

**Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting of the Swim England Suffolk held via Zoom
on Saturday 17th February 2024 at 10.30am**

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT THE JUNE 2024 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

ATTENDEES:

Ian Cotton	IC	Chairman	Nick Thompson	NT	Team Manager
Chris Vinter	CV	Secretary	Debs Greenhalgh	DG	West Suffolk
Nikki Hall	NH	Deben	Jeremy Duszynski	JD	Past President
Alison Vinter	AV	Past President	Sam Garnham	SG	Team Ipswich
Lesley Beevor	LB	Treasurer	Wesley May	WM	Ass Team Manager
Paul Bowman	PB	Newmarket	John North	JN	Records
Rob Garry	RG	Mildenhall	Peter Elmer	PE	President/Website
Tanya Mason	TMa	Stowmarket	Sarah Elmer	SE	Championship Sec
Sue Purchase	SP	St Felix	Tristan Gale	TG	League Secretary
Tim Millet	TM	Dev Meet Sec.	Jessica Adcock	JA	Team Waveney
Chris Bellwood	CB	Man. Board Rep	Podge Christian	PC	Officials Coordinator
Fran Vesztrocy	FV	Welfare	Janet Hare	JH	Team Ipswich
Vicky Emmerson	VE	Leiston	Chris Cawood	CCa	Water Polo
Dan Pilbrow	DP	Coach Liaison			

1. WELCOME

IC welcomed everyone to the meeting and advised that there would be a small change in the agenda with the County Championships Secretary's report being presented first as SE & PE have another appointment.

2. APOLOGIES

Ann Byrne	AB	Disability	Sarah Tait	ST	Open Water
Louise Perkins	LP	Man. Board Rep	Hadleigh & Sudbury SC		

2a. COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS 2024 -

SE apologised for her report being longer than normal as it was effectively a brain dump following the completion of competition.

SE confirmed the following:

The long distance qualifier had too many entries and options will be considered to restrict entries this year.

The number of teams entering the relays continues to fall so some changes will be considered for 2025. This may include mixed relays but numbers poolside need to be looked at as more teams will lead to more spectators.

We will look to apply for Para licensing in 2025.

Late withdrawals were a problem again this year. We don't want to have to fine swimmers so it's hoped that the numbers can be reduced. Managing the withdrawals involves a considerable amount of additional work.

It is hoped that the QT's for 2025 will be circulated to coaches by the end of March.

TM asked about the system used to identify top swimmers as it seems to benefit those doing the long distance events. SE advised that she would consider other options.

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING and AGM

The AGM minutes - a comment in item 15 to be moved to item 14 plus a correction of a spelling of William Ellard.

The November Exec Meeting minutes were approved.

4. MATTERS ARISING:

Exec minutes - JN informed the meeting that he had been advised by Crown Pools staff that the timing system was due to be serviced soon. This will give an indication of whether the starter box needs to be replaced. IBC are unlikely to have available funds for a new box.

5. CORRESPONDENCE:

CV informed the meeting that he had received an email from Dave Champion thanking the County for the award he had received.

A copy of the approved Norfolk constitution had been obtained. This will be used as a guide for an updated version of the Suffolk rules/constitution. It is planned to have this submitted in good time for approval at the 2024 AGM.

An email has been received from a Norfolk committee member saying that Darren Peck, Regional President, had informed him that he had been very impressed with our championships. They will be looking to adopt some of our practices.

6. FINANCIAL UPDATE

As circulated. LB advised that no pool hire fees had been received so unable to summarise the County Champs income and expenditure at this time. LB reminded clubs to claim club funding as some still available.

7. UPDATE ON COUNTY GOVERNANCE

IC informed the meeting that County Governance is similar to Club Swim Mark. Selected members of the Management Board have been producing the required documentation for uploading to the portal. There are a total of 7 elements and 3 have been approved with a further one being completed after IC has attended a workshop next week. We are well on track and IC thanked those who have helped.

8. SEER COUNTY FORUM

CV reported that the last County Forum took place last week and was attended by most Counties. He reminded all that the purpose of the Forum is to give all counties the opportunity to ask questions of the Region and for the Region to pass on information to counties.

At the Forum IC had given an update on the Regional Welfare Officer appointment reminding counties of the role of the post.

The counties were informed that the Regions AGM will be held on 24th April 2024. There are several vacancies up for election and these will be advertised soon.

IC added that SwimMark is going through a full review and clubs will be informed when more information is known. No other details are known at this time.

9. MATTERS RAISED BY COUNTY OFFICERS

Welfare – As submitted. FV confirmed that Wavepower update sessions were ongoing with feedback for Welfare Officers by the end of April.

RG mentioned that a coach had done the Safeguarding Course but this had not appeared on their records. FV advised that it can take two weeks to appear, any concerns they should contact Jo Stalley.

Concerns were mentioned about the no use of mobile phones in changing rooms and the apparent ignorance of the rules of parents and guardians. SG mentioned that Team Ipswich had set up a Welfare Whatsapp group for disseminating information.

Development Meet – As submitted. TM confirmed that conditions were ready to be submitted to licensing.

SP suggested removing 50m events from the programme and encouraging entry to 400m events, plus whether a top club trophy should be awarded for this competition. It was agreed that club coaches would be sent a request to establish their preferences.

Disability – as submitted.

Officials – as submitted. PC thanked all the officials who gave up their time for the County Championships. We have a good team.

JD mentioned that the black trouser dress code makes it more difficult to pick out officials on poolside. PC confirmed that this is likely to become a Swim England requirement going forward. SG advised that there had been an increase in female officials volunteers coming forward as a result of the change in dress code.

Records – as submitted.

League – The league information has been circulated to clubs this morning.

Masters – IC mentioned that the Valentines Meet, incorporating the County Masters was taking place tomorrow. DG advised that any further volunteer officials would be appreciated as numbers were short.

Water Polo – Cca reported that it was a quiet time and nothing to report.

Team Manager – as submitted. NT mentioned that quotes were being obtained by WM and it was agreed that the hotel should be booked. WM asked if it was acceptable to look at sponsorship for the County Team and it was agreed that this could be looked into.

10. AOB

SG mentioned that a club event had been moved to avoid clashing with one of the League dates. IC agreed that it would be good to try and coordinate dates and suggested a meeting be arranged in May.

Dates of next meetings

22nd June – Executive Meeting

14th September – League AGM and Executive Meeting

30th November - AGM and Executive Meeting