance with funding/projects to contact Louise.
- 9.6 David Watson welcomed both Louise and Chris to the Team and they are already well-entered in the Region.
- 9.7 David Watson wished to thank all the volunteers and the Regional Team for their input in the Impact Report which was very impressive.

10 Appointment of a firm of accountants to scrutinise the Swim England NER Annual Accounts

- 10.1 Ray Gordon proposed LHA to be appointed as accountants. This was agreed.

11 Any Other Business

- 11.1 Ray Gordon commented on the costs incurred within the NE Region. It is expected that the hire of pools would be increased going forward. The Region can help clubs look at external funding but this must be community focussed. He would like to thank the discipline managers for their work – both Barry Saunders and Kath Smith for Swimming, Helen Dutton for Diving, Tracy Wyke for Artistic Swimming and both Richard and Dawn Cousins for Water Polo.
- 11.2 David Watson wished to advise clubs that although some clubs are subsidised by pool operators, there is a need to make sure sport is accessible to all.

12 Close

David Watson wished to thank everyone for attending.

A recording of the meeting can be view on the following link:-

Meeting Recording:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/66lWHl5bH5vXWnOd-PZe2CNK03WZtR970HskQZdOtyBLjQcOosyJ6j6baOiFfuw8.mtBgzgplPoCh4Fv2>

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