

North Lancs Swimming & Water Polo Association

Executive Committee Meeting

Monday 2nd October 2023 Hartwood Hall, Preston Rd, Chorley

Present: Lee Scanlan (Vice President / Clitheroe) Alison Lawson (Treasurer) Dominic Hartley (Secretary) Janice Whittle (Champ Sec.) Gary Whittle (Life / Blackpool) Mary Parkinson (Chorley/S/L Secretary) Nathan Bradwell (Burnley)	Gill Rankin (Life Member / Chorley) Julie Barber (Garstang) Louise Park (Lancaster) Ron Flude (Lancaster) Lindsay Hargreaves (Blackburn) Helen Jenkins (Southport)
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Welcome Gary Whittle kindly agreed to chair the meeting and welcomed everybody to the meeting and thanked them for their attendance.	
1. Apologies Sue Tinkler (Life Member), Andy Gaskell (President), Bob Thompson (Life Member), Jackie Wilkinson (Ormskirk)	
2. Minutes The Minutes of the meeting held on 5 th June 2023 were approved	
3. Matters arising There were no matters arising	
4. No conflicts of interest were declared.	
5. Notification of AOB There were no items of AOB which needed to be prioritised in the agenda.	
6. Correspondence Notification received that as from 29 th August 2023 Pioneer 79 ASC ceased to provide coaching for swimmers. The club found itself in difficulties post pandemic, following the termination of their agreement with Accrington Academy and the loss of 80% of the swimmers. The head coach has taken up a post at Burnley Bobcats.	
7. Treasurers Report Alison Lawson advised that the year-end was Saturday 30 th September, with the accounts to follow. The Swim League is breaking even but there has been a drop in spectator numbers. The pool hire is most expensive for Blackpool and lowest for Darwen. Before any booking is made for Salt Ayre hire fees need to be agreed with AL. The L2 Meet made a slight loss and the L3 Meet was in profit. There was discussion regarding paying officials in training. The consensus was that officials should not be out of pocket for giving time supporting NLSWPA. It was agreed that officials in training will be paid.	

North Lancs Swimming & Water Polo Association

<p>Consideration should be given to whether the £600 grant received by clubs for courses should be conditional on clubs supporting NL Swim League / Meets – decision to be made at AGM.</p> <p>GR still on one account's statement.</p> <p>A payment of £300 compensation was received from the bank due to poor service – use it for food at the AGM?</p> <p>It was agreed that affiliation fees will remain the same for 2024 – Clubs should bring their completed affiliation form to the AGM.</p>	
<p>8. Age Group Secretary's Report</p> <p>Janice Whittle provided a report on the 2023 meets.</p> <p><i>Level 3 Development Meet</i></p> <p>Overall, the event ran smoothly. Looking at the entries, the 50m and 100m events were well supported, but 200m events less so. For example, in the 200m freestyle there were only a maximum of 5 or 6 swimmers in all age groups.</p> <p>Several coaches would support a one-day meet to include 50m and 100m events. This does need to be discussed further.</p> <p>Ran with 6 lanes, partly due to lack of officials and partly number of entries.</p> <p>Thanks to all who helped in any way.</p> <p>Provisional dates for 2024 would be Sat/Sun 6th & 7th July or other date as directed – to be discussed at the Swimming Committee. Consider how to encourage 200m swims.</p> <p><i>Level 2 Meet</i></p> <p>All sessions ran well and finished within the timeline.</p> <p>We ran with 6 lanes again due to the number of entries. We had sufficient officials throughout the 6 sessions and some trainees were able to be mentored. Thanks to Bob for 'rounding up' the officials and Gill for allocating roles to clubs.</p> <p>Thanks to everyone for all their help and in the main clubs did fulfil their roles allocated.</p> <p>Provisional dates for 2024 to be discussed at the Swimming Committee.</p> <p><i>Points to be considered:</i></p> <p>Does the event need to be level 2? Although we did fulfil all the criteria in a lot of events there were very few swimmers e.g. 1500m only 15 entries in total across 6 mixed age groups. Having to have licenced times affects the number entries – clubs could licence time trials as L4. Run as L3 but with the same standards? County and Regional entries can use L3 times.</p> <p>Entry Fee per event – do we up the price from £4 an event?</p> <p>Coach passes – do we charge as we used to? It is quite frustrating when clubs are specifically asked to submit numbers for lunches and then do not take the lunch. It is very difficult to know how many to cater for.</p> <p>Swimmer no shows – this again is very frustrating. Yesterday there were a good number of empty lanes. Withdrawals do need to be made (obviously there are some circumstances where this is not possible). It is not fair on the remaining swimmers to swim with a few lanes empty – e.g. the girls 200 butterfly yesterday – 9 swimmers entered making 2 heats. The first heat all 3 swimmers swam. In the second heat there were 3 no shows, meaning there could have been 1 heat. NB 31 no shows on 1st October alone. Some morning no shows were not withdrawn from afternoon events. Should clubs be fined for not withdrawing swimmers?</p> <p>Is there potential for a distance gala of some sort to be opened up to other clubs. JW had several requests for swimmers from clubs not affiliated to NL to enter the 800m & 1500m freestyle events. LS suggested that the L3 Development Meet should be split into two, day 1 sprints and day 2 distance – possibly 200m events am / 800 & 1500 pm. Could potentially lead to increase participation with faster moving meets. There was support for this idea to be considered.</p>	

