

Northamptonshire Amateur Swimming Association

(Affiliated to Swim England East Midlands Region)

Wednesday 20th March 2019 @ 7-30pm

Moulton Community Centre, Moulton

Meeting commenced at 7.30pm Notes taken by Mrs Lesley Sharp

Present

Marilyn Richmond, Craig Brown, Ian Manning, Jax Browne, Aleks Bergan, Mike Annable, Jacqui Farrow, Amanda Short, Carol Simms, Don Ward, Lesley Sharp, Mike Hemmings, Jean Thomas, Matthew McNicholas, Craig Mills, Fiona Gidden, Jacquie Marshall, Andy Sharp, Mitch Haines, Anna Plowman, Teresa Evans, Tim Evans, Jo Kendall (arrived 7.35pm) Jazz Thethy

1. Apologies

Jeff Summers, Terry Bream, Peggy Cockerill, Andy Aitken, Brian Collis, Gerald Battams, Steven Taylor, Melanie Sharp

2. Minutes of previous meeting

The Chairman, Craig Brown asked that the minutes of the meeting held on 10th October 2018 be accepted as a true account.

3. Matters Arising: NONE

4. Treasurer's report

Marilyn presented the financial report with hard copies of the financial statement made available to delegates.

- The left column should read 1st September 2018 not 11th October 2018.
- Affiliation fees: She reported continued problems from SE with providing up to date membership data. Despite asking, she only has up to 30th September 2018.
- 2019 County Championships income was less than budgeted.
- Does not include costs for the 3rd County Junior Camp
- NASA has accrued ██████████ for the EM Regional Development Officer. A discussion took place and the overall consensus of opinion was that NASA should pay when they receive an invoice, not to go chasing them. **Action: Ask Brian Collis if there is a contract b/w NASA and SE East Midlands for the RDO**
- Awaiting invoice from caterers for the County Champs catering.
- Awaiting invoice from Corby Pool for a 2018 County Gala pool hire.
- New radios and backstroke wedges have been purchased.
- It was agreed at EXEC meeting that NASA Grant funding continues to be available up to a maximum amount of £750.00pa for Teaching & Coaching courses. Safeguarding grants are also still available. T&C's have been amended for both so please read them. All claims to be made within 12 months of qualification. MR to send out tomorrow to Club Secretaries.
- Swim England (SE) have sent out differing versions which are applicable for NASA voting rights.
 1. Option 1: number of club members as at 30th September in the preceding year
 2. Option 2: Charge £3.75p from October to December memberships in the preceding year, thus giving an up to date account of memberships. (Currently NASA do not charge from October to December)

A discussion was held and it was then proposed by Marilyn Richmond and seconded by Mike Annable to charge members £3.75p from October to December for voting rights

meaning that the constitution does not have to be amended. UNANIMOUSLY in favour by delegates with voting rights.

MR continued with an explanation of the latest accounts and financial position – copies of which were available at the meeting and upon request from the Treasurer.

5. Constitution Amendments:

Item 10:

- Marilyn stated previously that Mike Hemmings had queried the voting rights of members, this particularly with voting rights of Life Members and Clubs representation at ACMs and ECMs. A document was made available to all present with the proposed amendments in blue font.
- In relation to the ACM's / ECM's, Mike H said it hadn't fully answered his questions stating that it was the same people voting at all meetings with no opportunity for scrutiny from the eligible members, the 18yrs+ registered Swim England Club members affiliated to NASA.
- Lesley Sharp likened it to a corporate business being scrutinised by its shareholders who would be entitled to vote.
- Mike Annable said could members vote by email/ postal vote?
- Don Ward was concerned that Clubs could attend 'mob handed'
- Marilyn reported that the only things voted on at the ACM are: executive and non executive roles, accounts and affiliation fees.
- Following discussion which resulted in differing opinions, Mike Hemmings proposed to leave as it is for the time being and that the EXEC should review. Agreed.
- Jo Kendall asked why nomination for voting is so important when it is more important that representation is made by Clubs who should be working together with openness and transparency. Can the nominations be made on the night of a meeting, with the club representatives stating that they are the nominated voting member? It was agreed that this should also be taken to the EXEC.

