

Minutes

Minutes from the Tees Valley Club Network Meeting
Tuesday 26th September 2023

Venue: Online Meeting - Zoom
Time: 19:15 – 20:20

Attendees:

Sarah Small – Swim England North East (SS)
Simon Morris – Middlesbrough Swimming (SM)
Gillian Smith – Middlesbrough Swimming (GM)
Alison Middleton – Aquaforce (AM)
Mark Blackmore – Billingham (MB)

Apologies:
None

1. Welcome

SS thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

2. Minutes from the last meeting and updates on any actions

Nothing as last meeting held in 2022.

3. Club updates – short update from each club

Middlesbrough – SM, update sent through via email: *After a challenging start to the year, following a squad restructure and the departure of a number of our older / higher level swimmers, we have started to recover. Our membership is increasing especially in our Academy where we work with young swimmers from Level 7 upwards to develop them into the next generation of competitive swimmers entering into our squad structure. SS - Academy is the biggest growth area, squad is supported by volunteer older swimmers in lifeguarding and teaching roles. Fed into by Neptune and Rainbow learn to swim programmes. Club has an active squad for swimmers who don't want to compete – is there scope for Rookie / sport lifesaving here?*

As a club we are keen to develop closer working relationships with other local clubs across the Tees Valley to provide opportunities for swimmers to train together and for coaches to share knowledge and ideas. SS – Club are conscious that they have a lot of good pool time available, would like to work with other clubs to share experiences, coaches and swimmers working together. Opportunity to work with Aquaforce if they are struggling with pool time?

As with all clubs across the country, rising costs have made Club finances tight however, we continue to work hard to provide our swimmers with the best possible opportunities.

Teesside and Masters messenger group – SM to ask about Masters Rep and lead for region and county. Masters have 9 sessions a week. Club has a really good relationship with the Rainbow and Neptune centre, fees have gone up by 10%.

Aquaforce – All is going fine, went to first gala in Billingham, PB's and NER times, nearly completed all their SwimMark elements due for this quarter. Have younger swimmers doing swimming teachers course and J1. Need more pool time for the club, currently at Millhouse (8.5hrs a week) and using school pools. Doing learn to swim in high Tunstall, children progress into being a lifeguard and teaching. No rookie programmes within Hartlepool.

Billingham – Not too bad, completed SwimMark earlier in the year, 100 members atm, masters section is full, unable to accommodate any more currently. Restructured a lot of the squads, looking at age profile of squads, have space in their learn to swim programme – actively recruiting with Billingham schools. Still have normal training times, pool hire costs are very high. Have passed on some costs to members, now have more active fundraising to support club and increases in costs. Held first gala at the weekend which went well. No rookie lifeguard within club, swimmers generally fall into being lifeguards with Tees Active. 40 on learn to swim programme, Tees Active happy for them to run learn to swim. Support the Stockton schools programme when that's on. Masters swimmers must attend 3 masters comps a year to be in the masters squad.

4. Network finances

There is £7,691.69 in the NDSA bank account for the club network. SS – this could be used to support hub sessions, Safeguarding and Time to Listen courses, bursaries for coach / workforce development etc

5. Updates from Swim England and Swim England North East

- Staff updates:
 - SS – Supporting clubs and aquatic activity predominately within Northumberland and Durham
 - David Parry – Supporting clubs and aquatic activity predominately within Yorkshire.
 - Louise Graham – Operations Manager, Para-Swimming, Open Water championships, Regional Strategic Lead, help with disciplines.
 - Chris Leighton – Workforce development (all disciplines), Open Water and Regional Camps, coach mentoring.
- **NDSA Competition Calendar meeting for 2024 – 2025 season** will be held on the 18th October 2023 at the Darlington Dolphin Centre. Please send SS dates for the calendar ahead of the meeting.
- Steve Dougal has provided details of times **50m lanes can be hired at the Sunderland Aquatics Centre** over the coming months. These are 12.30pm to 1.30pm / 1.30pm to 2.30pm / 2.30pm to 3.30pm. Please email Steve for more information on stevedougal@everyoneactive.com.
- **Swim England's Safe Supervision Briefings** – if you missed them, recordings available, email clubdevelopment@swimming.org.
- **Swim England Foundations of Inclusivity Workshop** now free to attend: <https://www.swimming.org/ios/course-information/foundations-of-inclusivity/>. The CPD is mandatory for relevant officers to attend as part of SwimMark and Club affiliation
- The **Swim England Swimline phone option** that allows concerns to be raised is **no longer operational**. If your club needs safeguarding or welfare support, confidential advice or need to refer a concern, contact the [Swim England Safeguarding team](#).
- **Sport England's Active Together Fund**, a £7.5 million fund with up to £10,000 in match funding is available for clubs and organisations who are looking to raise money through

crowdfunding: <https://www.sportengland.org/funds-and-campaigns/our-funds/active-together>.

