

SWIM ENGLAND NORTH EAST REGION LTD.

President – Al Thompson

Minutes of the Twenty – Sixth Meeting of the North East Region Board of Directors Held on Tuesday 3rd February 2026

Present: D. Watson, B. Saunders, P. Court, S. Prasad, G. Peters, D. Alexander, D. Maxwell, R. Palmer-Jones, N. Atherton

Apologies: A. Thompson

Staff In Attendance: L. Graham, S. Small, L. Tjaguns

1 Welcome and Apologies

- 1.1 D. Watson welcomed everyone to the meeting. D. Watson informed the meeting that H. Leighton is no longer a Director on the Board and a letter of thanks for his service has been sent.

2 Declaration of Interest

- 2.1 Members were asked to declare any interest as and when this arose during the meeting.

3 Minutes of the Twenty-Fifth Meeting

- 3.1 3.1 – Swim England membership fees for 2026 have now been confirmed.
- 3.2 5.4 – still waiting to transfer across to new bank account.
- 3.3 8.1 – It was noted that although R. Gordon's role on the Board remains as a Director, he will officially retire from the Board at the AGM in May,
- 3.4 8.4 – Directors to confirm ID link.
- Agreed as true record.

4 Matters Arising from the Minutes

- 4.1 None.

5 Report of the Regional Finance Sub-Group

- 5.1 Balance Sheet available to view. Comparison for months in 2024. During 2025 County money for 2024 and 2025 paid in together so reason why difference in amounts. More affiliations than expected. 114,00 – higher number. PayPal account – money transferred across to bank account. Disciplines – amount of money allocated shown and also showing actual money spent. Reduced entry fee for short course and entry fee – to show Region are putting money back into membership. Branding equipment purchased and video produced for multi-disciplines. High rate of interest gained. Expenditure same as year before. £41,000 from counties to top-up Region. Diving – does not spend much expenditure. Agreed on charges for competitions next year. RPJ – need to look at income and expenditure in future. Now nearly 18K membership which shows an increase in new members and retention.
- 5.2 To promote case studies to show good practice and club growth to share with other clubs.
Action - D. Watson suggested inviting Craig McCulloch (Swim England Head of Coaching) to a future Board Meeting.

6 NER Welfare Officer Report

- 6.1 There is currently one ongoing issue regarding parental consent issues with divorced parents. This is maybe something that could be discussed with a specific policy in place for the region. Other than this there are no other ongoing issues from a welfare standpoint.
- 6.2 A lot of regional competitions are upcoming, so reminders to push welfare standards and expectations would be helpful.
- 6.3 Proposed Welfare Network – N. Atherton & S. Small to highlight welfare/safeguarding to support clubs. There is a need to highlight who athletes can contact if any welfare concerns. **Action: L. Graham to send Swim England re-organisation chart to Board Members.**

7 Regional Team Updates

- 7.1 Update circulated. Club Affiliation – continuing at the moment. Swim England to introduce new membership system next year. To integrate OMS, Integra and Club Affiliation. 48 clubs to go through this quarter. Blyth L&SC – folded competitive swim section. County Camps – held in Dec/Jan. N&D Masters Sessions held recently. Team Planning Day last week.
- 7.2 Yorkshire Festival of Aquatics planned. **Action: Confirmation requested from D. Parry re Festival of Aquatics in Bradford.** Artistic Swimming held Regional Programme Christmas Show to generate income – to run camp for athletes.
- 7.3 Youth Commonwealth Games in Malta – G. Peters queried if any information is available re whether Water Polo is included in the Games? **Action: To query with Swim England. L. Graham to email Ally Whyke, Swim England Sport Director.**

8 Any other Business

- 8.1 G. Peters questioned how to retain athletes. **Action: Suggested a survey sent to all membership to obtain more information which we could use to implement in the NE Region strategy. D. Watson suggested offering this work to University Students.** D. Watson asked how to measure success of swimmers then becoming water polo players, for example – again to offer this work to University Students. B. Saunders raised the question of working more with pool operators. Matt Martin (Swim England) is also liaising with pool operators in connection with NE Region. D. Watson – need to look at what trying to achieve in each area. NYS would be keen to have meetings.
- 8.2 RPJ – would like to see what the total capacity numbers would look like for the NE Region/ each club. Could be asked when completing Club Affiliation.
- 8.3 B. Saunders no longer on Swim England Board. The Board thanked Barry for representing the Region.

Next Meeting – AGM 12th May 2026 at 6 p.m. – NYS Offices.