



The National Arena Swimming League

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of The National Arena Swimming League held at SportPark, Loughborough on Sunday, 30th June, 2019

Those present: Ian Mackenzie(IM) (National Secretary), Brian Collis(BC) (East Midlands), Sheila Mackenzie(SM) (London), Brian Boyle(BB) and Gary Whittle (GW) (North West), Spencer Farmer (SF) (South), Adrian Edwards(AE) (Western) and Clive Smith (CS) (West Midlands)

The meeting commenced at 10.15am.

- 1) **Apologies** Kathy Hook (KH) (South)
 - 2) **Chairman** Adrian Edwards took the chair.
 - 3) **AGM minutes dated 24th June, 2018** The minutes were approved.
 - 4) **Matters arising, not covered by an agenda item** It was noted that the date shown for today's meeting was incorrect.
 - 5) **Correspondence** IM advised that the Swim England insurance for the League had been received.
IM reported the resignation of John Dring, as the League's webmaster. IM had written to him to thank him for his work for the League.
Nikki Dodd at Solo Sports had been tweeting. It was suggested that it would be better to have more people throughout the individual leagues, using this means of communication. Preferences for Facebook, twitter etc. were accepted, but it was felt that twitter would be appropriate and beneficial leading up to the rounds.
 - 6) **National Secretary's report**
 - a) IM apologised for the late production of this report, which meant that it had not been presented to the Annual General Meetings of the leagues which had already taken place. IM commented on some of the report's content and confirmed that Cardiff International Pool was booked until 2025. The report will be published on the website.
 - b) **Sponsorship**

The current sponsorship contract expires at the end of 2019. Speedo had approached IM with a view to possibly sponsoring the League again.

Solo Sports asked to see the accounts, to have an understanding of the costs incurred by the individual leagues. They want the individual leagues to be financially viable – and they are. Ideally Solo Sports would wish the registration fees to be the same for each league, but IM pointed out that this was not achievable, with pool hire costs and number of lanes in a pool being just two of the different situations in the autonomous leagues. There was some discussion and sharing of information about pool hire costs, fees for entry and travel levies.

IM went to Cumbria to meet with Solo Sports, and he identified a buffer of ideally £25,000 to cover emergencies such as loss of sponsorship. This buffer is depleted at the moment - the finals weekend had cost more than usual because of the extras for the 50th anniversary.

Solo Sports generously agreed an extra sum to re-establish the buffer. They also paid for all the website set-up costs, which were due to be a 50/50 split. When the history of the league was being written, IM asked that the bill was sent to Solo Sports for payment, with the view to repaying the cost. However, Solo Sport have covered all this cost. Their generosity of sponsorship is gratefully acknowledged. Solo Sports has also agreed a further five year deal to 2025 ensuring the viability of the league into the future.

The webmaster has provided U-tube clips for the secretaries regarding the website use. IM will provide the secretaries with the link. The webmaster also needs to be advised the contact email address of the person from each league with responsibility for inputs to the website. .
 - c) **The future:** AE asked about the North East league. There was discussion about trying to re-establish this league, and IM gave full feedback on the perceived difficulties and the challenges in that area of the country, and details of the efforts and outcomes from previous efforts to re-establish the North East league. It was decided that AE would draft a press release to advertise the league to the North East clubs. IM will ask Solo Sports to assist in the advertising of the league in the North East.
- Similarly, with Scotland, IM gave details of the efforts and outcomes from trying to bring Scotland into the League.
- IM said that work was being done to try to establish an Irish league, with a set-up like the existing individual leagues. There had been no objection from FINA or British Swimming for this to be tried.
- AE also asked about the Junior Inter-League. IM reported on the efforts made to encourage a change of structure. There was no willingness to change, and IM had been told that the Arena sponsorship monies were not required either. It was agreed that the way forward would be for the individual leagues to set up a Junior

league within their league area. BB said that this could be done through the present committee. BC and CS felt that East and West Midlands could work together to set a Junior league up. The aim was a new Junior Arena League, separate from the individual leagues in the National League, but mirroring them. All leagues would swim the same programmes, on the same dates, with the same age-group and the same length of pool. IM said that Swim England Head of Talent, Grant Robbins, supported the idea of fixed dates for a junior league, as this identified dates to be avoided when setting up development and talent camps. IM will ask Solo Sports if there would be sponsorship monies available. If there was a positive response, then the league secretaries will try to move it forward. Every effort would be made to identify someone in each of the present leagues to administer these junior leagues.