On the night of this meeting, it was noted that Rushden had representation by one member but without voting rights as he was not the nominated person, Kettering had 4 members in attendance, but they couldn't remember who had been nominated, Daventry had one of 2 voting members in attendance. There were 2 life members in attendance but only 1 was eligible to vote.

6. 2019 County Championships - Review

Ian Manning presented the 2019 Championships report

- There had been problems with the granting of the 2019 licensing application as now all qualification times for Level 1 have to be taken from rankings.
- The Championships ran well, new equipment ok and the sessions pretty much ran to timing.
- Event structure worked well with heats in the morning and afternoon sessions and finals in the evening sessions. Mike Hemmings suggested that the age groups for the 50m backstroke finals be swum as a block rather than have to alternate with other forward starting events thus the TK/Judges not having to put in and take out the backstroke wedges.
- Withdrawals from finals, suggested that all withdrawals be made before the final session.
- Qualification times for 2020 Championships will remain unchanged. Event entry numbers over the past seasons have hovered between 3200 /3300 so hopefully there will be no price increase for 2020 entry fees.
- An additional session for the reverse 800m/1500m freestyle events was incorporated for 2019 leading to increased pool hire costs.
- The AOE operator cost has also increased.

- An IPC license was purchased at a cost of £93.00 for the purpose of European para swimmers records. 2 para records were broken. It was agreed by all that this is very worthwhile. Ian explained that it costs into the thousands of pounds to have a meet licensed for World records.
- Entries were down overall by about 100 swims, which equates to about £550.00p loss of income.
- Spectator entry was roughly the same, but programme sales were down. The provision of spectator programmes is now outdated and moving forward it is suggested that programmes be published online for spectators to print their own.
- Catering costs expected to be roughly £4000.00p, as per the Treasurer's report
- It is anticipated that there will a surplus of £4000.00p
- RELAYS: This year saw the introduction of Challenge 48/68 & Open relay events. The age groups matched the sub age groups. Not all Clubs entered
- For 2020, proposed to remove the Open age group for the Challenge relay events. This makes 3 relays per session and 20 in total. This will be discussed at Competition meeting.
- Other things to be discussed in relation to relays will be whether to have 3 teams per club making 2 heats and finals.
- Tim Evans asked about having relays within the finals sessions rather than at the start of each session, most delegates felt that it was better at the start as it created a better atmosphere.
- Teresa Evans felt that there are too many relays.
- Mike Annable gave credit to the NASA Organisers but then made comment with regards to the 12/u girl's relays where Team NSC were re-instated as winners following an initial disqualification announcement. NSC Coach Andy Sharp explained that he had followed the correct process in determining the reason for disqualification but had seen that the DQ report had not been signed by the event referee and as a result the DQ was overturned. Mike Hemmings felt that although the correct decision had been made, he personally felt that it 'was not in the spirit of the sport'. Craig Brown explained that clearly an error had been made and that the rules had been applied correctly, but the Referee upon noticing the error could then not change the DQ retrospectively. Did everyone expect the club to retract?
- Jaq Farrow wants to safeguard against the possibility of 'human error' mistakes being made in the future and suggested that all Dqs be double checked. It was felt that now this has been experienced, it would not happen again. Craig Brown stated that there was no need for 'double checking'.
- Supplementary Rules for the Challenge relays: It was felt that the Terms and conditions were clear but KASC stated that they had not been applied correctly, this was in respect of one medal per club...the Ts and Cs will be reviewed for 2020 but it has been suggested not to award medals but an alternative prize, yet to be decided.
- Fiona Gidden made comment that NASA Officials are of a very good standard.
- Andy Sharp made comment on how helpful Andy Aitken had been towards NSC when querying about an S11 event (visually impaired swimmer entering the wrong lane during a race).
- New terms and conditions would be applied for 2020 following a parent allegedly being abusive towards a NASA Representative. (Those involved were not named) Lesley Sharp stated that this should be covered by Code of Ethics / Code of Conducts. Jo Kendall also asked for action to be taken against swimmers who had been verbally assaulting swimmers in the marshalling area and encroaching at the end of the lanes... she said that she had reported swimmer encroachment to the NASA Promoter's. Moving forward it will be useful to brief the time-keepers for the swimmers not to encroach on heats. Educating the swimmers on etiquette at the start of events with the Clubs and Lane Officials to take responsibility, with any problems to be reported to the event referee to be recorded. Mike Hemmings

suggested that Terry Bream to include this on the Officials briefing sheets. Lesley Sharp also spoke about Officials being briefed about no strapping /no supports, no jewellery, no pacing aids such as fit bits...

