

North Lancs Swimming & Water Polo Association

Minutes of the 93rd Annual General Meeting

Held on Monday 3rd December 2018

at The Hartwood Hall Hotel Chorley commencing at 7.30pm

Present: Sue Tinkler (President) Bob Thompson (Secretary) Gillian Rankin (Treasurer) Janice Whittle (Champ Sec.)	Steve Davison (P79) Judith Dutton (Leyland) Ron Flude (Lancaster) Nick Hartshorne-Evans (Blackburn) Lindsay Hargreaves (Blackburn) Steve Heaps (Preston)	Allan Howarth (Burnley) Alison Lawson (Fleetwood) Mary Parkinson (Chorley) John Robinson (Pioneer 79) Lee Scanlan (Clitheroe) Jackie Wilkinson (Ormskirk)
1. Apologies had been received from: John Higginbottom (Colne); Catherine Holmes (Garstang); Catherine Rainford-Reed (B/pool); Garry Whittle (Life Member); Jane Whittle (S/L Secretary)		
2. The minutes of the previous AGM on 4 th December 2017 were approved as a true record, as proposed by Janice Whittle, and seconded by Allan Haworth. They were then signed by the President.		
3. There were no matters arising from the minutes.		
4. Presidents Report I would firstly like to welcome everyone to the 93 rd AGM of North Lancs Swimming and Water Polo Association, although not so much of the water polo at the moment, hopefully this will soon get sorted. During the year all sections of the Association have been busy, as have all the clubs. Unfortunately, I have not managed to attend as much as I would have liked to due to health issues, which have been increasingly worse this year. I am hoping next year will be better. I did attend the Inter-Association competition and present the medals alongside the Cumbrian President. I very much enjoyed the event and many thanks go to Janice for not only organising the team but for her involvement on our behalf with the Inter- Association committee, also to team coaches Nicky Edwards and Mike Wilson. Well done to team captains Ben Rogerson and Beth Hartwell. I spoke to both of them alongside a number of team members at the time and thank them all. I would say the main thing I noticed at this event, and this was in no-way just one team, was the lack of team spirit. Swimmers were coming to collect medals and leaving before the end of the competition. I understand everyone is very busy now, but this is a team competition. There was also a lack of cheering and supporting team members. I can only put this down to the fact that swimmers are now so used to entering competitions as individuals that this has been lost. I would very much value other views on this and maybe discussion at the Swimming and Development meetings. I have noticed that although there is a slight increase in revenue at the level 3 meet there is a considerable decrease in the L2 meet. This does concern me, as profits from these		

North Lancs Swimming & Water Polo Association

events are what is used for the bursaries from North Lancs. I would think this will be something that will need to be looked at by the executive for 2019.

I can only presume that this is due to the number open meets that are now being held. I understand that these are necessary for club funds and things have changed since my day of coaching in a club. Clubs now need to pay for coaching staff which is a great expense. The only thing that worries me with this is the over competing of swimmers, hence the downturn for North Lancs age groups.

No longer is the requirement to attend our competitions to gain qualifying times for Lancashires etc.

I am not sure if other areas have just improved greatly over our area or that the swimming in our area is not as strong overall, in this I mean in all age groups!

It is not that long ago that I attended a meeting that had been set up I think by the ASA/British Swimming to discuss the over competing of swimmers. This does not seem to be an issue anymore, although personally I think it should be.

The Swim League seems on the whole to be running well, although I am aware Jane has had some issues this year, but the competition in its new format is running well. I would think Jane will talk more about this in her report. As you know Jane is stepping down this year and I would like to thank her for her time and wish her good luck in the future with all her commitments.

Steve Heaps has been doing a lot of work for the Development Group and I attended a very successful clinic with Michael Rock. This was very well attended by coaches and swimmers and I think those that attended got a lot out of the day. Many thanks to Steve and to Mike and Pioneer 79 for making all this possible.

Unfortunately, the further development days have not as yet happened Steve and JP have done a lot of work for this, but the commitment to attend does not appear to be happening. We will look at this again at the Development meetings. Thanks goes to Steve and JP for all their hard work.

As you are all aware we suspended the water polo league last year. I would hope that eventually we could have them involved again we tried very hard to support them but unfortunately this made no difference to how the league was being run. We have had various secretaries who have tried very hard to make the league work legally and within North Lancs rules, but as yet no progress.

