

Chair
Hilary Manning

Secretary
Ian Fowler

Treasurer
Camilla Hadcock

Registration Secretary
Sue Tinkler



Affiliated to
swimnorthwest

AGM

Held on 08/01/2012 @ 10am
Hartwood Hall Hotel (Chorley)

Committee in an attendance:

All committee members were in attendance

Club Representatives in an attendance:

All clubs had at least one or more representatives in attendance a total of 27 including guests.

Meeting Opened at 10.15am

The meeting was opened by the Chair and welcomed all guests.

- **APOLOGIES:**
- Bob Thompson and Mick Jones.
- **MINUTES OF 2011:**
- Minutes of 2011 were taken as a true record of account and therefore redeemed as read. Apart from the correction of the date this should have stated the date of the previous year's minutes.
- **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE SAID MINUTES:**
- There were no matters arising from the said minutes.

CHAIR'S REPORT:

I covered most of the 2011 season in my report at the Interim AGM. To summarise, the season went very well and the Divisional Finals and swim offs were fantastic events with a number of new records being set.

On behalf of the Executive Committee, I'd like to once again thank all participants in the 2011 Micro League and congratulate our three Divisional champions: Southport Aqua who topped Division A, Chorley Division B and Liverpool Penguins Division C.

In particular well done to Southport Aqua who represented the NW league in the Northern Final coming third and gaining a place for the fifth year running in the National Final. They did really well coming fourth and winning 2 individual swimmer awards at the competition.

We held an Interim AGM in October, which was useful to review the 2011 Season and inform this meeting so it will run smoothly.

I'd like to thank my fellow Executive Committee members for all of their hard work and support. The Finals and Swim off galas especially take a lot of planning and activity. Ian and I are new to our posts and we've relied a lot on Sue and Camilla for their invaluable experience - many thanks! We are responsible for hosting the Northern Final this year too, so it will be busier than ever. Thanks also to Mick Jones for all the work he has carried out on running and improving the website.

Finally, Good Luck to all swimmers and clubs in the forthcoming season.

TREASURER'S REPORT:
MICRO LEAGUE OF THE NORTHWEST

TREASURERS REPORT YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2011

Firstly can I thank the executive committee for all their hard work over the year,

I feel that this past year has been a very successful one for the league, a lot of hard work over the last few years is paying off in our league being one of the most enjoyable to be part of.

The accounts show a small profit and we have a surplus balance in both the current and the reserve accounts. The Reserve account has attracted the princely sum of 96p interest this year, despite having more than £2000 in it for the whole year. I would like to consider what the members feel should be done with these funds.

Affiliation fees – this gives the club a running fund for organising galas, meetings and subscriptions. I propose that the fee stays the same for 2012 at £20 per club.

Pre selling of wristbands for the swim offs and finals day was successful for the league, firstly making entry easier to manage on the day and also ensuring that the event was run without making a loss. Propose to keep ticket price inc raffle at £3.00

All clubs who haven't yet seen me to give in their affiliation.

I will be retiring at the end of this year.

Thanks

We also discussed an 'Independent Examiner' of our accounts this was proposed by Steve Makin and Mary Parkinson and second by Garry Whittle. Garry Whittle has kindly volunteered to be our new 'Independent Examiner'. On behalf of the Committee we would like to thank Garry for volunteering. As stated above within the report our current Treasurer Camilla sadly informed the board and everyone present at this AGM she would be standing down as Treasurer at the end of this season.

REGISTRATION REPORT:

I think this year I would like to start with the Thank You`s.

1. Thank you to all the team Managers for getting the results in on time
2. Thank you to the swimmers for their commitment to the teams
3. Thank you to the parents for getting the swimmers to the galas and making that commitment.

4. Thank you to Mick Jones for his web site
5. Thank you to the Executive Committee for their hard work.

Now to take each one in turn.

1. The Team Managers have done a great job getting the results in on time. We had a couple of hic-ups. Which is as they say `same old problem`. Incorrect team sheet being sent. We set the rules last year to try and prevent this from happening. Unfortunately this sheet is still on the web site. This is to be removed. I also put some of this down to information not being taken back to the clubs correctly and past to the relevant people. Saying that rules are rules and we have enforced them.
2. Thank you for the commitment of the swimmers. I can see the problems that Team Mangers have with this (I also remember it well from my days as a team manager). I can see the swimmers who are the main members of the various teams and also the swimmers that are asked to swim time and time again only to let the team down. I find that I change the names of the same swimmers on regular basis.
3. Then to the Parents love them or hate them we need them. It is sad that it is always the same ones who Transport swimmers, are there to do the various jobs at each gala. I am not sure if it is a case of being frightened of the commitment or that they always think `such a body will do it`. Please parents get involved you don't know how much you will get out of it unless you try.
4. And now to Mick Jones. I am sure especially those who have been involved as long as I have will appreciate the work Mick does. The web site has made not only my job easier but the Team Mangers. Every year that I have been involved he has updated this site to make it easier to use. This year I have had more access which has made things easier for me. I know we have had a few gremlins in the system but Mick was straight on the case to sort them out. I can't thank him enough for the work he does. As you will also be aware we now have the top boy/girl etc. this again is thanks to Mick.
5. The Executive Committee. As you all will probably be aware we had 2 new members. A few changes were made until both Hilary and Ian had to hit the season running to catch up. I have to say I was very worried at one point not knowing who was taking on the role. It also highlighted to me the need that Gillian Rankin always emphasised is the need for the next in line to start to shadow the roles. We did try to do this but unfortunately those people did not take up the position. I think they have both done a fantastic job especially as Ian is so new to the sport.
6. My major problem this year was at the finals. Although the team sheets were sent to me as requested not all in time I have to add. (I do understand the problems but we had made allowances for this). The problem occurred with the changes. (This was no fault of the team managers but an admin problem) The changes were not always given in writing but verbally to Garry. This meant that when I wanted to ratify the results and make sure the correct swimmers names were on the sheets I did not have all the information. Garry did a fantastic job of making sure the swimmers names and teams showed on the score board. But he only recorded the Individual names which is what he needed. I needed the names for the relays. As I said an admin problem which will be addressed for next year. Hopefully we did get it right BUT I think we may have a couple of errors.

