

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Swim England Suffolk held via zoom on  
Sat 25<sup>th</sup> November 2025, commencing at 09.30am**

**SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT THE NEXT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING AND  
RATIFICATION AT THE 2026 AGM**

**ATTENDEES:**

Ian Cotton	IC	Chairman	Caroline Cofield	CCo	President
Chris Vinter	CV	Secretary	Nikki Hall	NH	Deben
Sarah Elmer	SE	Championship Sec	Rob Garry	RG	Mildenhall
Alison Vinter	AV	Past President	Vicki Emmerson	VE	Leiston
Tanya Mason	TM	Stowmarket	Jeremy Duszynski	JD	Past President
Ashley Buck	AB	Newmarket	Wesley May	WM	Team Manager
Katy Whittaker	KW	Team Waveney	Debs Greenhalgh	DG	West Suffolk
Sam Garnham	SG	Team Ipswich	Louise Boyt	LB	Felixstowe
Chris Cawood	CCa	President /Water Polo	John North	JN	Records
Lesley Beevor	LB	Treasurer	Peter Elmer	PE	Website

**1. APOLOGIES**

Chris Bellwood	CB	League Sec	Sarah Tait	ST	Open Water
Ann Byrne	AB	Disability	Stephen Christian	SC	Officials Coord
Tim Millett	TM	Dev. Meet			

**2. MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The minutes of the 2024 previously agreed were ratified as a true record.

**3. MATTERS ARISING**

None

**4. TREASURERS REPORT**

LB recommended that the annual accounts be approved. The accounts will be checked and verified by Alison Ayers and then made available as required.

The final balance is less this year and this is due partially to the loss of the Swim England subsidy and the additional expenditure for the Development Meet during the accounting period.

**The accounts were accepted subject to verification**

**5. AGREE AUDITOR OF ACCOUNTS**

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

**Approved unanimously**

## **6. SECRETARIES REPORT**

As circulated. CV reinforced the need for volunteers to come forward to take on roles on the committee. He stated that many committee members have been in the role for many years and its imperative that volunteers come forward so the succession planning is in place.

## **7. CHAMPIONSHIP REPORT**

As circulated. SE confirmed that the online entry system will go live on 1<sup>st</sup> December.

## **8. DEVELOPMENT MEET REPORT**

As circulated. Online entry will be live soon.

## **9. RECORDS REPORT**

As circulated. JN confirmed that it had been a quiet year but suspects that several records will be broken in 2026

## **10. TEAM MANAGERS REPORT**

As circulated. WM confirmed that there had been a number of outstanding swims at the National County Team Champs and the swimmers were very well behaved. WM thanked his team of helpers.

## **11. TROPHIES REPORT**

As circulated.

## **12. LEAGUE REPORT**

As circulated. IC confirmed that the dates for next year had been provisionally set and congratulated Deben and Stowmarket on their wins. CB will be sending information to Clubs on the 2026 league competition very soon

## **13. DISABILITY REPORT**

As circulated. IC thanked AB for her efforts running a very successful Swimability Meet again this year.

## **14. MASTERS REPORT**

As circulated. It was a shame that we were unable to compete at the Intercounties in November. CCo confirmed that a small working group is being put together to help with the County Masters Team going forward.

## **15. OPEN WATER REPORT**

As circulated. IC confirmed that entry numbers were lower in 2025, hopefully this was a temporary trend.

## 16. WATER POLO REPORT

As circulated. A very quiet year but two coaches have qualified which is good to see.

## 17. OFFICIALS REPORT

As circulated.

## 18. WEBSITE REPORT

As circulated.

## 19. PRESIDENTS REPORT

### My Year as Suffolk County President

I've had a truly fabulous year as Suffolk County President and have felt incredibly honoured to represent the county throughout it. It has been a year full of memorable moments, outstanding performances, and a real reminder of why our sport and our swimming community are so special.

The year began with the County Championships, which set the tone perfectly. There were so many fantastic swims, an impressive haul of trophies, and plenty of photos capturing the pride, effort, and joy on display. It was wonderful to see swimmers of all ages rising to the occasion and representing their clubs so proudly.

Next came the Masters County Championships, which once again proved to be a great competition with such a positive and supportive atmosphere. The camaraderie and enthusiasm among the swimmers made it a thoroughly enjoyable event.

One of the absolute highlights of the year was the Swim Ability Meet at Water Lane in Lowestoft. Watching the swimmers and their supporters having the most amazing time doing what they love really brought home what our sport is all about — inclusivity, fun, and belonging. It was genuinely uplifting, and I'm hoping to return this year as an official if the timing allows.

The Regional Championships in Norwich were another strong moment for Suffolk. It was great to watch our top swimmers competing against the rest of the region and performing so well on a bigger stage.

Unfortunately, I wasn't able to attend the Open Water Championships this year due to a shortage of officials for a gala in Ipswich. Chris Vinter and I did try to see if we could make it work, but we were unable to, this time around.

One of the most memorable experiences was joining the "fun bus" up to Sheffield with the county team. I may well have permanent hearing loss from the day — the cheering and team support were something else entirely! It was fantastic to meet presidents from counties across the UK, as well as familiar faces from our region, including Ann Byrne and

Helen Stephens. Suffolk did exceptionally well, with some truly awesome performances from our swimmers.

Winter Regionals in Luton followed, where I had the pleasure of presenting medals, trophies, and awards, including those for Annette at Newmarket and Ryan at Deben — a real privilege.

My final event as president was the Mildenhall Club Championships. It was a great way to end the year, and I was completely blown away by their new facility — what a gem.

Overall, it has been an unforgettable year, and I am incredibly grateful to everyone — swimmers, coaches, officials, volunteers, and supporters — who made it such a positive and rewarding experience.

**Caroline Cofield**

## 21. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	Chris Cawood
PRESIDENT ELECT	Vacant (MB to discuss)
CHAIRMAN	Ian Cotton
SECRETARY	Chris Vinter
TREASURER	Lesley Beevor
CHAMPIONSHIP SECRETARY	Sarah Elmer
LEAGUE SECRETARY	Chris Bellwood
MANAGEMENT BOARD MEMBERS	Vikki Emmerson Debs Greenhalgh
DEV MEET SECRETARY	Tim Millett
RECORDS OFFICER	John North
TEAM MANAGER	Wesley May
ASSISTANT TEAM MANAGER	Kevin Hall
TROPHY SECRETARY	Caroline Cofield
WELFARE OFFICER	Louise Boyt
VOLUNTEERING COORDINATOR	Ian Cotton
DISABILITY LIAISON OFFICER	Ann 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	Vacant (IC to contact Dan Pilbrow)

CLUB	DELEGATE
DEBEN	Nicky Hall
FELIXSTOWE	Louise Boyt
HADLEIGH	No nomination
HALESWORTH	Tim Millet
IPSWICH	Sam Garnham
LEISTON	Vicky Emmerson
MILDENHALL	Rob Garry
NEWMARKET	Ashley Buck
STOWMARKET	Tanya Mason
WAVENEY	Katy Whittaker
WEST SUFFOLK	Debs Greenhalgh

All appointments were unanimously agreed, and the Presidential chain of office will be presented to Chris Cawood by Caroline Cofield at the County Championships.

## 21. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

JD raised the issue of insurance for over 70's and the possible impact on the availability of officials and helpers, going forward. IC confirmed that concerns have already been raised with Swim England but it will be raised again if an opportunity arises'

SG asked about whether County camps will be organised this year. IC confirmed that this would be good and will discuss options at the Counties.

## 22. DATE OF 2025 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 2026 AGM will be held on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2026.