North Lancs Swimming & Water Polo Association

<p>Plans for 2024 meets, considering the above points, to be discussed by the Swimming Committee with proposals brought back to the next meeting.</p> <p>When officiating at Swim England National Events – technical officials’ uniform dress code now includes black trousers/skirts/shorts. From January 2024 regions are adopting this. Guidance states for Level 3 meets, the dress code should reflect the need to present a professional image in support of the athletes however, there can still be a degree of flexibility in what is worn. At Level 1, Level 2 and national events a uniform dress code should be in place.</p> <p>From 2025 for NLSWPA the requirement would be black.</p>	
<p>9. Swim League Secretary’s Report</p> <p>Mary Parkinson reported back on the 2023 League</p> <p>Division 1 winners Preston</p> <p>Division 2 winners Clitheroe</p> <p>A representative of the clubs should attend AGM to receive the trophy.</p> <p>Clitheroe and Leyland B promoted to Division 1</p> <p>Fleetwood and Ormskirk relegated to Division 2</p> <p>Darwen has been booked for Round 1 – Sunday 21st January 2024</p> <p>A rule change is required so that the league can start in January rather than February – this change was agreed.</p> <p>Provisional dates discussed:</p> <p>Round 2 – Saturday 9th March 2024 – Salt Ayre Leisure Centre</p> <p>Round 3 – Saturday 15th June 2024 – Blackpool Palatine</p> <p>Discussion about previous issues with Salt Ayre, with eight teams there was a lack of room poolside, too many swimmers were sent up to the start early, issues with the boom, lack of electronic timing and limited spectator seating. It was agreed that Round 2 will also be held at Blackpool. The following dates were agreed:</p> <p>Round 1 – Sunday 21st January 2024 – Darwen Leisure Centre</p> <p>Round 2 – Saturday 9th March 2024 – Blackpool Palatine</p> <p>Round 3 – Saturday 15th June 2024 – Blackpool Palatine</p> <p>An update to the rules is required to reflect Swim England updates transgender and non-binary competition policy.</p> <p>Clubs need to email Mary by 1st November to confirm participation in the league and if they will be entering an A and B team. maryparkinson@blueyonder.co.uk</p> <p>The draw for 2024 will take place at the AGM.</p>	
<p>10. Forthcoming AGM</p> <p>Monday 4th December 7:30pm at Hartwood Hall – upstairs room booked.</p> <p>The numbers eating needs to be confirmed.</p> <p>Existing officers present confirmed willingness to continue in their roles.</p> <p>Nominations close 31st October</p>	
<p>11. AOB</p> <p>There were no items of AOB</p>	
<p>12. Meetings</p> <p>Exec Meetings 2024 proposed dates</p> <p>a. Monday 5th Feb</p>	

North Lancs Swimming & Water Polo Association

<p>b. Monday 8th Apr</p> <p>c. Monday 3rd June</p> <p>d. Monday 7th October</p> <p>Swimming Committee</p> <p>Monday 6th November – Ribble Pilot 8:00pm</p> <p>AGM</p> <p>Monday 2nd December 2024</p> <p>The above dates were agreed.</p>	
There being no further business the meeting closed at 9:14pm	