

Minutes

Minutes from the Tees Valley Club Network Meeting
Wednesday 6th December 2023

Venue: Online Meeting - Zoom
Time: 19:15 – 20:00

Attendees:

Sarah Small – Swim England North East (SS)
Gillian Smith – Middlesbrough Swimming (GM)
John Wilkinson – Loftus (BW)
Stephen Calvery – Guisborough (SC)

Apologies:

Jay Nicholas – Saltburn and Marske (SM)
Alison Middleton – Aquaforce (AM)
Ester Bettinson – Stokesley (EB)
Darlington Swimming and Diving Club

1. Welcome

SS thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

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

Masters Lead Role – Thanks for Simon for sharing this information, the region is now in the process of establishing a master's advisory group.

Hub sessions – covered later in the agenda.

3. Club updates – short update from each club

Stokesley – (*Update provided via email*) The club is slowly starting to pick up on numbers, getting towards pre-covid levels, still less than 100 though. The Masters squad is growing as parents of new swimmers (some are ex swimmers themselves) are enticed back into the pool!

We currently have quite a healthy junior squad with numerous new starters ages 7-10, but the top, older end of the club is low on numbers. We seem to have lost a significant number in 2022 as they left for University. However, the few we do have, have been extremely successful at County, Regional and National levels. A small but productive group it seems! We've had the most number of swimmers at these events in the club's history and the numbers increase each year as the younger swimmers grow and develop through the ranks. We won our local Moors League series quite convincingly. As with many clubs, finances are a constant source for concern. Fundraising will be the key focus for 2024. Currently coaches are looking for or providing funding themselves for any courses and CPD as the club has no extra funds to subsidize these. We are trying to control the membership fees so as not to turn away new members due to cost.

Planning our first ever Swim Camp overseas for May 2024.

Loftus – Problem with diving at the pool as they have 2 shallow ends. Have put blocks in the middle of the pool side to allow them to dive and run width sessions. Now have another session at Redcar (able to dive there). Two swimmers on the recent N&D camp, clubs did well in NER's. Have a number of poolside helpers, one is progressing onto Assistant Swimming Coach. Have some people on Team Manager courses.

Middlesbrough – Things ticking along, have seen an increase in the bottom end membership, more waiting to start in January 2024. 3 swimmers on N&D camp and 1 coach, looking at an abroad camp next October. Issues with Team Manager 2 courses. Are any other clubs having issues with Team Manager ratio for competitions? Especially struggling with Top squad. Struggling with event volunteers / officials.

Aquaforce – *(Update provided via email)* All going well, SwimMark passed. Almost all sessions full. Sessions running smoothly, we have a swimmer at Scottish Nationals in 200fly. Had our annual party at the bowls, 50 swimmers attended. Have acquired one more hour at Mill House on a Tuesday pm, we have another level 2 teacher.

Thank you for support Sarah, have a lovely Xmas every one, see you at the Middlesbrough and Billingham gala, all the best from Aqua Force.

Darlington Swimming and Diving Club – *(update provided via email)* **Swimming:** The Dolphin Centre pool, which is the club base / main pool, has been closed since January 2023, due to maintenance works. These are due to be completed in January 2024. This has obviously had a knock-on effect on training, with the club needing to use alternative pools which are not always as suitable e.g. lacking starting blocks. We have lost our "club night" when all the squads trained at one location on one evening, and have not been able to have an internal gala for a year now. As a result of this, we have lost members.

Despite this, we have had plenty of successes at a local, regional and national level, and continue to attract new members.

Diving: the diving section has still had access to its usual pool at the Dolphin Centre. However it has lost access to trampoline training, due to the trampoline club shutting during the Covid pandemic. Steve Jackson, our head diving coach, has commented on "ever increasing requirements from Swim England", a lack of Level 2 coaching courses, and escalating pool costs.

Guisborough – Pretty full, lot of junior coaches and older coaches. Struggling for officials.

Saltburn and Marske – *(Update provided via email)* Club doing OK, hearing that Everyone Active are going to price increase again Jan 2024. This will seriously threaten us as a club as this will be majority of our expenditure. Starting to see new younger 7-9 years recruits but losing teenagers. Held club Gala & Presentation evening in November. A great day & night.

Regards SwimMark and Stronger Affiliation updates - looking to reapply minimum Stronger but targeting SwimMark this month.

4. Tees Valley Hub Update

- Sessions at Sunderland Aquatic Centre, 10-12 on a Saturday morning have started. Chris Leighton is co-ordinating these
- MOU – Needs signing ahead of session in January 2024.
- Criteria has been set, does this meet the needs of the network?
- Request from Chris Leighton for funding from network finances to pay for his NRASTC qualification to provide lifeguarding cover for Hub sessions. Attendees agreed this could be paid for through network money.
- Please ensure all athletes who are selected have paid – we need their medical information through the payment portal otherwise they are unable to attend the session.
- Please ensure selected swimmers complete Code of Conduct.

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.
- **Clubs delivering Learn to Swim**, please can you complete this short form for Swim England to enable them to contact you about support they can provide: [LTS form](#)
- **Crowdfunder** will be running a webinar on **Tuesday 12th December at 12:00pm**, with a focus on how sport and physical activity organisations can crowdfund. You can register to attend here: <https://tinyurl.com/yckb59xv>
- **Wavepower**, **Swim England's** safeguarding policy and procedures document, is being updated and will be live in January 2024. More information on the updates can be found here: <https://www.swimming.org/swimengland/wavepower-child-safeguarding-for-clubs/>.
- **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/>.
- **Sustainable Kit Initiative** – Working with Kidd3r, encouraging clubs to encourage members to sell or swap unwanted equipment: <https://asaner.org.uk/dive-into-a-sustainable-aquatics-kit-initiative/>.

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 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

- At the **next panel**, Billingham, Darlington and Guisborough are due their SwimMark Health Check, while Borocuda, Darlington Dolphin Masters, Moors Swim Squad, Saltburn and Marske, Stokesley and Thornaby are due their Club Affiliation.
- 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. **We are unable to accept** screen shots for DBS in progress.

8. AOB

None

9. Date for next meeting

Next meeting will be on **Wednesday 20th March 2024, 7:15pm via Zoom.**

Action Points	Who
Distribute meeting minutes	SS
Schedule next meeting	SS