

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Swim England Suffolk held at St Felix School and via zoom on Sat 25th November 2023, commencing at 11.30am
AGREED AT THE FEB 2024 EXEC MEETING, SUBJECT TO RATIFICATION AT THE 2024 AGM

ATTENDEES IN PERSON:

Ian Cotton	IC	Chairman	Caroline Cofield	CCo	Trophies
Chris Vinter	CV	Secretary	Nikki Hall	NH	Deben
Sarah Elmer	SE	Championship Sec	Rob Garry	RG	Mildenhall
John North	JN	President/Records	Vicki Emmerson	VE	Leiston
Alison Vinter	AV	Past President	Sue Purchase	SP	St Felix
Peter Elmer	PE	President Elect	Nick Thompson	NT	Team Manager
		Website Manager			

ATTENDEES VIA ZOOM

Ann Byrne	AB	Disability	Debs Greenhalgh	DG	West Suffolk
Sarah Tait	ST	Open Water	Tanya Mason	TM	Stowmarket
Louise Perkins	LP	Man. B Rep	Fran Veesztrocy	FV	Regional Welfare Officer
Nina Ball	NB	Waveney	Wesley May	WM	Ass Team Manager
Bobbie Wilson	BW	Past President			

1. APOLOGIES

Chris Bellwood	CB	Man. B Rep	Tim Millett	TM	Dev. Meet
Lesley Beevor	LB	Treasurer	Stephen Christian	SC	Officials Coord
Sam Garnham	SG	Team Ipswich Hadleigh SC	Jeremy Duszynski	JD	Past President

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The minutes of the 2022 previously agreed were ratified as a true record subject to the correction of some minor typos.

3. MATTERS ARISING

None

4. TREASURERS REPORT**Treasurer Report AGM 2023**

IC referred to the submitted report from LB and confirmed that the accounts had now been verified independently. The concerns raised by LB regarding the high costs of the National County Team Championships is notes and will be considered by the Management Board.

LB's previously circulated report and a copy of the audited accounts are attached.

5. RESERVES POLICY

The Management Board recommend the adoption of the following policy regarding the maintenance of minimum funds.

Policy

The county wishes to ensure that it maintains a minimum level of reserves to allow it to continue supporting its clubs and members through its key functions including –

- Providing county competitions
- Support through funding for training of volunteers
- Supporting the county team attending the annual national county team championships

The minimum cash reserves the county wishes to have in place are £12,000.

This figure is based on the following –

- County has no fixed assets
- County has limited stock and debtor levels
- Allows the county to cover up to 6 months expenditure without any additional income being received.

Adoption of the policy was approved unanimously.

6. AGREE AUDITOR OF ACCOUNTS

It was recommended that Alison Ayers be approved as the verifier of next year's accounts.

Approved unanimously

Thanks were also noted for Alison's work on this year's accounts.

7. SECRETARIES REPORT

CV's report circulated and attached. CV reminded everyone of the sad death of Dave Robinson who passed away soon after he attended last year's AGM. He continues to be sadly missed by everyone involved with swimming in Suffolk.

8. CHAMPIONSHIP REPORT

SE's report circulated and attached. SE confirmed that the licence for 2024 championships had been approved and the entry file will be circulated next week. RG queried some of the times and SE confirmed that agreement had been reached with a selection of club coaches and the QT's give the best chance of having 8 swimmers in all finals without degrading the event. The risk assessments for the championships are being reviewed and updated.

9. DEVELOPMENT MEET REPORT

As circulated and attached. IC advised the change to October from June has made the setting of times more challenging but this will hopefully be resolved for next years meet. A separate meet for 9/10 year olds being considered for 2024.

10. RECORDS REPORT

As circulated and attached.

11. TEAM MANAGERS REPORT

As circulated and attached. Only the one event in the year, the County Team Championships, where Suffolk were relegated to Division 2. There were many positive performances and the many swimmers this year would have finished in the top 3 if they had been competing in Division 2. IC thanked everyone for their efforts.

12. TROPHIES REPORT

CCo confirmed that 3 years of championship medals had been purchased. A number of trophies had already been returned and CCo asked for all to be returned to her over the next few weeks. CCo asked if consideration should be given to purchasing Para trophies and it was agreed that some of the unused trophies would be looked at for suitability. Options to be considered by the Management Board.

NT asked about obtaining a Para licence for the County Champs. SE will look into this but it is unlikely to be achievable for 2024.

13. LEAGUE REPORT

As circulated and attached.

14. DISABILITY REPORT

As circulated and attached. AB informed the meeting that William Ellard and Jordon Catchpole had been selected for the British Swimming.

15. MASTERS REPORT

As circulated and attached.

16. OPEN WATER REPORT

As circulated and attached.

17. WATER POLO REPORT

No report available for the meeting but has since been provided, see attached.

18. OFFICIALS REPORT

As circulated and attached.

19. WEBSITE REPORT

As circulated. It was agreed that current plus the previous 2 years of information will be available to view on the website.

