

North Lancashire

Swimming & Water Polo Association

President – Lee Scanlan

Hon Secretary: Dominic Hartley, 10 Parkers Wood Close, Chorley PR7 2FD Tel. 07931356768

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98th Annual General Meeting

Monday 4th December 2023

Hartwood Hall Chorley - Commencing at 7:30pm

MINUTES

Alison Lawson (Treasurer / Fleetwood)	Paul Britton (Lancaster)
Janice Whittle (AGS / Blackpool)	Louise Park (Lancaster)
Garry Whittle (Life / Blackpool)	Nathan Bradwell (Burnley)
Mary Parkinson (SLS / Chorley)	Bob Thompson (Life / Southport)
Dominic Hartley (Sec / Chorley)	Jackie Wilkinson (Ormskirk)
Lee Scanlan (VP / Clitheroe)	Julie Barber (Garstang)
Nick White (Kirkham & Wesham)	Katherine Birchall (Garstang)
Matt Howard (Fleetwood)	Lindsay Hargreaves (Blackburn)
Ron Flude (Lancaster)	Ian Parker (Preston)
Ben Harris (Clitheroe)	Helen Jenkins (Southport)
Jon Ward (Leyland)	Gillian Rankin (Life)
Stephen Davison (Leyland)	

Welcome

Gary Whittle kindly agreed to chair the meeting and welcomed everybody to the AGM and thanked them for their attendance.

1. Apologies

Andy Gaskell, Sue Tinkler, Prescott SC

2. Minutes of previous meeting

Minutes of the previous AGM held 7th December 2022 were approved as a true record, as proposed by Bob Thompson, and seconded by Mary Parkinson. They were then signed by GW.

3. Matters arising

There were no matters arising

4. President's Report

In the Presidents absence Garry Whittle read out comments received from Andy Gaskell: Please thank everyone on the committee for their hard work this past year. Competitive swimming is getting ever more challenging, especially at District level, and it is only

through the dedication and hard work of the committee members that we have been able to have another successful year of Swim League and Open Meets. I have been involved in swimming since 2007, which is a short time compared to some members of the Association, and I know how important this association is within Lancashire swimming. I would like to congratulate Lee on taking over as president and wish him and the association every success in the coming year.

5. Honorary Treasurer's Report

As you will see from the accounts, this year we have more or less broken even as nearly £400 of the net surplus was given to us by the bank as reimbursement for messing us about so much due to their own incompetencies. The bulk of this money has been used to pay for the food at the AGM.

The biggest expense, as always, was the money paid out in Coaching Grants. However, this was over £1000 less than last year with only 8 clubs submitting a claim.

The money for these claims comes mainly from the 2 North Lancs competitions. The one at the beginning of the year ran at a very slight loss, whilst the level 3 in July was more successful. However, the total still shows a £700 deficit against the reimbursements paid out. It has therefore been recommended that clubs must support the North Lancs competitions to qualify to claim reimbursement for the coaching grants. This will be discussed/voted for later in the Agenda.

The recent Level 2 will come under next years accounts as it was only completed in the 23-24 financial year. But so far it is looking to be running at a profit of approx. £1500. Fingers crossed for another successful Level 3 in the Summer.

I would like to thank all those who 'manned' the door at all the North Lancs & Swim League Galas. Your help and support is much appreciated.

Finally, just a reminder that Affiliation & Swim League Fees are now due and should be paid by 31st Dec to qualify for the discounted rate.

Congratulations to Chorley who were the first club to pay!

Alison Lawson

North Lancs Hon Treasurer

30/9/23

The Accounts for the Year Ended 30th September 2023 were distributed and approved as proposed by Bob Thompson, seconded by Helen Jenkins.

Accounts as at 30/09/2023				
			<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
	<u>Appendix</u>	<u>Chq No</u>	£	£
	2023	2023		
Affiliation Fees			£830.00	£950.00
Refund to leyland (Overpayt 20-21)				-£25.00
North Lancs No Frills				£3,085.14
North Lancs Level 2	A		-£204.42	
Swim League	B		£517.57	-£269.06
Bank Interest			£383.57	£24.12
Reimbursement from bank			£347.20	
Coaching Grants	C		-£4,158.00	-£5,310.00
Insurance (Howdens)		383	-£315.02	-£244.04
AGM & Committee expenses		cash	-£142.00	-£178.05
swim england		cash	-£30.00	-£30.00
web site x 3 years				-£345.02
North Lancs Dev Gala	D		£3,609.24	£3,429.11
Miscellaneous (BT/GR/AML)		Q/cash	-£56.65	-£112.99
Cash (from Fleetwood) (2022)				-£300.00
Net Deficit(-)/Surplus for year			£781.49	£674.21
Funds B/Fwd			£43,886.34	£43,212.13
Funds C/Fwd			£44,667.83	£43,886.34
Represented by:-				
Bus Reserve Account			£25,327.39	£25,128.35
Bank Current Account	E		£26,045.80	£22,288.99
Cash in hand			£951.90	£277.00
Monies rec'd re NL L2 (next yrs accts)			-£7,657.26	-£3,808.00
			£44,667.83	£43,886.34
Alison Lawson Hon. Treasurer 30.09.2023				

6. Honorary Age Group Secretary's Report

Age Group Report AGM 2023.