This I will say only came to light when I went to ratify the results.

Now to the future:

1. As I have said we have the top boy/girl this means it is important I have the correct names on the team sheets and that the changes are made correctly.
2. Team Sheets **please please please** use the correct ones. I hate penalising swimmers for a mistake made by adults.
3. Please fill in the web site with your results. Everyone wants to see this and although I can do it, it takes longer as I get 3 lots of results at the same time usually up to a week later. The swimmers are now checking this site as well as the coaches.

Changes and improvements to the web site:

Firstly apologies from Mick Jones for not being at the AGM

1. The problem with names that contain spaces, hyphens etc. has now been addressed
2. A blank selection is now permitted.
3. A new button on the site `Live`
 - a) Programmes: This makes programmes (inc swimmer names) available 24 hours prior to fixture.
 - b) Live results: This will update with event by event results live at a gala (refreshes every 2 minutes) and should be readable on your average smartphone. (Mick would like to attend the first gala of the season to put this to the test (date and time dependant))

Again thanks to Mick for everything he is doing with the web site.

GOOD LUCK EVERYONE FOR THE NEW SEASON AND JUST REMEMBER WE ARE HOSTING THE NORTHERN AREA FINAL THIS YEAR.

ARENA INTER-JUNIOR LEAGUE AGM REPORT:

Cherry gave a comprehensive account reporting back from the AGM. Attendees Kevin, Cherry and Ian. Due to adverse weather conditions last year, it was discussed the possibility of setting up an electronic voting system. It was decided that this would only apply to those delegates that couldn't attend due to such conditions and those leagues that did not have a representation in the finals. The tickets for the Finals have been increased from £4.50 to a new price of £5.00 per ticket. The semi final tickets would be £4.00 per ticket. The new Chairperson was from the Milton Keynes League and was already voted in prior to the AGM meeting. The Treasurer and Secretary would remain the same. Also it was noted Ian (myself) will write and ask for the election policy/process held by the committee as our Kevin Whiteside would be interested again if a position became available.

Again there was lengthy discussions about age.

- Age as of 31st December – but those who are 9 between the last Sunday in November and 31st December would not be able to swim as a 9 year old.
- Age as of last Sunday in November. If the Junior League was considered to be made up of a SERIES OF EVENTS then the end date would be as of midnight on last date of the competition.
- The use of 3 No End Dates:
 1. The end of the Leagues Galas (For Micro League the Division Swim Off Finals in September)
 2. The date of the Semi Finals
 3. The date of the Finals – (The last Sunday in November)

The ASA has still not answered any of these questions above. No decision was taken – so we just continue as we are.

The age 12 years relay event being 50m and not 25m in the Semis and Finals was not discussed so a decision cannot be taken. For this year's competition this should stay at 25m.

RULE CHANGES:

Chairman read out the updating of rule changes for the 2012 year these were all voted upon individually and was passed unanimously except for slight amendment to the proposals for Rules 3a & 14 and the rejection of new rule 11k. League rules to be amended for 2012. (Rules attached)

NEW ENTRANTS:

No New Entrants this year.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

We discussed that due to this year's Northern Final being held by our North West Micro League, we proposed forming a sub committee. Kevin Whiteside, Cherry Wilkinson and Steve Heaps agreed to be members of this committee. Garry Whittle agreed to organise the officials for this Northern Final Gala. Armbands were discussed with regards to own Swim Off Finals. It was agreed that myself (Ian Fowler) will get these issued as early as possible to allow the respective clubs to plan early for the gala.

FIXTURES FOR 2012:

The fixtures were read out based on the fixed date system during our meeting and mainly all the dates and warm up times have been agreed. See Attached updated list for final fixtures.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

Our Current Treasurer will be standing down at the end of this season. It was agreed that Pioneer 79 will propose the new Treasurer for 2013.

FUTURE DATES:

Finals to be held at Blackpool Palatine Leisure Centre on the 8th of September 2012.

Northern Finals to be held at Blackpool Palatine Leisure Centre on the 7th October 2012.

Interim Meeting proposed 14th of October 2012 time 10am Hartwood Hall Hotel Chorley. Subject to North Lancashire Gala.

AGM 6th of January 2013 10am venue to be arranged.

MEETING CLOSED:

The meeting closed at 11.30pm.

