

SWIM ENGLAND NORTH EAST REGION LTD.

President – Vacancy (TBC)

Minutes of the Twenty – Seventh Meeting of the North East Region Board of Directors Held on Tuesday 12th May 2026

Present: D. Watson, B. Saunders, P. Court (via Zoom) S. Prasad, G. Peters, D. Alexander, D. Maxwell, N. Atherton (via Zoom), A. Thompson (via Zoom)

Apologies: R. Palmer-Jones

Staff In Attendance: L. Graham, L. Tjaguns

1 Welcome and Apologies

1.1 D. Watson welcomed everyone to the meeting.

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-Sixth Meeting

3.1 Inviting Craig McCulloch to a future Board Meeting. **Action.**

3.2 Reorganisation chart to be sent to Board as soon as confirmed.

3.3 Yorkshire Festival of Aquatics – David Parry is working on this – venue Shipley Pool.

3.4 WP included in Commonwealth Games – still unclear.

3.5 To offer work to University students re regional strategy survey – **action ongoing.**

4 Matters Arising from the Minutes

4.1 None.

5 Report of the Regional Finance Sub-Group

5.1 Accounts already covered at the AGM.

6 NER Welfare Officer Report

6.1 It was reported there are 8 Welfare concerns submitted since the last meeting. Majority of these have been queries looking for advice, rather than major concerns. As it stands, only one has been escalated to national, and one is undergoing judicial investigation, however these are more conduct issues rather than welfare.

Overall a successful couple of months.

Feedback gathered from Regional Champs from Regional Welfare Officers. Region looking to put information together to support individuals from club level upwards. Swim England at national age group champs had info re drug testing. NE Region could add this into education info. To include resources on website – links to UCAD, Clean Sport.

7 Regional Team Updates

- 7.1 Chris Leighton has now resigned with immediate effect. Jay Manners is also leaving, going into full-time coaching. To put recruitment proposals forward to the Board once this has been looked at further.
- 7.2 Meeting tomorrow with Swim England Matrix Team – Claire Coleman, Lisa Brookes and Becky Walker.
- 7.3 D. Watson wished to thank the Regional Team for their hard work over the last 12 months.

8 Any other Business

- 8.1 D. Maxwell asked for an update on the Swim England Governance Consultation – Andy Salmon had a meeting in March to discuss with the Board. LG & DW met with Helen Marney (Swim England) following this meeting. There have also been meetings with County Chairs. No further update on next phase.

2026-27 – queried budget for any costs within this period to N&D. To be confirmed in due course.

Queried Pool Hire increase at Sunderland Aquatic Centre – will this affect the Beacon Programme? To ask Sarah Small.

N. Atherton asked if the structure at Swim England Personnel is still in place for this to take place - Becky Cox is interim CEO – all Senior Leadership Team are still in place but Governance Review will still be ongoing.

May have to take legal advice re Articles of Association going forward.

Next Meeting – 8th September 2026 at 6 p.m. – Darlington Dolphin Centre.