Level 3 Development Meet

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.

Several coaches would support a one-day meet to include 50m and 100m events. Some parents will only support a day in a weekend.

We ran with 6 lanes, partly due to lack of officials and partly number of entries.

After the Swimming & Development meeting it has been proposed that we run over 2 days enabling swimmers to compete in events other than 50 & 100m events. To enable more swimmers to compete the lower entry times will be reviewed.

Palatine pool has provisionally been booked for Sat/Sun 6/7 July 2024.

The programme of events will be discussed further.

Level 2 Meet

All sessions ran well and finished within the timeline.

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.

This meet was discussed at the swimming & development meeting. It is hard to find the correct time to run this meet as it is a busy time of year. Some coaches feel it is too soon in the calendar, others see it as a starting point for the season ie. see where the swimmer is.

It was discussed as to whether this meet does need to run as a level 2. Times needed for winter nationals etc can be achieved at the winter regionals. The levy for level 3 is 15p per event less than for level 2. At level 3 meets trainee officials can be used. At level 2 all officials must be fully qualified.

It was proposed that for 2024 we run the meet as a level 3 using times as at level 2 over 3 days.

Again, the programme of events will be reviewed.

I was contacted by several clubs, not affiliated to North Lancs, regarding entry into the 800 & 1500m freestyle events.

The potential for a distance meet was discussed but it was considered to be unviable. It would be quite expensive to run.

A couple of points:

As we cater for coaches, please can clubs make sure that their coaches do attend for lunch to save wasting money!!

Swimmer no shows - very frustrating. On one day at the level 2 meet there were 31 no shows. Clubs must make sure they withdraw swimmers to avoid empty lanes.

Thanks to everyone for all their help and in the main clubs did fulfil their roles allocated.

Janice Whittle

04.12.23

The importance of the NLSWPA Meets was discussed. Clubs are encouraged to make them a priority within their competition calendar. Ideally meets would be run as eight lanes so we need to encourage participation. There has been a proliferation of open meets in recent years, entry fees of £4.50 per event at NLSWPA Meets are much lower than others. The benefit to Clubs is funding for the training bursary is generated. Possible 'softer times' for the Development Meet would allow more swimmers to enter. The July dates were chosen to avoid clashes with the Micro League.

The L2 Meet saw a disappointing number of swimmers entering. Prior to Covid numbers were ok. This was considered to be due to a lack of swimmers with times as required for a L2 meet. Changing the Age Groups and Championships to L3 would widen the field of swimmers eligible to enter, but relies on the accuracy of time trial entry times. Also helps with officials as trainees can be used making it easier to run with eight lanes.

The dates of the Age Groups and Championships were discussed with dates / venue to be considered at an Executive Meeting to fit with Winter Regionals.

Bob Thompson proposed that the Age Groups and Championships should be run as a L3 meet over three days. Seconded by Matt Howard, the vote was carried.

7. Honorary Swim League Secretary's Report

Mary Parkinson congratulated all teams for a successful 2023 Swim League and for completing team sheets correctly, no fines were issued in 2023. Teams are reminded to use the official team sheet which is available on the NLSWPA website. Dates of birth should be included for each swimmer and event. When completing teams clubs should pay attention to the mixed medley cannon, one girl or boy under 12 and one girl or boy in the open age category.

MP thanked officials and BT for their work and encouraged clubs to lend officials. Also thanked GW for running the AOE at Blackpool.

Congratulations to the 2023 Swim League winners:

Division 1 – Preston A

Division 2 – Clitheroe Dolphins

Promoted - Clitheroe Dolphins and Leyland B

Commiserations go to Ormskirk Otters & Fleetwood who are relegated to Division 2 for the 2024 season.

Carnforth would like to enter a B team which was agreed.

Division 1 – eight teams

Division 2 – seven teams

There remains one space available within the League.

