

Chair
Michelle Jones

Secretary
Steve Heaps

Treasurer
Steve Makin

Registration Secretary
Sue Tinkler



Affiliated to
swimnorthwest

AGM

Held on 04/01/2015 @ 10am
Hartwood Hall Hotel (Chorley)

Committee in an attendance:

The Chair sent her apologies for the meeting as she was unable to attend.

Club Representatives in an attendance:

All clubs had at least One Delegate present with the exception of Lancaster and Swim Trafford who were not represented at the meeting.

Meeting Opened at 10.00am

The meeting was opened by Steve Heaps (Secretary).

- **APOLOGIES:**
Michelle Jones (Blackburn Centurions); Michael Jones (Clitheroe); Andy Daykin (Lancaster); James Stannard (Swim Trafford):
- **MINUTES OF 2014:**
The Secretary apologized for the lack of minutes published for the 2014 AGM as he was having difficulty locating them after the handover in 2014. There were no minutes from the 2014 AGM present to go through, the Secretary said he would continue to search.
- **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:**
Due to the above there were no matters arising from the said minutes.

CHAIR'S REPORT:

To All Microleague Delegates,

On behalf of the Executive Committee, I'd like to once again thank all participants in the 2014 Micro League and congratulate our three Divisional champions: Leyland A who topped Division A, Everton A Division B and Preston B Division C.

The season has again produced some fantastic matches and the Divisional Finals and swim offs were fantastic events.

In particular, well done to Southport Aqua who won the very closely fought Division A swim off and represented the NW league in the Northern Area Final. Southport did us proud and won the final so gaining a place in the National Final. They competed well during a close fought competition, during which there was a second competition as Northampton, Southport and City of Norwich kept swapping positions for 3rd, 4th and 5th with Southport finally finishing 4th overall in the Final.

I have decided to carry on for another twelve months as Chair of the North West Microleague as long as you all accept me doing so. At the National Inter League meeting in November I was also appointed as the National Chair.

At that meeting the main discussion was on the age on the day ruling and you have all had a copy of my paper prepared for the National Inter league. As we are a separate league we can make our own decisions on how we use the age rules, within the ASA rules. We have for a number of years been using the date of the National Final but this is incorrect and we need to change it.

There are a two options that I can see for this.

- 1 We can follow the ruling of the national league which will mean that our cut off date for the 9yr olds would need to be date of our league final and swim offs and the remainder of the ages 31st December. This could mean some problems for a lot of the smaller clubs who may struggle to field a full 9yr old team as we can only use the first 8 months of the year. This also means that those born in the last quarter of the year would only be able to swim in the competition for 3 years, as their first chance would be as 10 year olds.
- 2 We can use the date of our final for all age groups although this would mean no difference for the nine year olds as, under present ASA law, the 31st December could not be used. The difference here would be that all age groups would miss the last 4 months of the year. This would mean that we would lose some swimmers out of the competition altogether.

My own opinion is that we really need to go with the first option and I understand that this is going to be difficult.

I know that this will again bring up the question of category 2 registration and according to ASA law we cannot do anything about this as for any competition that could lead to a national competition registrations need to be category 2.

The financial position of the National league was also discussed and I have attached a copy of the financial statement as given out to the end of June 2014. As you can see the league is spending more than it is making. As a result of this the fees for each league have now been put up to £5 per club. For 2015 this has been paid for by your Executive committee with no change in club fees although this may have to be considered for future years. The national committee has now taken over the paying of all bills for the Northern and Southern Area finals, from this year. Partly this is to attempt to ensure that all these three competitions make money. The cost of attending the three finals will now be £5 per person. These measures should help to steady the financial position of the National league. I'd like to thank my fellow Executive Committee members for all of their hard work and support - especially during the preparation for and running of the Finals and Swim off galas. 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.

Kind regards

Michelle Jones

There was a healthy discussion which took place around the age old debate around Ages for Micro-League & National League. The report for this was given in the Chair's report above.

