

Northumberland & Durham Swimming Association



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Minutes of NDSA Management Board meeting (B22_01) Tuesday 1 February 2022 via Zoom.

The meeting opened at 7.15pm

Attendees: Mr D Low, Mrs T Donnelly (Sec), Mrs S Sharp (Treas.) Mrs C Golightly, Mr R Gordon, , Mr H Leighton Mrs S Small (RDO), Mr C Leighton (PP/Coach Forum), Mr G Robinson.

Also attending; Louise Graham , who has joined the regional team

DL introduced Louise who outlined her previous experience as a competitive swimmer and coach. She has joined the regional team with special responsibility for Governance, Para-swimming, Masters, Open-water, Diversity and Inclusivity, Officials training, Funding and Sponsorships.

1. Apologies: none
2. Declarations of interest will be noted against relevant items as they arise.
3. Minutes of the meeting held on 30 November 2021 were circulated prior to this meeting and agreed
4. Finance:
 - a) Treasurer's update

A report had been circulated prior to the meeting. SSh was asked to clarify some entries and provide a more detailed allocation of some income and expenditure in relation to the PP pool hire and the Festival of swimming.

It was confirmed the pool hire for the Festival in July 21 has not yet been invoiced so it was agreed that a sum of £10k should be ringfenced for this.

SSh confirmed the accounts were ready to pass to the Accountant to prepare end of year reports.

- b) Funding request from Sedgefield WP

Sedgefield WP have requested financial support towards their participation in the British WP league where they are currently 2nd in div 5 but following play-offs anticipate promotion to div 4. As well as competitive success they have 5 players in the England Men's youth team and 1 in the Men's Senior team.

Following discussion the Board agreed to allocate a fund of £1000 for WP development in N&D. As there is more than 1 WP club in N&D it was agreed to award £750 of this fund to Sedgefield WP.

5. Swimming Updates

a) Championships

DL confirmed there had been around 2600 entries and the online entry system was working well. There is provision for late entries at additional cost. Following consultation of latest Gov regulations, the regulations affecting the Aquatic Centre and local conditions as well as speaking to the county officials manager DL said his inclination was not to allow spectators and he had booked online streaming. The Board discussed this with ref to other recent meets in NER/N&D and supported the decision.

It was also confirmed there would be no provision for trainee J1 officials and all clubs would be required to name their coaches/team managers, who must all be qualified.

It was confirmed there will not be straight finals where an age group heat has fewer than 8 entrants, heats and finals will be swam.

A question was asked about allocated poolside areas for each club, DL said he would look at the feasibility of this.

b) N&D Camps

The camp postponed from 2020 took place at the Louisa Centre, Stanley on 30 Jan, having lost 1 invited swimmer following a pre-camp positive covid test. All required restrictions were implemented and the camp – focusing on fly/breaststroke - ran very successfully, with excellent support from the coaches involved. Letters of thanks have been sent to the coaching and support staff.

The 2022 camp is planned for 27 March with the same coaches/staff being asked to participate.

Swimmer selection will be made following the N&D championships.

SE have released info about the provision of camps in 2022/23 – N&D are ahead of the game by running a camp in March – and will look at the SE proposal for a camp between Jul-Sept 2022 after the March camp.

c) Performance Programme

The invoice for January is outstanding, CL will check hire details are correct as some sessions lost.

Additional junior swimmers have been selected for the programme from January.

The programme is continuing with 3 weekly sessions and is running very well, with good attendance across all sessions.

Work is continuing to finalise the constitution for the PP club ahead of the NER Board in February.

RG highlighted there would be a need for stronger management of the programme going fwd, which may come from the PP Club committee.

(n.b. Sarah Small is shortly going on maternity leave. No replacement for her is in post as yet and although there is possible support from an intern e.g. with Club networks, he may not pick up all of Sarah's responsibilities)

DL asked what were Sarah's responsibilities to N&D and the PP and how these might be covered while she is on leave. Could the Exec officers of the PP Club pick up anything in relation to PP.

d) Future Competition Planning

The working party have met twice and have considered two possible approaches to future competition. These were outlined to the Coaches forum. DL has also discussed with BS (NERLO) re county putting some control on the calendar to ensure a fair division of competitions at all levels. This may not come into effect until Jan 23 due to the need to consult with clubs.

It was confirmed there is a provisional booking for a LC PP meet in June n.b. more LC meets at Sunerland will impact on PP training.

e) Coach Mentor Funding (CL declared an interest)

SE pay for 1 coach mentor in the region then the region covers the costs for a further 4 swimming mentors plus 1 each for the other disciplines, with costs split out to the counties.

DL proposed that N&D continue to support this through 2022 with funding up to a max of £1500. This proposal was agreed by the Board.

f) Athlete of the Year

TD confirmed all disciplines had been contacted to put forward nominations but the only 1 received was the coaches nomination of Lyndon Longhorne (Derwentside). The Board agreed to award Lyndon the AotY award for 2021.

CL added that Lyndon would receive the Fred Kirby Swimmer of the Year award (chosen by the N&D Coaches forum) for 2021 and that a presentation would also be made to Harriet Rogers (Darlington), the winner for 2020.

AOB

- a) DL/TD had been contacted by Joan Edwards, N&D Masters rep, about the N&D Masters meet potentially being held in July. There has been a good response to Joan's enquiries to masters swimmers both in the county and elsewhere. DL will pick this up with her after the Champs.
- b) Aquaforce Hartleppool have contacted TD again re their problem accessing the Dyke House pool due to the need for costly refurbishments. SSm confirmed the club have been put in touch with reps from SE to assist them.
- c) Gateshead Synchro have been in touch to thank the Board for the funding awarded to them. They are using the money to support swimmers attending the Yorkshire development camp and plan to run their own in-house camp over Easter to prepare their swimmers for competition.
- d) N&D ACM – a date was agreed of 17 May. TD will circulate info to clubs re the date and vacancies on the Board.
- e) Hebburn and Stokesley SC are both suspended as they did not complete their affiliation
- f) A letter of thanks will be sent to Sarah.

The meeting closed at 9.05pm

The next meeting will be held on 22 March 2022