

SWIM ENGLAND NORTH EAST REGION

President: Al Thompson

Minutes of the Fifth Online Annual General Meeting Meeting of Swim England North East held on Tuesday 10th June 2025 at 6.00 p.m.

Present D. Watson (Chairman); A. Thompson (President); with 23 Club Delegates (11 N&D SA, 12 Yorkshire SA); 2 County Representative; 8 Board Directors

Staff L. Graham, C. Leighton, S. Small, L. Tjaguns

1 Apologies

R. Gordon (Board Director) J. Manners (Staff), D. Parry (Staff), Vicky Alderson (Sedgefield WPC), York Vikings, Eric Henderson (Chair- Sedgefield WPC)

2 Welcome

The Chairman welcomed delegates to this the Fifth Annual General Meeting of the Region.

3 Appointment of Tellers

L. Tjaguns was appointed as a Teller.

4 Minutes of the 2025 Annual General Meeting

Agreed as correct.

5 Matters Arising from the Minutes

None

6 Finance Report

This was shared on screen.

6.1 D. Watson, on behalf of the NE Region, wished to express thanks to Ray Gordon, who has now stepped down after many years as Finance Manager. Grant Peters has now taken over this role with Louise Graham also assisting within the Finance Sub-Group.

6.2 G. Peters reported that the 31/12/24 accounts are now in draft but have not yet been signed off. The accounts are to go before the Board to be considered. Ruth Liddle-Howden, Chartered Accountant, prepared the accounts and these have been formally examined. They are to be lodged at Companies House later in the year. Expenditure is greater than investment. Due to changes in the Finance Manager role, G. Peters wished to thank L. Graham for her input in the finance demands. There has been a change in the accounting system – all finance data has been migrated into Quick Books. One adjustment has been made to the figures - £52,000 loss (double from last year). There have been some strategic investments and operational costs. Compared to last year the Balance Sheet is down by £50,000. As a Region, we have cash reserves so finances are in a healthy position at the moment.

6.3 Any questions:

Sarah Judson, Durham City Aquatics, asked if the Region have a 3 year projection? It was explained that the Region have operating costs prediction for next 3 years and planned investment. The Board Meeting following the AGM is to look at any recommendations around increasing membership fees.

6.4 Darren Maxwell (Derwentside & Gateshead Swim Team) asked, as there has been a few mentions of 'investments' whether there is a brief outline of these. D. Watson confirmed that the Regional Team are looking at this over the next period.

- 7 Minutes of the Management Board**
Members are invited to raise any questions on the Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting during the relevant period. None raised. Minutes are available to view on the website.
- 8 Installation of the President**
8.1 As there is a vacancy, the membership were asked to contact linda.tjaguns@swimming.org with any nominations. Note: Al Thompson now proposed and will be President for 2025.
- D. Watson made a presentation to Al Thompson as outgoing President and thanked him for his work over the last year. Al reported that he had thoroughly enjoyed his time as President, attending events for various disciplines.
- 9 Vacancy of Vice-President**
9.1 There is no Vice President in role so if anyone wishes to nominate themselves or anyone else – can email linda.tjaguns@swimming.org
- 10 Election of Directors**
10.1 There is a requirement for rotation for Directors on the Board as part of governance process. Three due for re-election – Paul Court, Howard Leighton and Richard Palmer-Jones. Asked members to vote – all agreed to re-elect all 3 Directors.
- 11 Swim England North East Region Impact Report (Jan – Dec 2025)**
This was shared on screen. This was put together by the Team with contributions by volunteers and athletes. Huge credit goes to Jay Manners, Social Media & Administrative Co-ordinator, who produced the video and did a fantastic job.
- 12 Appointment of a firm of accountants to scrutinise the Swim England NER Annual Accounts**
12.1 It was proposed to continue with the current Accountants, Ruth Liddle-Howden - Agreed.
- 13 Any Other Business**
Questions from:-
13.1 Sarah Judson questioned whether as part of workforce development if the Region are going to invest in officials training and pay for their training as clubs currently reimburse this? If officials are important to facilitating competitions can this be considered as an investment? L. Graham explained that last year a free seminar was held in Wetherby and the going forward qualifications are going to be invested in. S. Prasad confirmed that next week information in respect of the officials seminar going out to be held on 7 September 2025.
- Gabby Williams (City of Sheffield WPC) requested that some changes need to be made to the Impact Report (to discuss with Gabby further – to postpone publishing until amends have been made).
- 13.2
- Gillian Smith (Middlesbrough SC) asked if there is an accessible version of the impact report for visually impaired people? L. Graham informed that there isn't at present but will look into this further.
- 13.3

Any further questions to email office – swimnortheast@swimming.org

Close

D. Watson wished to thank as volunteers across all roles – to enable us to provide an excellent experience for all.

(MinACM)