

**Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting of the Swim England Suffolk held via Zoom
on Saturday 10th June 2023 at 10.30am**

ATTENDEES:

Ian Cotton	IC	Chairman	Nick Thompson	NT	Team Manager
Chris Vinter	CV	Secretary	Debs Greenhalgh	DG	West Suffolk
John North	JN	President/Records	Jeremy Duszynski	JD	Past President
Nikki Hall	NH	Deben	Rob Garry	RG	Mildenhall
Alison Vinter	AV	Past President	Tanya Mason	TMa	Stowmarket
Peter Elmer	PE	Pres. Elect/Website	Vicky Emmerson	VE	Leiston
Sarah Elmer	SE	Championship Sec	Caroline Coffield	CCo	Trophy Secretary
Chris Bellwood	CB	Man. Board Rep	Chris Cawood	CCa	Water Polo

1. WELCOME

IC welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES

Sue Purchase	SP	St Felix	Lesley Beevor	LB	Treasurer
Tim Millet	TM	Dev Meet Sec.	Sarah Tait	ST	Open Water
Bobbie Wilson	BW	Past President	Ann Byrne	AB	Disability

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the last Executive meeting held on 25th February 2023 were agreed.

4. MATTERS ARISING:

None

5. CORRESPONDENCE:

CV stated that the insurance certificate had now been received from Swim England. No doubt clubs will have also received the same document.

CV advised that he had been informed by Bobbie Wilson that she wished to resign from the position of County Welfare Officer. CV recorded the committee's thanks for all the work and support that Bobbie has given to Suffolk Swimming for many years. IC advised that he would fulfil the role in the short term and would be available for the Suffolk League Grand Final. In the longer term East Region intend to appoint a Welfare Officer and they will be available to support Counties. Swim England are also increasing their staff to 9 persons, involved in Welfare issues and they will deal with more serious issues. It is therefore less important to have an appointed County Welfare Officer. CV suggested that the County needs to consider appointing Welfare Officer/s at all County events. With the support of Club's this could be achieved by appointing Club Welfare Officers on a cyclic basis. No objections were raised by Clubs.

All other items had been circulated.

6. FINANCIAL UPDATE

As circulated. The bank accounts are static with £6,553 in the current account and £20,983 in the deposit account.

7. UPDATE ON COUNTY GOVERNANCE

IC informed the meeting that members of the Management Board had attended a Swim England conference and we had been advised that all Counties would need to meet certain criteria. Swim England have to meet the requirements of Tier 3, Regions Tier 2.5, Counties Tier 2 and Clubs Tier 1. A further meeting is planned with Helen Weeks of Swim England on 19th June when the next steps will be explained. The County rules may need some minor changes.

8. SEER COUNTY FORUM

CV reported that the last meeting was held on 18th April and there was reasonable attendance from other Counties. The new Regional Manager Josh Devine provided an overview of work carried out by Regional staff since the last meeting. David Metcalf was asked to attend the meeting to provide information on the support available for officials and to explain the structure and role of the County Official coordinators. Dave mentioned that there was some inconsistencies across some counties but this did not apply to Suffolk. IC, on behalf of the Region, reported on the proposals for appointing a Regional Welfare Officer. CV recorded that the County had run a successful Swimability Meet in April.

9. MATTERS RAISED BY COUNTY OFFICERS

County Championships – As circulated. SE advised that no comments had been received on the proposed QT's. SE to ask DP to check with Club coaches and for all comments to be received by the end of July.

League – As circulated. New entry file will be circulated after the meeting as the schedule was incorrect. A request was made for volunteers as there were a number of roles that remain unfilled. JN asked for confirmation, and it was confirmed that the competition will be run in lanes 2 to 7.

Disability – As circulated. Ann was thanked for all her hard work leading up to and during the event which was a great success. Ellie Challis was invited as a guest and was in attendance for most of the event mingling with the competitors. A credit to herself and the sport.

Team Manager – IC explained that the Management Board had agreed to the principle of sending a team to the National County Team Championships and that AV had agreed to investigate coach and hotel bookings. AV confirmed that a coach had been booked and that enquiries were out on hotels but it was proving difficult to find availability.

Records – As circulated. Special mention was made of the achievements of William Ellard of St Felix

Water Polo – As circulated.

Website – As circulated. PE reported that the hosting fee had been paid and that a couple of invoices are to be reimbursed.

Open Water – IC reminded Clubs that the County Event will be held in conjunction with the East Region events and that closing date for entries is Friday. RG mentioned that there had been problems with the online entry system.

Development Meet – TM confirmed that the competition will be renamed the David Robinson Development Meet. Submission had been made to licensing and information should be available for circulation by the end of June.

10. AOB

IC reminded clubs that the nominations were open for the Swim England Awards. He also confirmed the appointments of Vicky Emmerson and Louise Perkins onto the County Management Board. IC asked Clubs to help fill the vacant committee roles.

SE asked for clubs thoughts on the options for County Championship hoodies etc. Is the preference for the simple design, as this year, or the more expensive option, with competitor names printed on the back from Fine Designs? There was no consensus of opinion, SE to make final decision.

CV asked for details of previous County kit providers for purchase of future team kit and officials T shirts.

DG asked if there was anything to report on the new County Presidents Chain. IC agreed that the matter would be discussed further by the MB. DG asked for the points results from the 2022 Development Meet to be posted on the website. IC agreed to investigate.

CCo asked for confirmation of the number of medals required for the Dev Meet. TM to provide information.

RG asked if there was an opportunities page on the County website and PE confirmed that these could be published as necessary.

SE raised concern over the new Swim England guidance on safeguarding and that from next year alternative qualifications such as those acquired by teachers will no longer be acceptable. There was general concern that this may make it more difficult to encourage volunteers.

SE thanked Nikki Hall for her invaluable help organising the County Hoodies.

The dates of future meetings:

- 16/9/23 – League AGM and Executive
- 25/11/23 – AGM and Executive