

SWIM ENGLAND NORTH EAST REGION

President: C. Halliday

Minutes of the Third Online Annual General Meeting Meeting of Swim England North East held on Wednesday 3rd May 2022 at 6.00 p.m.

Present D. Watson (Chairman); C. Halliday (President); with 17 Club Delegates (10 N&D SA, 7 Yorkshire SA); 2 County Representative; 6 Board Directors

Staff L. Graham, C. Leighton, J. Manners, D. Parry, S. Small, L. Tjaguns

1 Apologies

B. Saunders (Director), Judith Halliday (Bridlington SC), Jo Ingram (Borough of Barnsley)

Welcome

The Chairman welcomed delegates to this the Third Annual General Meeting of the Region. The Regional Team introduced themselves to the meeting.

2 Appointment of Tellers

L. Tjaguns was appointed as a Teller.

3 Minutes of the 2022 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 This was shared on screen. Finance year 2022 – information taken from Income/Expenditure Report. Discussion had taken place in respect of regional membership fee – no increase for third year. Initial returns for 2023 indicated members' numbers should continue to increase.

Interest Rates have improved.

2022 returned to full swimming programme. Substantial increases in facility costs in 2023.

Licence fee income recovering back from pre-Pandemic levels.

Sport Newcastle Grant enabled swimming of a number of coaches.

Diving – the NE Region would like to thank Helen Dutton, NER Diving Manager, for all her hard work during the past year.

2022 NER hosted Swim England Skills Events.

December – NE Region received financial request from British Swimming to upgrade diving boards at Leeds and Sheffield.

Artistic Swimming – continue to support Annual Summer Camp and the Regional Academy.

Para-Swimming – secured external grant and enabled the expansion of development camps and upskilling.

Regional Development Managers – major expense item in the regional budget.

Income/Expenditure Accounts year ended 31 Dec 2022.

Balance Sheet as at 31 Dec 2022.

Streaming costs have remained the same. To look at costs going forward.

D. Watson reported that rising costs are likely to come in the next year. Increasing fees to £6 discussed last year. Decision by the Board that fees to remain frozen.

Any questions – Wico Van Mourik - (Teesdale Tiger Sharks) raised the fact that expenditure for coaching grant appears to have dropped off considerably. R. Gordon replied that figures on the report look like a decrease but the reality of this is not the case. Region continuing to support. Any questions can be sent to linda.tjaguns@swimming.org or to Ray Gordon directly.

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 Chris Halliday was installed as President.

D. Watson wished to thank Howard Leighton who has been the Region's President for the last 2 years (remained for additional year due to COVID).

Howard Leighton reported that it had been a great honour and a pleasure to be Chair of the NE Region. He has enjoyed watching the Region develop and wished the new President good luck in taking over for the next year. Howard was presented with a certificate (medal to be handed over in the near future when convenient) and the President's Chain to be handed over to the new President.

Chris Halliday wished to thank the Chair and President. On behalf of NE Region Board and members he wished to thank Howard for his presidency during the difficult times of COVID and in addition to NE Region volunteer duties. Thanked Howard for excellent service and commitment. Looking forward to working with everyone in the Region over the next year.

8 Vacancy of Vice-President

- 8.1 There is no Vice President in role so if anyone wishes to nominate themselves or anyone else – can raise now or email linda.tjaguns@swimming.org

Election of Directors

- 9 9.1 There is a requirement for rotation for Directors on the Board as part of governance process. Two due for re-election – Sue Prasad and Barry Saunders. Asked members to vote – all agreed.

10 Director Vacancies

There are 3 further vacancies for Directors which can be from membership and will be going to open recruitment shortly. Job description and skills matrix to be promoted/advertised.

11 Swim England North East Region Impact Report (Jan – Dec 2022)

D. Watson - what a fantastic video and report showing how much has gone on in the Region over the last few months.

Any questions or comments can raise now or send in.

Wico Van Mourik, Teesdale Tiger Sharks. He stated that originally Masters Swimming was focused on providing a training experience for all swimmers. Now it seems increasing standards means less lane space. D. Watson replied that there needs to be a place where people can swim at the level they are at. In future plan to work more with clubs around this area. Sport needs to be inclusive but acknowledges this is a challenge.

David Parkinson, Tadcaster York Sport Swim Squad. He reported confusion amongst some swimmers at NER Champs about changes in qualifications/medals with some age group swimmers thinking they had won races when they had not. He also asked if Relay Medals could be awarded in next year's Championships? D. Watson replied that he will take on board the comment about the medals and feed back to event organisers. In respect of the process of selecting winners, the Region needs to look at how to communicate this through the website and it may be easier to understand for some people than others.

Chris also raised the point about trying to ensure that individuals can Swim/compete at an appropriate level and that not all clubs can produce podium swimmers. DW replied that the Region want to support an environment in which this can happen but this requires changes at club level also. Region to work with clubs over the next 12 months and beyond to look at their individual places in talent pathways. Chris was asked to email the office if he had further questions/points on this to raise and then someone will respond.

Suzanne Smelt, Borough of Kirklees. Experienced similar problems to Tadcaster York Sport Swim Squad. Some confusion on day of Championships. D. Watson – the Region will continue to look at this and for clubs to recognise their role in disseminating information to swimmers and parents..

R. Gordon – communication is always key. Event at Sheffield was an Open Championship. Region has to run Team events as a qualification to the Nationals.

C. Leighton – encouraged clubs to inform their coaches to engage with the NER Coaches Forum to get the communication across.

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

- 12.1 Ray Gordon proposed Ruth from LHA to be appointed as accountants. This was agreed.

13 Any Other Business

- 13.1 None.

Close

David Watson wished to thank everyone for joining us and wished all good luck for the forthcoming year.