The draw took place for rounds one and two of the Swim League 2024

Round One Sunday 21st January 2024 – Darwen

Division 1

Carnforth A	Lane 1	Door
Preston A	Lane 2	Water/Refresh
Clitheroe	Lane 3	Recorder
Blackpool Aquatics A	Lane 4	Check recorder
Leyland A	Lane 5	Announcer
Blackburn Centurions	Lane 6	
Leyland B	Lane 7	
Preston B	Lane 8	

Division 2 (Swim First)

Chorley	Lane 1	Door
Blackpool Aquatics B	Lane 2	Water/Refresh
Lancaster	Lane 3	Recorder
Ormskirk	Lane 4	Check recorder
Fleetwood	Lane 5	Announcer
Garstang	Lane 6	
Carnforth B	Lane 7	

Round Two Saturday 9th March 2024 - Blackpool

Division 1 (Swim First)

Preston B	Lane 1	Door
Blackpool A	Lane 2	Water/Refresh
Carnforth A	Lane 3	Recorder
Leyland B	Lane 4	Check recorder
Clitheroe	Lane 5	Announcer
Leyland A	Lane 6	
Blackburn Centurions	Lane 7	
Preston A	Lane 8	

Division 2

Chorley	Lane 1	Door
Ormskirk	Lane 2	Water/Refresh
Fleetwood	Lane 3	Recorder
Blackpool Aquatics B	Lane 4	Check recorder
Garstang	Lane 5	Announcer
Carnforth B	Lane 6	
Lancaster	Lane 7	

Round 3 – Saturday 15th June 2024 – Blackpool Palatine

Lanes will be allocated based on points scores after round two.

There was discussion about the increased cost of electronic timing at Darwen. With eight teams it was seen as important for the smooth running of fixtures.

8. Eligibility for Course Rebate Grant

Clubs claiming the £600 bursary should be seen to be involved and supporting NLSWPA. Two clubs have paid £25 affiliation and claimed the full rebate but have not participated in the league or meets. The bursary is funded from surpluses generated from meets so it is important to encourage participation. Support is regarded as sending swimmers to meets / participating in Swim League. Small clubs can find it difficult to field a team, provide officials and cover allocated jobs. Larger clubs should be encouraged to assist smaller clubs. Any change should not be punitive on smaller clubs and those starting out.

Bob Thompson proposed that eligibility for the training bursary should be dependent on a club participating in either Swim League or sending swimmers to a NLSWPA meet. The Executive would be able to consider exceptions for extenuating circumstances. This was seconded by Alison Lawson. Following a vote it was agreed that this would come into force from the end of September 2024.

9. Swim England NW Review of Local Association Information

The Regional Governance Group of SENW is reviewing information held for all Local Associations. They have requested the following information:

The boundary area of the Association.

Which clubs are affiliated to the Association.

What competitions / leagues are organised.

A copy of the current Constitution.

The current boundary of NLSWPA is based on a 50 mile radius of County Hall in Preston. Affiliated Clubs include / have included Prescott and Southport in Merseyside, Radcliffe, Greater Manchester and Kendal in Cumbria. It was agreed that the requested information would be submitted with no changes made.

10. Election of Officers

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

Role	Nominee	Proposed by	Seconded by
President	Lee Scanlan	Gary Whittle (Blackpool)	Alison Lawson (Blackpool)
Vice President	Louise Park	Lee Scanlan (Clitheroe)	Dominic Hartley (Chorley)
Hon. Secretary	Dominic Hartley	Janice Whittle (Blackpool)	Mary Parkinson (Chorley)
Hon. Treasurer	Alison Lawson	Gary Whittle (Blackpool)	Lee Scanlan (Clitheroe)
Hon. Champ & A/G Secretary	Janice Whittle	Sue Burrows (Blackpool)	Mary Parkinson (Chorley)
Hon. Swim League Secretary	Mary Parkinson	Janice Whittle (Blackpool)	Lee Scanlan (Clitheroe)
Hon. Water Polo Secretary	Ron Flude	Gary Whittle (Blackpool)	Dominic Hartley (Chorley)

Lee Scanlan as the newly elected President took the chair of the meeting.

11. Presentation of George Harris Salver

The George Harris Salver was presented to Helen Jenkins from Southport SC.

Helen has been involved in swimming for decades. She is a stalwart at Southport SC. Helen always has time for the swimmer – young and older. She coaches / teaches a squad and masters section at Southport. Helen has been a great advocate for masters swimming. She has competed at many events both home and abroad. She was masters rep on the Lancs executive and had the awesome task of selecting a Lancs masters team

to compete in the National Inter Counties Masters Competition. Helen has also officiated at many events including Nationals. She is always poolside with the Southport teams at Micro, Arena etc. Helen fully deserves to be recognised for her work and I am pleased to nominate her for this award.

Janice Whittle

12. Meeting dates

Executive meetings - All 8:00pm start

Monday 5th February 2024 (Hartwood Hall, Chorley)

Monday 8th April 2024

Monday 3rd June 2024

Monday 7th October 2024

Clubs are encouraged to send a representative to meetings. Increased participation will make the NLSWPA more responsive to the needs of affiliated clubs.

AGM 2024

Monday 2nd December 2024 – Venue & time TBC

13. AOB

Gillian Rankin raised the question of the future of trophies belonging to NLSWPA. An audit needs to be taken. To be discussed at the next Executive Committee.

Sue Tinkler is stepping back from her roles as Welfare Officer and Trophies Officer. To be discussed at the next Executive Committee.

There being no further business LS thanked everyone for their attendance.

BT proposed a vote of thanks for GW for chairing the meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.31pm.