20. PRESIDENTS REPORT

The past year has just flown by. It only seems like yesterday that I took on the honour of County President for 2023.

I would like to start by mentioning Dave Robinson who sadly passed away during the year. Dave was one of the first swimming officials who helped me a lot when I first started officiating in the sport. Dave was always a fixture in my time and greatly missed.

During the year aimed to visit several of the pools that I haven't been to since my own daughters swimming days and register my first visit to Ponds Forge in Sheffield.

In January I made the trip up the A140 to the UEA Norwich for the County 800m and 1500m events. I've always admired the young swimmers tackling the long distance events and the County Long Distance Championships was no exception.

The County Championships at Crown Pools is always a highlight in the swimming calendar, and this year, as all previous years, provided excellent competitive swimming. This was the first year with the new pool layout which provided a few challenges but, as always, a great three weekends of swimming.

The Swimability Gala at Lowestoft in April was a fantastic opportunity for swimmers with disability challenges and I enjoyed the evening so much I plan to attend future galas. A special mention for Ann Byrne for the fantastic work she puts into running the gala. The gala was also attended by a GB para swimmer who was in great demand for photos.

It was an absolute pleasure to attend the Dave Robinson Memorial Gala in June to present a County Award to Jemma Garry. The gala was very well attended at the Mildenhall Hub, a venue which was a first time visit for me. It was nice to see teams from clubs outside our normal catchment which again reminded me of galas I used to attend many years ago.

I attended the Regional Masters at Newmarket in September and had the pleasure of handing out all the medals during day. It dawned on me just how long I've been involved in swimming when I'm handing a medal to my own daughter for masters swimming!

The highlight of my year must go to the National County Team Championships. My very first visit to Ponds Forge. Unfortunately it clashed with the County Development meet at Crown Pools, but I'm thankful to Mark from Newmarket for coming over to Ipswich which enabled me to travel to Sheffield on the Sunday. I thoroughly enjoyed the day and although Suffolk were disappointed in being relegated from Division 1 at the end of the competition, the competition was tough with the swimming of an extremely high standard. The team can be very proud of themselves.

I also attended several galas at Crown Pools and an Open Meet at the UEA Norwich during the year, and was asked by Team Ipswich to present an award to Dave Champion to mark 35 years as Head Coach at the club.

I think that's it, it just remains for me to wish the 2024 President, Peter Elmer best wishes for the coming year and hope he enjoys the year as much as I have done in the past year.

John North

President – Swim England Suffolk

21. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	Peter Elmer
PRESIDENT ELECT	Caroline Cofield
SECRETARY	Chris Vinter
TREASURER	Lesley Beevor
CHAMPIONSHIP SECRETARY	Sarah Elmer
LEAGUE SECRETARY	Tristan Gale
MANAGEMENT BOARD MEMBERS	Chris Bellwood Louise Perkins
DEV MEET SECRETARY	Tim Millett
RECORDS OFFICER	John North
TEAM MANAGER	Nick Thompson
ASSISTANT TEAM MANAGER	Wesley May
TROPHY SECRETARY	Caroline Cofield
WELFARE OFFICER	Fran Vesztrocy (from East Region)
VOLUNTEERING COORDINATOR	Ian Cotton
DISABILITY LIAISON OFFICER	Anne Byrne
MASTERS SECRETARY	Caroline Cofield
OPEN WATER SECRETARY	Sarah Tait
WATER POLO SECRETARY	Chris Cawood
OFFICIALS COORDINATOR	Stephen Christian
WEBSITE COORDINATOR	Peter Elmer
COACH LIAISON OFFICER	Dan Pilbrow

CLUB	DELEGATE
DEBEN	Nicky Hall
FELIXSTOWE	Caroline Coffield
HADLEIGH	To be advised
HALESWORTH	Tim Millet
IPSWICH	Sam Garnham
LEISTON	Vicky Emmerson

MILDENHALL	Rob Garry
NEWMARKET	Paul Bowman
ST FELIX	Sue Purchase
STOWMARKET	Tanya Mason
WAVENEY	To be advised
WEST SUFFOLK	Debs Greenhalgh

All appointments were agreed and the Presidential chain of office was presented to Peter Elmer by John North.

21. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

DG reminded the meeting that after the closure of Sudbury Swimming Club the club representatives were keen on donating something that would act as a reminder of the history of the club. For various reasons the original idea of donating a new presidential chain had proven difficult. It is now proposed that trophies for the top male (open) and top female Masters swimmer be donated to be awarded at the County Masters event. The trophy would also recognise the contribution made by David Robinson to Masters swimming in the county. The proposal was supported by BW and by all attending.

RG mentioned that the Club were experiencing problems appointing a Head Coach. Many other Clubs confirmed that they were experiencing similar problems.

SE mentioned that she had been approached by an alternative hoody provider. They provide an online service which would make administration much simpler. It was agreed that this option would be considered.

22. DATE OF 2024 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 2024 AGM will be held on 30th November 2024.