



Northumberland and Durham Swimming Association Minutes of the ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING held on Tuesday 25 May 2023

The meeting opened at 7.05pm
There were 20 voting delegates in attendance. The meeting was quorate.

In Memorium: Mr Alan Capstick (South Tyneside ASC) former President of N&D and NER who died in May 2023. He made a huge contribution to swimming in the county and beyond as an official in competitive and open water swimming, a trainer and as a safety advisor. He will be fondly remembered and greatly missed by friends and colleagues.

1. Apologies: Mrs C Johnston, Mrs J Edwards, Mr S Jackson, Mr H Leighton
2. Minutes of the previous meeting (17 May 2022)
These had been circulated and there were no comments/queries raised by council. The minutes accepted (prop: G Robinson, sec: D Low)
3. Matters arising – none
4. Correspondence – none received.
5. Treasurers report

The accounts had been circulated, were reviewed and accepted.

The Treasurer advised that the 2022 County Championships had attracted a good entry, but with no spectators and no sponsorship plus the cost of live-streaming (£7k) overall income was down on previous years.

2022 had also seen the County called on to contribute to the costs of the regional staff (£5k) for the first time and the costs of coach mentors (£2k). The County has also provided funding support to Artistic Swimming, Water Polo and Open Water.

The 2023 County Championships ran very successfully.

The Treasurer confirmed that due to a family bereavement the IE had been unable to examine the accounts prior to the ACM but would do so at the earliest opportunity. The Secretary will confirm to clubs that this has been done.

6. Election of officers

Only 1 nomination had been received for the Management Board vacancy:

Mr W R Gordon (NST) nominated by Mrs K Smith (NST), Seconded by Mr G Robinson (Derw)

There were no further nominations from Council and no objections – Mr Gordon was duly re-elected to the Management Board.

Following election/appointment in previous years the following all remain in post:

Elected Past Presidents

Mr D Beadle (since 2015)

Mrs D Gibson (since 2015)

Mr W R Gordon (since 2015)

Management Board

Chair – Mrs K Smith (elected 2022)

Secretary – Mrs T Donnelly (re-elected 2022)

Treasurer – Mr G Robinson (elected 2022)

Mr D Low (re-elected 2022)

Mr H Leighton (re-elected 2022)

Mrs D Peart (elected 2022)

Mr D Maxwell (elected 202)

The County Management Board also includes

Mrs S Small RDO SENER (currently on maternity leave, role covered by Mr C Leighton)

Mr C Leighton (Coach Forum Rep)

Honorary Solicitor:	Ms V Dobbie	(Appointed by the Board)
Championships Manager Swimming;	Mr D Low	(Appointed by the Board)
Swimming Advisor	Mr C Leighton	(Appointed by the Board)
Diving Advisor:	Mr S Jackson	(Appointed by the Board)
Masters Swimming Advisor:	Mrs J Edwards & Ms V Dobbie (App'ted by the Board)	
Artistic Swimming Advisor:	Colin & Lena Mclelland (Appointed by the Board)	
Water Polo Advisor:	Vacant - To be appointed by the Board	
Swimming Officials Advisor:	Mrs C Johnston (Appointed by the Board)	
Medical Adviser:	Vacant - To be appointed by the Board	

7. Championship Report – Mr D Low

The report was printed in the Agenda. Mr Low reiterated his thanks and appreciation to the team of volunteers who supported the Championships. The two Championship weekends ran very well, with a good entry level and the full return of spectators. The Teams day also went well, but it was disappointing that some of the larger clubs had chosen to compete elsewhere that weekend. MASC – raised the question of allowing mixed teams or clubs being allowed to 'swim-up' a younger swimmer to enable more smaller clubs to enter teams. DL said he'd look at this for 2024 as he was keen to make the event open to as many clubs as possible within the event constraints.

8. Diving Report – Mr S Jackson

The report was printed in the Agenda. Council praised the amount of information provided by SJ and noted their congratulations to him for both the report and his continuing service to diving in the county.

9. Swimming Officials Report – Mrs C Johnson

The report was printed in the Agenda and noted by Council.

A question was raised as to how the number of officials in N&D now compared to previous years (pre-Covid). This will be passed to CJ.

10. Masters Report – Mrs J Edwards

The report was printed in the Agenda and noted by Council.

11. Artistic Swimming Report – Mrs L Mclelland

The report didn't reach the secretary for inclusion in the Agenda and is therefore produced below.

Introduction

This report covers the past 12 months. Overall the committee is very happy with the development of the club as a whole this year. The club has fully recovered from the effects the pandemic had on the club regarding the loss of swimmers and lack of athletes achieving grades.

This year has been the most successful the club has achieved for 10 years. 2022 we entered teams into national championships for the first time in over 10 years, won a gold and silver medal in London and brought home 8 medals and a trophy from Scottish national age groups.

As you maybe be aware earlier this year the leisure center where the club trains was under threat of closure. Due to the participation of all our volunteers and parents completing consultation and attending meetings the council has reviewed its decision, and I am pleased to inform you all that the pool is going to remain open. However, the threat is not over as we are unsure at this point who will be taking over the running of the center.

Membership

Currently we have 46 swimmers in the club made up of Swim England Synchro stages, development squad, and novice, junior and masters swimmers.

The Club currently have 6 teams, 15 & under combination team, 13-15 combination team, 13-18 combination and a junior free team.

The Club have continued to run our intro to Artistic Swimming courses, teaching Swim England stages 8, 9 and 10. These sessions have proved to be successful and we currently have 12 swimmers enrolled on our stages programme. Swimmers from these sessions feed into the development squad sessions once they have passed stage 10. The club link up with Gateshead Council's learn to swim programme. Any swimmers that have passed stage 7 in the learn to swim programme get sent our details to have a trial at the club. This has proved successful in gaining new members and growing the club.