North Lancs continues to provide a great number of officials and we have a good number of very hard- working referees hopefully this will continue in the future. Many thanks to all those involved.

Many thanks to Bob, Gill and the rest of the Executive for the time they put into North Lancs also to members of the Swimming and Development Sub-committee. We all have very busy lives and huge commitments, so your continued support is very much appreciated.

We now have a fully working web site, which hopefully keeps everyone up to date with North Lancs. Please let us know if you would like to see any additions to this site.

To end I would like to wish all the swimmers, coaches, clubs and all involved in our wonderful sport a very Merry Christmas and a successful new year.

Thank you very much for your time.

Sue Tinkler

North Lancs Swimming & Water Polo Association

5. Hon. Treasurer's Report

Bob Thompson is going to take this years and last year's accounts to John Armour for an independently examination of the accounts. I would also like to say a big thank you to Bob for his help again this year.

I am not continuing with the treasure role this year due to my coaching at Leyland. I will continue to support the Association in any way I can.

The finances for the 2017 – 2018 year have followed the normal income/expenditure figures that the Association usually shows. There was no summer training camp again this year but thank you to Steve Heaps the coaches had a really good development day at Accrington Academy on Saturday 21st April 2018 with Michael Rock.

The main revenue for the Association the level two and three competitions are down this year by £1,862, please see accounts for more details.

A thank you as always goes to Garry & Janice Whittle for their continued hard work, on the Association's behalf.

Financially the figures show a continuation in spending the Association's money which is made each year, a **Surplus** this year has been made of **£3,162**. We have again supported clubs with coaching grants £ 2,800 in total.

Finally, if clubs wish to take advantage of **reduced** affiliation fees etc, for 2019 you have until the end of this month (Dec) to get your cheques to me, or you can pay this evening. Please post to

Mrs Gillian Rankin, Willow View, Gill Lane, Longton, Lancashire, PR4 4SS.

- If you bank transfer payment, please send me your remittance advice by email to gillianrankin36@icloud.com when you transfer **WITH** the affiliation form.
- NL Current Account details RBS, Sort Code 16-32-10, Bank Account 11227083

I would like to wish you all a Happy Christmas & New Year.

Gillian Rankin Hon Treasurer NLSWPA

(This report covers the financial year 1st October 2017 – 30th September 2018)

The report was accepted as proposed by Allan Howarth, seconded by Janice Whittle.

The President extended her thanks to Gillian for her time as Treasurer.

North Lancs Swimming & Water Polo Association

6. Hon. Age Group Secretary's Report

Level 3 and Level 2 Meets:

The meets have gone well overall with sessions running smoothly and to time. Although both meets were not too busy, it did mean that there was less pressure on timings etc. Swimmers were able to gain times at the Level 3 Meet for entry into the Level 2 Meet. Some swimmers also gained times for the 2019 County Championships. At the Level 2 Meet swimmers swam well, achieving Winter Regional times as well as County times. One key issue is having the right amount of officials to fulfil the required License criteria. This has become increasingly hard particularly at the Level 2 meet, where all officials need to be licensed at J1 minimum. We do like to provide mentoring but this is not always possible. We eventually managed to have the required amount of officials. Thanks to Bob for his invites and to everyone who rallied round their clubs. Although there were other meets in the region over our Level 2 second weekend, we have more than sufficient officials in North Lancs to fulfil the requirements. One suggestion is that the Level 2 meet is changed to Level 3 (higher limits). This will be discussed at a future Executive meeting. Having the squadron events within the meet gave some variety and varying opinions. I spoke with most of the coaches and the general feeling is that they would prefer the squadrons to be as a stand-alone gala (as in the last few years). Again, this will be reviewed for 2019.

Congratulations to Preston who won both the Championship and Squadron Trophies.

Dates for both North Lancs Meets 2019 have been booked at Palatine.

Level 3 – Saturday & Sunday 13 & 14 July

Level 2 – Saturday & Sunday 28 & 29 September and 19 & 20 October

Inter Association

Four Associations competed. North Lancs finished 3rd behind Liverpool & District (1st) and Bolton, Manchester & Central Lancs combined (2nd). Cumbria was 4th. The team swam well but it was always going to be hard competing against a very strong Liverpool team and a combined team.

