

SWIM ENGLAND NORTH EAST REGION LTD.

President – Howard Leighton

Minutes of the Twelfth Meeting of the North East Region Board of Directors Held on Tuesday 1st November 2022 at 6.00 p.m.

Present: D. Watson (Chairman), R. Gordon (Finance Manager), D. Alexander, H. Leighton, R. Palmer-Jones, S. Prasad, B. Saunders, A. Thompson

Apologies: P. Court

Staff In Attendance: D. Parry, L. Tjaguns

138 Welcome and Apologies

138.1 D. Watson welcomed everyone to the meeting. Board members not in attendance at the last meeting introduced themselves to R. Palmer-Jones.

139 Declaration of Interest

139.1 Members were asked to declare any interest as and when this arose during the meeting.

140 Minutes of the Twelfth Meeting

131.1 R. Gordon reported that interest on finances is averaging £1K per month. The money has not yet been transferred into the Bond. The County contribution to the Regional Development Officers has now been paid. The vacancy for the Water Polo Manager needs to be actioned as the current holder is stepping down at the end of December. R. Gordon proposed donations from the Board to be agreed at £200 - **Agreed.** R. Gordon confirmed that water polo courses have started.

132.1 Open Water initiative – received £1,200 from Newcastle Sports Council.

135.1 D. Watson confirmed there is a Regional Chairs meeting at the end of the month. There is a Swim Leadership meeting prior to this.

135.5 Transgender Policy – no policy confirmed by Swim England as yet.

136.1 Some privately run pools have already confirmed price increases. Tadcaster Pool has raised their prices which have been passed onto the swimming club. North Yorkshire Sport Staff are to meet with Tadcaster Pool in the near future. The Region agreed they would support clubs with advice/management in respect of increased hire charges. The Board and Regional Development Team to discuss this further in the future.

141 Matters Arising from the Minutes

None.

142 Report of the Regional Finance Manager

142.1 R. Gordon submitted a finance statement for November 2022 which was circulated to the Board. He reported that the NE Region has an income which is still ahead of last year. £64K is in the PayPal account which is income from the Short Course Championships this weekend. This will be taken out from the account after the event. All refunds have been paid.

142.1 Proposal re the Diving Budget Plan. Diving – IT equipment. **Agreed by the Board.** National Skills Competition taking place again in 2023 – **Agreed.** Yorkshire representatives to go back to seek approval from Yorkshire Board.

- 142.2 R. Gordon submitted a report in respect of current membership figures.
- 142.3 Now have licence meet fees – there had been no income in the previous year.
- 142.4 R. Gordon queried the survey which was originally gathered in 2016 capturing age/ethnicity – this needs to be updated.
- 142.5 Discussion took place re the Region's role to make clubs more sustainable. Template for a successful club – no two clubs are the same but Swim England are putting together a benchmark which may prove useful.
- 142.6 Discussed Swim Mark – it is felt the Regional Development Team have to focus too much of their work on this role for Swim England. Felt the 5 points contained within SwimMark were of importance – together with Club Affiliation. It was suggested to accept the minimum standards required but clubs could continue with further elements if they wish.

143 Regional Business Plan

- 143.1 D. Parry reported on the key points covered this quarter. Coach education has been pro-active. The first quarter has been confirmed with the IOS. There are 4 Swim Coach mentors, with up to 16 mentees.
- 143.2 The recent Swimming Coach Conference received good feedback. It has taken a while for people to engage face to face so numbers attending were lower than anticipated. Difficult to get speakers relevant to level of coaches attending.
- 143.3 Para Swimming Training sessions – well attended. Regional Swim Camps – online induction completed and face to face running this month. Young Volunteer Programme has now been launched.
- 143.4 Social media interaction is doing very well – NE Region Intern submitted a case study. The level of social media presence increased following the NE Region Awards being announced. YouTube account is now eligible for monetisation and this should increase following the live streaming of the Short Course Championships at the weekend.
- 143.5 The Water Polo Leads are standing down but no interest has come forward to date.

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Regional Agreement

- 144.1 No further contact from Swim England.

145 Welfare Officer Report

- 145.1 C. Halliday submitted a report. One ongoing issue that was passed to Swim England.

146 Other Items for Information

- 146.1 The Short Course Championships being held on 5th & 6th November 2022 have received an extremely high number of entries. Due to the limit on capacity at Ponds Forge, Sheffield some entries have not secured a place. Some negative feedback has been received as a result of this. Entries and tickets have been refunded on request. There are a number of options to look at this going forward in the future. D Watson to reply to the clubs who have expressed a complaint. The Region have a duty of care to the Board Members and fully support the Regional Swimming

Manager in the decision-making process. L Tjaguns to send letters once finalised to those who made a complaint.

- 146.2 A parent of a swimmer from the NE Region attending the British Team World Transplant Games has contacted the NE Region to request funding/sponsorship. Although the Region do not offer funding, NESS Swimwear have agreed to provide a goodie bag. D. Parry to action to gain further information.
- 146.3 The Regional Development Team are employed by the Region, via North Yorkshire Sport. NY Sport are to provide a report to their Board re the cost of living crisis to provide financial support to staff. This will look at salaries from 1st April 2023 and any agreed pay increase/voucher. **Board in agreement.**

147 Any Other Business

- 147.1 NE Region Overseas Competition. An exploratory exercise: North East Region Off-Shore Trip was submitted by Louise Graham. This proposal had been discussed at the Team Catch Up the previous week. Approved by the Board in principal – to be an overseas camp for selected swimmers/to develop workforce. It was felt that the swimmers selected would be very interested in this and would be a motivating experience. L. Tjaguns to circulate the report with the minutes. Could investigate possible sponsorship/input from the Counties to assist with costs involved. Regional Team to look at the selection policy. **Agreed to look into this further.**

148 Next Meeting

Tuesday 7th February 2023 – Board – Darlington Dolphin Centre at 6 p.m.

ACTION POINTS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE
142.1 - Diving Budget Plan. Yorkshire representatives to go back to seek approval from Yorkshire Board.	BS/DA
146.1 – Short Course Championships 5 th &6 th November	LT to send letters following complaints
146.2 – Talented Swimmer – D.Parry to gain further information.	DP
147.1 – NE Region Overseas Competition – Regional Team to look into this further.	Regional Team