It was voted on at the meeting that for the 2015 season the ages for 9 yr olds would be age as at 29th November 2015 & the ages for 10/11 & 12 yr olds would be age as at 31st December 2015. The vote was 19 in favour of this and 3 against with no abstentions.

There was also a vote around bringing in 50m individual events for 9 yr olds in Division A only. The result of this vote was that 17 delegates voted in favour of Division A swimming 50m individual events for Freestyle, Breaststroke & Backstroke and 25m Individual events for Butterfly, with Divisions B & C remaining unchanged. 1 delegate voted against with 1 more abstaining.

Ian Chappell (Fleetwood) asked that the rules for Micro-League need to be clarified in full so all are fully aware of the rules of competition. The Secretary said the rules will be looked at and changed accordingly.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

It was discussed and agreed to raise the cost of the registration fee in 2016 from £20.00 to £35.00 per team. This should allow the league remain financially secure.

The treasurer brought the problem with the bank account to the attention of the meeting. He has tried over the last 12 months to change the signatories on the account but this has proved difficult. It was agreed that Sue Tinkler (Registrations Secretary) would go into her local Nat West and arrange to get the account updated.

The signatories on the account to be as follows:
Sue Tinkler (already signs on the account) Registration Secretary
Steve Makin Treasurer
Michelle Jones Chair
Steve Heaps Secretary.

All other signatories other than those stated above are to be removed.

TREASURERS REPORT YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2014

REGISTRATION REPORT:

Thank you to everyone for the support I have had this year. It has been a very difficult year for my family.

In preparation for this report I started looking through previous years. Sad to say it usually says the same thing.

1. Check names entered on web are done correctly
2. ASA Affiliation
3. Hand in correct paper work
4. Post on time

5. Correct Postage

I am pleased to say that this year was very much an improvement. We still had a few problem but by no means as many or as serious as in the past.

Saying all that I have a new Category to add;

6. Smelliest Results

This does not carry a fine or a point`s deduction but should have a health warning. Please don`t get any ideas with a mask and rubber gloves I still managed to check them. (Although Steve and Michelle were not so keen.) They remain in a sealed bag.

As you will all be aware from Michelle`s report we now have some changes to the League. Mick will have made all the changes necessary to the web site in time for registrations.

Advice for 2015

- a. Please make sure the details entered on the web site are the same as on the ASA data base.
- b. Make sure the contact person for the club is kept up to date on the web site.
- c. Be careful if more than one person has access to the web site (this did cause some problems last year.)
- d. Again as above 1 person contacting me. (Preferably the named contact).
- e. The home club should use a check list for what has to be handed in.
(This only becomes difficult when a week has passed and I am chasing the information)
- f. All officials particularly those Refereeing the galas understand the NWML Rules (this again has caused problems in the past) If in doubt ask.
- g. If a swimmer is also a member of another club make sure you check which club they wish to swim for before registering them.

Please don`t forget I can make changes as long as a swimmer has not already swum.

I know for some this is all normal procedure but every item above has occurred in 2014.

I would like to wish you all the best the 2015 season especially the 2 new clubs if accepted.

Susan Tinkler

Registration Secretary 2014

National Inter League AGM 24th November 2014

This was covered in the Chair`s report above.

Rule Changes

There were a couple of rule changes (see above) around the ages and individual events. The rules will be changed accordingly and published with these minutes.

Fixtures

There was a complete review of the proposed fixed dates and attached is the agreed dates and warm up times for this forthcoming season. 1 fixture still requires confirmation.

New Entrants

Swim Trafford & Lytham St. Anne's were accepted into the league for 2015 and will start their Micro-League life in Division C.

AOB:

There was no AOB discussed.

FUTURE DATES:

Micro League Swim off Finals Day: Venue & Times TBC

Northern Final: Venue & time TBC

National Final 29th November 2015 – Venue Corby.

MEETING CLOSED:

The meeting closed at 11:45am.