Thanks to Nicky Edwards and Mike Wilson who were the team coaches. They really motivated the swimmers. Team Captains Ben Rogerson and Beth Hartwell did a great job also in supporting and encouraging everyone, especially the swimmers who were swimming for the first time.

Thanks to those who helped in any way on the day and to parents who supported the team. The future of the Inter Association is still unclear.

- Some Associations felt that the meet with just 4 competing Associations was flat.
- Are we holding the meet just for the sake of carrying the competition on ie. tradition.
- The combined Associations of Central Lancs, Bolton & District and Manchester & District did feel it was alright.
- The amalgamation of the 3 associations is not felt the correct way as the competition was originally 7 associations.
- North Midlands will not compete unless the competition is a development gala.

North Lancs Swimming & Water Polo Association

If the competition goes ahead Cumbria will be the hosts and would like to host at Workington pool. There are hotels nearby for example Premier Inn and Travel Lodge and others. Associations travelling would need to decide how they would plan the day. There would be cost implications if Associations travel by coach. At the North Lancs Executive meeting in October it was agreed that North Lancs would look to providing a coach for the team.

There will be a meeting of the Inter-Association Committee in the New Year where a final decision will be made. The provisional date is Sunday 22 June 2019.

Janice Whittle

03.12.18

The report was accepted as proposed by Steve Heaps, seconded by John Robinson.

Steve Heaps suggested a possible “Duel in the Pool competition”-v- Cumbria & L&D if the Inter-Association were to fold. This was seconded by Nick Hartshorne-Evans and this met with general approval.

7. Hon. Swim League Secretary's Report

The Swim League has completed its second season under the new structure. This format has proved to be a positive step in changing the gala dynamics, which has been evident with some of the gala results this year.

The final league standings for the 2018 season have been established. Copies of the final league standings are available in paper form this evening for anyone who would like a copy.

Congratulations go to Pioneer 79 who were the overall league winners of Division 1 and to Chorley who were the league winners of Division 2 securing promotion for 2019. Well done to Kendal who by finishing second in Division 2 have also secured promotion to Division 1 for 2019. Commiserations to Ormskirk and Preston B who have been relegated and will swim in Division 2 for 2019.

I would like to thank all the teams and their various staff for their participation in the League this year. Thanks go to the volunteers from the club who fulfilled the various gala duties. May I also thank all the officials who gave their time to help in the running of the galas plus the Centre Staff at Salt Ayre, Darwen and Palatine.

This is my final year as Swim League Secretary. Due to personal demands with work I feel that I can no longer continue with the role. I would like to thank all who have helped me in various ways over the last few years. May I wish all teams competing in the league the best of luck for the future. No doubt I will see you all around a pool some in the very near future.

North Lancs Swimming & Water Polo Association

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Thanks again.

Jane

The report was accepted as proposed by John Robinson, seconded by Alison Lawson.

The President again relayed her thanks to Jane for her time as Swim League Secretary.

The President then presented the Trophies to the Division Champions:

Division Two: Chorley Marlins

Division One: Pioneer 79.

The Draw was then held for the first and second round fixtures of the 2019 League.

8. Election of Officers

There being no other nominations the following officers were elected en bloc:

Office	Nominee	Proposer	Seconder
Hon. Secretary	Bob Thompson	Helen Whittle (B/pool)	Helen Jenkins (S/pt)
Hon. Treasurer	<i>Deferred to the February 2019 Executive Meeting</i>		
Hon. Champ & Age Group Secretary	Janice Whittle	Sue Burrows (B/pool)	Mary Parkinson (Chorley)
Hon. Swim League Secretary	Mary Parkinson	Janice Whittle (B/pool)	Alison Lawson (F/wood)
Independent Examiner	John Armour	Bob Thompson (S/pt)	Gill Rankin (Leyland)

9. Presentation of George Harris Salver

This was deferred to a later date.

10. Meetings

The provisional calendar for 2019 was announced as follows:

Executive Meetings:

Monday 4th February 2019

Monday 8th April 2019

Monday 3rd June 2019

Monday 9th September 2019

Monday 21st October 2019

AGM

Monday 2nd December 2019

All meetings commencing at 7.30pm

North Lancs Swimming & Water Polo Association

There being no further business the President thanked everyone for their attendance and wished everyone a Happy Christmas and Prosperous New Year and the meeting closed at 8.48pm