Training Sessions

The Club continue to provide structured, focused training sessions which support and develop our athletes. We ensure that swimmers are entered into the appropriate grade /routine assessment days and continue to take part in competitions.

Depending on where we are in the season, we try to cover as much training as possible for grades, whilst incorporating speed and synchro stamina into training sessions along with basic skills and routine work.

In land session this focuses on flexibility for legs, shoulders and back and in addition to this, work on toe point, foot strength and extension. Arm, leg and core strength is also incorporated in the land work.

Training Camps

During the year the club runs 3 development camps during school holidays. The purpose of the camps is to focus on national competitions, and grade development.

New Developments

Novice Development Squad

Last year the club introduced a novice development squad for swimmers coming out of stage 10 in artistic swimming. They train 3 hours a week and focus on achieving routine and figure grade 2 before competing for the club.

This enable the swimmers to achieve a better grounding before being selected for a team, working towards our goal of having as many competitive swimmers as possible.

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County Development Squad

In January 2023 we started a County Development Squad which is made up of 12 athletes who have grade 3 and above. This squad trains every other Saturday and is focused on technical skills, figures and elements following the national plan for athletes who may want to trial for the England/GB youth/junior squads in the future.

Coaches/ Volunteer Development

The club continues to invest in providing training opportunities for coaches and volunteers. Over the past year 4 coaches have achieved level 1 and 2 qualifications. A number of parents have completed courses for judging, scoring and safeguarding.

The Head Coach has also attended GB training camps which will enable her to develop our club in the future.

Dubai Competition.

The club is in the early stages of organizing a trip to Dubai in December 2023 where the athletes will attend a 4 day camp and participate in an international competition.

Other Achievements

- Two Athletes were selected for the NE development squad in January last year and attended training one a month in Leeds. They also competed with the squad at the regional games in Bristol in June.
- 1 Athlete was invited to attend Senior GB trials in September.
- 5 Coaches and 1 judge attended the 2 day national Synchro conference at the start of December and brought back lots of new information about the changes and new rules that are being introduced to the sport over the next 2 years.
- Our awards night in November was a great success and again important funds were raised for the club.
- The Christmas show in December was well attended and was our biggest turn out to date. It was a great fundraising event as always.
- A Grant of £1,000.00 from Northumberland and Durham to support swimmers attending NE Regional camp
- 2 of our swimmers were selected for the Yorkshire development squad last year.
- 4 of our swimmers, were selected for phase 3 of the junior GB trials and went to Bristol for 4 days to trial in October.
- 2 Athletes have been selected for the second year running, onto the GB world class programme progression project, and travel to Bristol two days a month for training.
- We secured some funding from Proctor and Gamble to buy a fantastic new underwater speaker at the start of last year.
- We received a grant from Northumberland and Durham SA to help swimmers attend Regional training and our summer camp.

Competition Season

We are now fully into our training schedule for the start of the competition season with. We are choreographing 7 new routines for competitions over the next 2 years.

One of our main aims last year was trying to catch up with figure and routine grades to develop as many competitive swimmers as possible, especially as both routine and figure grades are a requirement for entering competitions in 2023. The club went from having over 150 grades needed to only needing 49 figure grades and 34 routine grades currently, which is a fantastic achievement from all involved. The standard within the club is ever increasing and we are able to compete at the highest level nationally again this year

Competition Successes

NE regional competition March 2022

Gold medals 4

Silver medals 6

Bronze medals 3

12 & under combo team 1st place

15 & under team 'A' 2nd place

15 & under team 'B' 3rd place

13-18 combo team 2nd place

Free team 1st place

National Championships April 2022

2 athletes came 6th place in junior age group & 10th place overall in the Free duet event.

2 athlete came 11th and 13th place in junior age group and 17th and 20th place overall in technical solo event.

1 Athlete came 11th place in junior age group & 17th place overall in free solo event.

Combo team 8th place.

Free team 11th.

NE & Yorkshire Competition June 22

Gold Medals 5

Silver medals 1

Bronze medals 2

Gold overall in every team event entered.

Combo Cup

12 & under combo team 9th place

15 & under combo team 1 Silver medal

15 & under combo team 2 12th place

13-18 combo team gold medal.

Top 7th club overall.

Scottish National Age Groups October 2022

This was a really successful competition for the club and we took away a medal in every event we entered.

Gold medals 4

Silver medals 3

Bronze medals 1

1 Trophy

Junior elements 1 Silver medalist

Open technical solo 1 Silver medalist, 1 Bronze medalist

Junior free duet gold medalists

Junior free solo gold medalist and winner of the Jackie Bradshaw Prize

Open free solo silver medalist

Junior free team Gold medalists

Open Combo team Gold medalists

Lena McLelland

On behalf of Gateshead Artistic Swimming Club

12. Gray Award

No nominations received for 2023 to date

13. Athlete of the Year

The Chair confirmed no nominations had been received for 2022.

14. Northumberland & Durham SA County Records (Swimming)

The latest version of the county records is available on the website.

15. Appointment of Independent Examiner

TBA

16. Proposed Incorporation of Northumberland & Durham SA

Following participation in SE presentations on the future governance by County Management Boards the N&D Board are considering whether to move NDSA to becoming an Incorporated body. We therefore request the approval of Council to further explore the incorporation of the NDSA and, if agreed, to facilitate such Incorporation without the need to seek further consent from Council.

There were no objections and the proposal was approved.

17. Northumberland and Durham Counties ASA Board Minutes

Nothing was received

18. Any Other Business

Nothing was raised

The meeting closed at 7.26pm