

Minutes

Minutes from the County Durham Club Network Meeting
Monday 1st December 2025

Venue: Online Meeting - Teams
Time: 19:30 – 20:30

Attendees:

Sarah Small – Swim England North East (SS)
Sarah Judson – Durham City
Chris Philpott – Peterlee (CP)
Darren Maxwell – Derwentside and Gateshead (DM)

Apologies:

Paul Woodley – Derwentside and Gateshead (PW)

1. Welcome

SS welcomed everyone to the meeting.

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

None

3. Sport Welfare Officer Update

Rowena Carr is available to support clubs, please contact her if you need any support.

4. Durham Hub

17 athletes paid to attend, 2 sessions so far this season with a 3rd session planned for 13th December but struggling with coaching staff, this session might have to be cancelled. Looking at dates for 2026. Mainly the younger children involved this time.

5. Club updates – short update from each club

Peterlee – DCC reviewed pool timetable recently but looking to review it again. Lack of awareness from DCC of how the club operates. Club is at capacity, busiest the club has been (word of mouth, advertising the sessions, cheaper than the leisure centre). Stage 5 entry, some young volunteers interested in volunteering through Duke of Edinburgh.

Durham City Aquatics – Really enjoyed the NER champs, positive feedback sent to the region. Club is full, 220 members not including the University. Have a partnership with the University of Durham, some are looking to do their Assistant Swimming Coaching course. Can't get any more pool time. Water polo has about 20 junior members. Great Young Volunteer programme, events throughout the year. Recreational squads are really popular.

Derwentside and Gateshead - well into a year of the merger, working with Sunderland now, think everything is going ok. Held the Christmas cracker meet on the weekend which

was very popular. Swimmers with county records. Volunteers – rely on key volunteers. NER champs were great with the pool dressing, walk ons etc.

Northumberland and Durham Board (DM) – Dawn Peart has started as chair. Looking at roles of people on the board. She is looking to come out and speak to the clubs, looking to have an active role. Lot more interaction with the clubs moving forwards. We have to help and support the clubs, encourage clubs to work together.

6. Updates from Swim England and Swim England North East

- **Northumberland and Durham Swimming Camp** this weekend – 36 12 year old athletes from clubs with the county are attending the first of two face to face swimming camps that are being held at the Sunderland Aquatic Centre, this Saturday.
- **North East Region Swimming Super Camp** was held at the Sunderland Aquatic Centre, on the 23rd November where athletes, coaches and team managers attended from across the county: <https://asaner.org.uk/swim-england-north-east-2nd-annual-super-camp-2025/>.
- Remember that the **use of mobile phones in changing rooms** is not allowed, please share this video with your members to remind them: <https://youtu.be/kkFoXGAw-TY?si=BPCmp0ngW55-NO-7>.
- **Swim England Volunteer Awards**: Congratulations to Durham City's Nicola Hughes (Technical Official of the Year – Bronze), Sedgefield Water Polo's Ben Alderson (Talent Athlete of the Year - Gold): <https://asaner.org.uk/north-east-success-celebrated-at-the-swim-england-national-awards-2025/>
- **Club Health Tracker**, please complete, helps us help you and the other clubs within the region: <https://asaner.org.uk/club-health-tracker-update/>. Thanks to those who have completed this already.
- **N&D Festival of Aquatics** planning stage for June 2026 – watch this space
- **N&D swimming competition calendar** meeting in October, updated calendar on the website: <https://asaner.org.uk/northumberland-durham-swimming-association/northumberland-and-durham-competition-planner/>
- **Swim England Competition review**, please have your say: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/F6J3H7F>
- **Swim England Club Support Videos**: <https://youtu.be/kG7V6JY0suA?si=YvCFqukA1pRDstMk>, please share with club members, look for the videos specific to you club and associated discipline (s).
- **Masters Development Session** – end of January 2026, Sunderland Aquatic Centre, look out for information which should be coming out soon.
- **Christmas office closure** – 24th December until Friday 2nd January 2026.

7. Workforce development

- **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** – 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 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>.

8. Club Affiliation

- At the **next panel**, 7 clubs are due their Club Affiliation: Derwentside and Gateshead, North East Disability, Peterlee, Sedgefield and District, Teesdale ASC, Teesdale Tiger Sharks and Wear Valley.
- Please ensure contact details are up to date on OMS.
- As a reminder, please check the Swim England portal for updates to any templates.

9. AOB

Swim England are currently undergoing an organisational restructure which will result in some staff changing roles and others leaving the organisation. Please be aware of this when contacting them in the New Year.

10. Date for next meeting

Next meeting will be on **Wednesday 11th March 2026, 7:30pm via Teams**.

Action Points	Who
Distribute meeting minutes	SS
Schedule next meeting	SS