- **Allianz Sports Fund - grants available.** The next round of funding was launched on **Wednesday 20th September 2023** and will remain open until Friday 20th October: <https://www.swimming.org/swimengland/allianz-sports-fund-2023/>.
- **Swim England Club and Pool Operator 'Working Together' Webinars:** Thursday 2nd November 2023, 7.30pm-8.30pm, Tuesday 14th November 2023, 12.30pm-1.30pm, Thursday 30th November 2023 7.30pm-8.30pm. Club representatives can book their place using the following registration link - <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/TJY25YN>.

6. Northumberland and Durham Swimming Development Programme 2023 - 2024

• Northumberland and Durham Swimming Camps 2023 - 2024

The County has agreed to once again fund the swimming camps for 12 year olds (31st Dec 2023) for the 2023 – 2024 season. Katy Batley from Alnwick Dolphins is the head coach and invites have been sent out to selected swimmers this week. Coaches of selected athletes will also be notified. Dates for the camps are:

Date	Session	Venue	Time
Saturday 30 th September 2023	Online Induction	Zoom (details to follow)	13:30 – 14:30
Saturday 2 nd December 2023	Face to Face camp 1	Sunderland Aquatics Centre, Stadium Park, Monkwearmouth, Sunderland SR5 1SU	10:00 – 16:00
Saturday 9 th March 2024	Online Education Workshops	Zoom (details to follow)	13:30 – 16:30
Saturday 18 th May 2024	Face to Face camp 2	Sunderland Aquatics Centre, Stadium Park, Monkwearmouth, Sunderland SR5 1SU	10:00 – 16:00

Team Manager and Assistant Team Manager roles are yet to be filled.

SS to check of coaches of selected swimmers have been informed of their selections.

- **NDSA Training Programme (formally the NDSA Performance Programme)** started again on the 23rd September 2023. Criteria is on the website, please email NDSWIMPP@gamil.com for more information.
 - **Drop box folder** has been created for coaches to access training plans and session content delivered by NDTP coaches.
- **NDSA Swimming Hubs** – Opportunity for the swimming hubs to access pool time (5 lanes) at the Sunderland Aquatics Centre on a Saturday morning from 10 – 12 am. Any suggestions on how hubs will run? Any clubs willing to be part of hub?

MB – Speak to coaches this week. AM, need to organise a coaches meeting to decide what is best for the swimmers in the area. Need the coaches by in to put the sessions on. SS suggested each network sends clubs to first couple of sessions as a collective, clubs pay for lane hire, clubs and coaches chat at sessions about hub moving forwards. Draft network / hub plan sent to NDPT coaches, Tees Valley sessions 28th October and the 19th November 2023.

7. Workforce development

- A **Swimming Coach** course has been scheduled in the Sunderland Aquatic Centre for February 2024. More information on the course can be found here: <https://www.swimming.org/ios/course/10145>
- An **Assistant Swimming Coach** course has been scheduled in Stockton in October 2023, more information on the course can be found here: <https://www.swimming.org/ios/course/10798>.
- Funding is available from the Swim England North East Region to support club's with coach education. Details are available to view at: <https://asaner.org.uk/information-about-aquatics-clubs-in-the-north-east/funding/>.
- **Team Manager Courses** – please email Linda at Linda.Tjaguns@swimming.org if you are unable to find a course on our website events calendar to book onto.
- **Time to Listen courses** – there will now be a charge for this course – please email Linda at Linda.Tjaguns@swimming.org if you are unable to find a course on our website events calendar to book onto.
- **Swim England Governance workshops and forums.** These are compulsory for club Chairs and Welfare Officers for club / SwimMark affiliation and attendance will appear on OMS, which gets checked. More information can be found in the links below:
 - **Club Welfare officer**, 10th October, 10th and 15th November 2023: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Welfareofficerworkshops>.
 - **Club Secretary and Membership Officer**, 16th October, 22nd November 2023: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Secretary-Membership>.
 - **Club Chair**, 4th, 6th, 18th October and 7th November 2023: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/ClubChairSessions>.

8. SwimMark and Club Affiliation

- Clubs that are due for **accreditation at the next panel are**: Aquaforce and Hartlepool.
- Please ensure SwimMark coordinator contact details are up to date on OMS.
- Please check the SwimMark portal for updates to any templates.
 - Element 2 – Need to show club reserves in finance information.
 - Element 3 – **Now compulsory for Club Affiliation, SwimMark Health Check and SwimMark.** Need to use SE template equity and diversity plan from 1st November 2023. Any club officials needs to attend Inclusive CPD – will be added onto OMS which will get checked.
 - Element 10 – Risk Assessments need to be updated and signed and dated every year.
 - Element 13 – From January 1st 2024, only Swim England Safeguarding course will be accepted as evidence for safeguard qualifications. All DBS and Safeguarding need to be in date for club / SwimMark affiliation.

9. AOB

SS - Do you find meetings valuable? All felt meeting was valuable and would like to continue to meet.

10. Date for next meeting

Next meeting will be on **Wednesday 6th December 2023, 7:15pm via Zoom.**

Action Points	Who
Distribute meeting minutes	SS
Schedule next meeting	SS
Share any information on Masters Lead role	SS
Speak to club about hub sessions and provide feedback to SS asap. Look at supporting a coaches meeting.	All
Check to see if HC have been sent list of swimmers on ND Camps	SS