



Northumberland & Durham Swimming Association

Management Board Chair: Mrs Dawn Peart ndsachair@asaner.org.uk

Treasurer: Mr Graham Robinson: ndswimtreasurer@gmail.com

Secretary: Mrs Tracy Donnelly: ndsasecretary@gmail.com

Minutes of NDSA Management Board meeting (B26_03) 13 May 2026, Riverside CC following the ACM

The meeting opened at 8.05pm

Attendees: Mrs D Peart (Chair) Mrs T Donnelly (Sec), Mr G Robinson (Treas) Mr D Low, Mr D Maxwell, Mr C Cook, Mr C Hulme, Mrs L McLelland, Mrs A Graham-King, Mr E Henderson, Ms J Barber,
By invite - Mrs S Small (SENER) – non-voting

1. Apologies: Ms B Maguire
2. Declarations of interest will be noted against relevant items as they arise.
3. Minutes of the meeting 26_02 held on 9 March 2026 (circulated prior to this meeting) were agreed. These have now been added to the N&D page of the SENER website.
4. Matters Arising
 - a. There were no matters arising from the ACM
 - b. Athlete of the Year for 2024 and 2025 nominations for 2024 and 2025 had been circulated and were discussed in depth.
 - i. 2024 winner – Ben Alderson, Sedgefield WP
 - ii. 2025 winner – Ben Beale, Derwentside & Gateshead SC

The Board would like to offer our congratulations to both winners, and to commend all of the nominees who were put forward for consideration, with particular reference to Tia Johnson and Evan Cooper for showing such consistency they were each nominated twice.

2024: Sophie Robinson (Artistic Swimming), Tia Johnson (Paraswimming), Evan Cooper (Diving), Jay Manners (Swimming)

2025: Armela Brakaj (Artistic Swimming), Aston Walsh (Waterpolo), Tia Johnson (ParaSwimming), Evan cooper (Diving)

The Athlete of the Year awards will be presented at the Festival of Aquatics on 6 June by the County President, Mrs Nicola Hughes.

- c. The Board highlighted that the AotY award has been largely based on performance results and that presented difficulties as the different disciplines have difference performance-based criteria. It was agreed that the disciplines leads will be asked to put forward their thoughts on what additional criteria should be considered for future awards with a view to creating a fairer set of criteria that each discipline can use.
- d. As a way of marking the County's 130th anniversary in 2027 the Board will introduce an Athlete of the Year award for each discipline, with those winners then being considered by the Board for the overall County award.

Mrs McLelland and Mrs Graham-King had to leave at 8.30pm

5. Treasurer's Update

- a. An update had been circulated prior to the meeting which showed the county remains in a healthy financial position
- b. The Board discussed the request to financially support the 11 swimmers from N&D selected to be part of the NER team competing at the AP International 2026. The support was agreed because of the criteria of the meet and the opportunity it gives our senior swimmers to experience international competition at this level but it was agreed that more notice of this type of funding requirement would be required in future in line with the County's MoU with NER. The Chair will follow up on this with the Regional Aquatics Manager.
- c. The Board will review Championship and Beacon funding and the disciplines will be requested to provide details of their planned expenditure to support the Treasurer to prepare a business plan for 2026/27.

6. Discipline Updates

- a. These had been provided for the ACM (excepting Diving, which is to follow) and there was nothing to add
- b. GSSC have submitted a nomination for a Gray Award for Sophie Robinson, their new head coach. This was approved by the Board.
- c. Requests for financial support have been submitted by both GSSC and Darlington Diving and these will be reviewed at the next meeting in July.
- d. A Paraswimming survey has been requested by JB, The Secretary will circulate this to clubs.

7. SENER Updates

- a. The regional update from SS was circulated prior to the meeting and is attached.
- b. Clubs are reminded that the Sport Welfare Officers are available to provide support and advice to clubs and members however they are NOT welfare officers and cannot deal with safeguarding or welfare concerns or complaints.

8. Governance & Strategy

- a. The Chair's report was circulated and is attached.
- b. SE's new Governance Lead has asked the secretary to review a couple of points in the new rules, but this does not affect the County's incorporation
- c. Following Incorporation the County will be looking to appoint a new Welfare Officer. A role description & request will be available in June.

The meeting closed at 9.05pm

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The next Board meeting will be on 13 July 2026, and will be held online.