7) Round up of AGMs

East Midlands:

The AGM will be in September. The draw will be done by Dave Hendel and BC. There are 24 teams, and there will be one division comprised of four galas

London: There were nine attendees, five of whom were the executive members. Four clubs were represented. Changes were made to the conditions, to address anomalies found, last season, in the draw for the final round. The fees were increased to £120 for the 2020-2021 season. The round one draw was made. There are 50 teams in three divisions – premier, division one and division two. Both the premier division and division one have 16 teams swimming in 8-team galas. Division two has 18 teams in three 6-team galas. All galas are licensed - the premier division as level 2, and the other two divisions as level three. SM reported the withdrawal of Ealing SC from the league

North West:

There were 30 attendees at the AGM, representing 12 clubs. There are 55 teams swimming in four divisions. The membership fee was not changed. A privacy policy was adopted. There were no rule changes, apart from the name change of Swim England.

South: The AGM was held on 2nd June, with 14 attendees (25%-30% of teams involved in the league). All galas will be licensed. There will be 14 galas per round for the 83 teams. Fines were increased for the non-provision of required officials. A number of constitutional changes were made, including the name change to Swim England. The website was discussed. Also discussed was the change of swimmer for an event. Changes must be made on official paperwork, not randomly. The order of swim in a relay was discussed.

Western: This is to be held on 25th July 2019 There are 58 teams. Minor changes to the conditions are to be made. Fees are £180, rising to £230 if unpaid by 28th February. Round three galas will be licensed.

West Midlands: The AGM was held on 12th June, and 14 clubs were represented. There are currently 71 teams in the league. Anomalies in the conditions have been corrected. Provision has been made to cover the situation where galas are cancelled. There is now a process to establish a gala result, so that teams can be drawn in a subsequent round

8) Honorary Treasurer's report and presentation of accounts as at 28.2.19

An income and expenditure account to 28.2.19 was provided.

IM commented on various details.

Having the financial year end at the last day of February, means that the finals weekend in early March is in the next financial year.

It was agreed that the date for the year end should be 31st March.

The accounts were accepted.

9) Finals

- a) **2019** The League to host in Cardiff on 2nd/3rd March 50th/19th Hosting guests and chairing - Western
- b) **2020** The League to host in Cardiff on 7th/8th March 51st/20th Hosting guests and chairing - London
- c) **2021** The League to host in Cardiff on 6th/7th March 52nd/21st Hosting guests and chairing - West Midlands

10) Rule changes

- a) The rules were amended to show Swim England rather than ASA
- b) Other minor changes of wording were made to the conditions
- c) Two proposals had been received from the Western league.

The first proposal was discussed, with input and views from each league

The motion was as follows:-

The system used to select teams to swim in the national final by selection through a "virtual gala" should be amended, and the top 10 ranked teams in the whole of the country, regardless of their league placing, are invited to attend the A final to allow greater competition between swimmers and teams to find the best team in the country.

Although having the top teams from the virtual gala would provide a more equal competition on the day, it was agreed that the League final was set up as a competition for the constituent leagues, and each league should therefore have a representative. There was great concern that teams would withdraw from the leagues if there was no opportunity for them to qualify as winners of that league.

The motion was therefore rejected, and the selection for the galas at finals weekend will remain as it is.

As a result of this decision, the second motion received from Western league did not have to be considered.

7) Election of officers

There being only one nomination for each of the three-year posts, no vote was necessary

- a) National Secretary: Ian Mackenzie
- b) National Treasurer: Ian Mackenzie

12) Election of independent financial examiner

Leigh Mulford was appointed as the independent financial examiner.

13) Rounds 2019/20

- a) Programmes The individual leagues submitted their requirements to IM.

IM said that Solo Sports had no problem with electronic programmes rather than hard copy. South was the only league which is likely to take this option, if a download is available.

- b) Bannerettes The individual leagues submitted their requirements to IM.

14) Date of next executive committee meeting – Sunday 8th September 2019 - SportPark, Loughborough, 10am for 10.15am BC gave his apologies - he is unable to attend on that date

15) Date of AGM 2020– Sunday 28th June 2020 – SportPark, Loughborough, 10am for 10.15am

The meeting closed at 2.20pm