

Minutes

Minutes from the Northumberland Club Network Meeting
Wednesday 29th November 2023

Venue: Online Meeting - Zoom
Time: 19:15 – 20:45

Attendees:

Sarah Small (SS) – Swim England North East
Alicia Ryan (AR) – Tynedale
Mark Seymour (MS) – Tynedale
Carol Huntley (CH) – Ashington
Hayley Savage (HS) – Ashington
Ruth Tweedie (RT) – Morpeth SC

Apologies:

1. Welcome

SS thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

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

N/A as only RT at last meeting.

3. Club updates – short update from each club

Morpeth – Everything is fine, squads are full, have space in the bottom end, 9 months into the new pool. Club had away trip to Millfield with Derwentside. Had a change of committee, RT now chair, back to full committee, new fundraising office doing a great job.

Ashington – Struggling to get members, lost a number of swimmers. Trying to do a recruitment drive. 3 new members training to be Team Mangers. Lost junior coaches, have had some new volunteers that want to do training. Now have a head coach. Going to struggle with pool costs. Looking at different funding options, happy to share successful funding applications. Doing a lot of club galas and friendly galas with Blyth.

Tynedale – All going well, squads are pretty full at the moment. NER feedback – lots of qualifiers, lot of disappointed 11 year olds, families had made hotel bookings that they had to cancel. Was a negative first experience for some of the children. New welfare officer, officials in training, club gala tomorrow evening. How are NER qualifying times easier than N&D? Not sure why clubs were allocated seating, not much time for pre-pool before Saturday am warm up.

4. New poolside supervision ratios for galas, how are clubs within the network responding to the change?

MS – Relatively small clubs within network, need to get more Level 2 swimming coaches through training. Coaching courses needed within the area. Is there a Risk Assessment (RA) template from Swim England for how to manage clubs working together to share workforce? RT and GH to share their risk assessments.

Could there be an Assistant Swimming Coaching course within the area – SS to chase up progress of Morpeth course.

HS – Lot of the things Swim England are doing is favouring bigger clubs, not supporting grassroots.

AR – Swimmers missing out on opportunities as unable to attend competitions due to clubs not having enough people to fulfil roles required for ratios.

HS – Small numbers of swimmers, do they need to have TM and Level 2 Swimming coach for small number of swimmers. Why are Level 2 Teachers unable to attend competitions instead?

RT – Short of L2 coaches as well, happy to share RA from combined club trip. Need more courses. Can Swim England run more courses in Northumberland area? High cost to clubs for coaches to be trained, implications for costs on clubs are very high, down to volunteer clubs to do fundraising, NGB asking for from volunteers but not providing support.

Approach the county for funding – coach development, clubs struggling.

CH – visits to other clubs post training to gain more experience, if get funding from the networks / hubs.

SS – Network looked at developing funding application scheme for coach education in 2019, SS to find this and share with network.

Training agreement for clubs? MS – Learner agreement within Active Northumberland. Struggle within younger staff moving on to Uni. Happy to share what they have. Northumberland clubs to support each other.

5. Updates from Swim England and Swim England North East

- The Region are working on their new Strategy which they will hopefully share with clubs in the New Year. SS spoke to the network around developing the disciplines within the area including lifesaving and masters.
- **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 Health Tracker** is now open. All club secretaries should have received their usernames and passwords via email. The Club Health Tracker will stay open until early January 2024. If you have any questions on this, please email clubdevelopment@swimming.org.
- **Swim England Good Governance Guide** has been released (web information), it includes links to mandatory Club Chair and Welfare Officer workshops: <https://www.swimming.org/swimengland/running-your-club/>.

- Swim England Club are running a **Pool Operator 'Working Together' Webinar** on **Thursday 30th Nov – 7.30pm-8.30pm**. This webinar focusses on the importance of developing strong and robust working relationships with pool operators. It also offers practical advice and tools to develop new or existing relationships. If you or anyone from your network would like to attend, please feel free to register using the following link: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/TJY25YN>.

6. Workforce development

- Places are still available on the **Swimming Coach** course at the Sunderland Aquatic Centre in February 2024. More information on the course can be found here: <https://www.swimming.org/ios/course/10145>
- 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 England Good Club Governance workshops** continue to run. **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 Secretary and Membership officer: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Secretary-Membership>.
 - Club Welfare Officer: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Welfareofficerworkshops>.
 - Club Chairs: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/ClubChairSessions>.

7. SwimMark and Club Affiliation

- There are no clubs from within the network due for **accreditation at the next panel**. Please ensure SwimMark coordinator contact details are up to date on OMS.
- As a reminder, 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.

8. AOB

Active Partnerships Welfare – can these be unitised? SS to check progress on this.

- 9. **Date for next meeting** – Wednesday 13th March, 7:15pm via Zoom.

Action Points	Who
Share feedback on NER champs to Barry Saunders.	SS
Feedback to Swim England on safe supervision ratio discussion points.	SS
Chase up progress on Morpeth L1 course, ask about setting up L2 course.	SS
Locate information previously done on network funding scheme and share for clubs to review and provide feedback.	SS
Speak to other networks about coach / volunteer funding from the county.	SS
Active Partnership Welfare Officers, what support can they provide? SS to chase.	SS