County Colours: Teresa Evans queried how details of the awards were communicated. Marilyn said that with regards to colours and flashes, Clubs are to apply in writing, going forward, Ian Manning to send out reminders

NASA records:

- Ian Manning said that records as per the sub-age groups have been recorded as standard set times. Lesley Sharp suggested that in order to break records, bettered times should be achieved in a bona fide Team competition such as the National Arena League or for example, the Leicester Winter League final which is being licensed at level 3....**ACTION: Jacquie Marshall to update records to reflect this change**
- Tim Evans suggested publishing the junior and senior age group records on the event heat sheets then swimmers (and parents) will know what they are aspiring to.
- However, records are available to view on the NASA website.
- Competitions committee to review.

7 Executive Meeting Report (Copy to be sent to ALL Clubs)

- CB reported from the minutes of the Exec meeting on Tuesday 19th February 2019 as follows noting that some information had already been provided by Marilyn Richmond and Ian Manning.
- Backstroke wedges had been purchased. NASA sterling trophies not awarded but had been replaced with new shields. Terry Bream currently getting trophies valued for insurance purposes. County Relay records would be brought into line as per the age groups. Times achieved in 2019 would be set as the standard times. Jacquie Marshall will update records.
- NASA funding for safeguarding and Teaching & coaching will continue as at 2019 rates.
- Craig said he was disappointed with the uptake of the 2018 offer of £500.00p NASA grant aid towards training equipment. Not all Clubs had applied.
- Reiterated Marilyn's words re Swim England membership data.
- County Pathway dates will be held on Mon 8th /Weds 10th April and 29th May. 3 x 1 day County Camps headed up by Andy Sharp NSC and supported by NSC Coaches. Emails have been sent to Club Secretaries and Coaches. Numbers reduced from 36 to 24 for better calibre of swimmers.
- Jim Peto has given notice of resignation as Masters Rep. It was discussed that Jim should be honoured with a NASA award for meritorious service. Proposed by Marilyn Richmond. Seconded by Mike Hemmings. Unanimously in favour by those with voting rights.
- Mike Hemmings asked if the ordinary meeting and EXEC minutes could go on the NASA website with anything sensitive being redacted.

8 Regional Update/SDO

No reports made

9 Other Discipline Updates

- The Masters Swimming report was received from Jim Peto which was read by Craig Brown. Copy sent to clubs
- Corby Steel Diving Club: Aleks Bergan gave a verbal report which briefly outlined that:

- Approx. 100 divers in the teaching programme with 25 in the competitive section aged 7-13yrs. They have been involved in National Age group competitions and won 2 x silvers and a 5th place. There will be about 10 competitions throughout 2019, with qualification determined by points. They have gained SwimMark and are a Swim England accredited dive centre being only 1 of 6 in England. They receive financial help as a result. They visit schools with 30 having trials recently and 5 taken on as new members.

10 Swimming Club news

Coaches and Club members read out reports of their Club's achievements since the last meeting. CB asked that clubs submit their electronic reports to the meeting secretary for inclusion in the minutes.

Mike Annable KASC / Craig Mills WASC / Jax Browne DDSC / Jazz Thethy RSC / Teresa Evans CASC/ Jacqueie Marshall NSC. Aleks Bergan CSDC as per 'other disciplines'.

11 AOB

Craig Brown then asked all those present for any further comments or contributions.

- Craig reported that Marilyn will be stepping down from all her roles at the 2019 NASA ACM with the exception of Treasurer and will therefore be advertising the posts.
- Jax Browne with her NSport hat on made the clubs aware of funding opportunities by Persimmon Homes and Mick George. Open Water event on 25th May 2019 at Sywell reservoir followed by Sat morning sessions
- Mike Annable reported that they will be looking for a Coach in the summer
- Jazz Thethy asked if there was a date for the CAGS presentation gala, the answer being no at this time.

Meeting closed at 9.56 pm