

SUFFOLK SWIMMING ACTION GROUP

Minutes of a meeting held on Thursday 24th September 2009 at the
Mid Suffolk Leisure Centre, Stowmarket, starting at 10 am

Present: Saph Cutting, Kitty Hemsworth, Davina Lamble, Carol Lukins, Terry McEntee, Kevin Wray, Phil Lown and Don Neate

Apologies: Emma Wright, Ian Cotton, Corinna Hudson, Helen Graup-Fisher and Mary Edwards.

In the absence of Ian Phil Lown took the Chair.

Minutes of Last meeting: These were agreed as a true record of the meeting.

Matters arising: CL said she felt that more Aqua Splash events had happened than the minutes indicated and SC said that 15 of the 20 planned had gone ahead. For 2009/2010 21 AQUA Splash events had been arranged.

DN said that there was no update on the availability of the Waveney Pool for the Disability event in February.

School Swimming: CL was welcomed back from her stay in India. CL said that to the end of July the percentage of swimmers achieving the 25m target was 81% but this only includes children swimming with the Suffolk Schools Swimming Service. The results of the Top Up for the past year do not look good as the more difficult pupils were targeted so it was harder to get them to the 25m target.

KH suggested that these would be suitable for the free swimming lessons for the 11 + age group. CL said that the Head of PE in every school involved had been provided with the results of the swimming included the names of all pupils involved. KH asked if schools could be provided with details of Free Swimming Lessons available.

CL said that 94 children had taken part in the sea swimming at Felixstowe this year and were given instruction on sea swimming and sea safety. They all achieved a 50m swim.

CL said that closures of school pools were a problem and asked about funding for that could be available for school pools. KW said that funding could be available providing the school were prepared to open the pool to the community and the ASA may be able to help to identify funding. CL agreed to provide KW and TM with details of the pools affected. KW said that there are funds available through the Big Lottery up to £10,000.

SC re-iterated that 15 of the proposed Aqua Splash events did take place and in the next academic year each public pool will host one event the content being down to the District and SC will let the SSAG have the dates. Last year there was no real feedback on the success of the events but the Competition Team will be more involved this year and the events and feedback will get better.

Disability: Disability swimming through the School Sports Partnership is not happening in Suffolk although PL said that identification events (County Assessment Days) in Essex and Hertfordshire had worked well and we need to make enquiries for further information.

It was suggested by PL that we invite Carl Cooper, the ASA Playground to Podium Officer to the next meeting to give his input as to how the Suffolk can progress this. CL said that a big problem was knowing what Swimmers with a disability were in main stream schools and introducing them to disability swimming as they think that is not for them. The answer to this is to sell it as Paralympic Swimming and not Disabled Swimming.

Every day swim: KW said that Suffolk was now working as a Good Practice Centre and were taking part in a series of five Seminars to spread the good practice gained from two years work in Suffolk and Islington to the rest of the Country.

The three areas of good practice are 1. Liquid Trailers which contain equipment to make the water fun, such as mono fins, 2. Aqua Health Clubs, 3. Pool Open Days to encourage people who do not usually use public pools. The County Swimming Co-ordinators(CSC's) will not get involved with this work.

Future Role of SSAG: KW said we need a strategy for Swimming in Suffolk and to give direction to those making local Aquatic Strategies.

PL asked what the people at the meeting were here to achieve and CL said that she had learnt a lot from the meetings but although the meetings had been good at the start we seem to have lost direction.

SC said that she also learns a lot especially about the area beyond the remit of the SSCO.

TM said that there were two main strands of CSP activity, physical activity and Sport and to help NGB's to deliver their strategy

DL and KH both said that they represent Pool Providers and that they gain background information about swimming within the County.

It was agreed that a plan or strategy was needed and PL agreed to produce a draft for further discussion at the next meeting.

DN suggested that the minutes should be distributed more widely and it was suggested that a County Conference would be a good idea where we can share good practice and get more people involved.

The role of PDM's was discussed but CL said that they do not get involved in swimming beyond passing their swimming grant to CL who does the work and passes the necessary stats back to the PDM's.

PL agreed to draw together a list of possible contacts for the group.

CL asked if the group could get involved with the plans for 2012 such as holding a Suffolk Aqua Fest and we should get Adam Baker involved who is the Suffolk Olympics manager.

AOB: DN said that TM at the CSP was holding invoices for the use of the Mid Suffolk Committee Room and PL agreed to take this up with TM outside the meeting.

The role of Chairman was discussed as Ian Cotton works away from home on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday and so cannot attend and PL suggested we play this by ear based on the timing of future meetings.

Dates of next meeting: A future date was not set but it was agreed that the next meeting be arranged by e-mail probably in January 2010.