

The National Arena Swimming League – West Midlands

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of The National Arena Swimming League-West Midlands on Tuesday 13th June at Novatel Coventry start time 7.00 pm.

Those present: Ralph Shepherd (Derby Excel) Chairman; Monica Brown Treasurer, Clive Smith Ann Pollard (Stourbridge) Eligibility Recorder

Secretary and representatives from the following clubs. – Etwall Eagles, Repton, Worcester, Leamington Spa, Kingsbury, Sandwell Aquatics, Radford, Redditch, Blyth Barracudas, City of Coventry, Halesowen, Solihull

1. Apologise were received from the following clubs: Keith Munday Vice Chair, Stratford Sharks, Abingdon, Long Eaton, Bromsgrove, Camphill, Cannock Phoenix, Arnold, Bramcote, Bicester, Burntwood, Wyre Forest Flitwick, Belper Marlin, Sutton in Ashfield, Orion, Walsall, Evesham, Swadlincote, Witney & District, Ledbury, Newcastle Staffs, Boldmere. Perry Beeches
2. Matters Arising – None
3. Secretary Report (Clive Smith)

2022 season became challenging following the AGM, we lost number of teams leaving Premier Division 24 (but losing Leicester Sharks after round 1) Division 2 with 23 teams after Braunstone only manging A team. Then Division three ending up with only 19 teams. There were many challenges though the rounds with pools now at different times. The last round came as you know I try to rota the hosting. I gave the hosting to Ludlow in Division 3 who tell me they only bringing 2 adults to host and head coach to run team, I put request to other 6 teams which I got some support but on Wednesday I took the decision to cancel the gala.

We got to December with the 3 finals were held and Premier League winners City of Coventry, Leamington Spa. Repton A took Division 2 title, and New team Newcastle Staffs were Division 3 winners. The trophies were presented on the night by Ralph Keith and Myself

Leamington and City of Coventry went to Cardiff to represent the West Midlands Arena League at National Finals

For record big thanks to all clubs did host in 2022

In the early rounds I and Monica visited galas in October and November

Thanks goes to rest of committee who help run league Ralph, Monica Sandra Stuart & Keith who put the work in behind scenes.

Going forward going to move running 8 team galas (2023 in premier and division 3) my aim is to get to 4 pools where we can run back-to-back galas starting at 2.00 ish and 5.30

4. Chairmans Report (Ralph Shepherd)

I have to say that this year has been a challenge for most clubs in the League not just in the West Midlands but in the Country as a whole as it seems that we are still feeling the after effect of the Covid epidemics and the economic climate of increased costs, which has been a struggle for some clubs to field teams to take part in the League and has seen them pull out because of it

Fortunately, Clive has had some new clubs join the League which has replaced the ones that left, and we now have at least a shortened list of galas for each of our 3 Leagues.

I would like to thank the officers and volunteers of the West Midlands Arena League for all their efforts, which has been more that taxing this year to make it successful yet again.

As you know there is a great amount of work that happens in the background to organise the three rounds but this year it has proved to be more difficult, particularly in obtaining officials to work on the poolside.

This coming years competition will be even worse as all the Leagues will be licensed and qualified officials will be required.

This year's finals we were represented by "City of Coventry" in the "Cup Final" which was eventually won by "Millfield" & we were represented by "Leamington Spa" in the "B" final which was won by "Basildon Phoenix."

As usual both our clubs came up against extremely good teams that took part in their respective galas, and I would like to congratulate them for representing our League and I am sure that they all enjoyed the experience particularly the younger swimmers who may not have competed in a National Final before

5. Financial Report – The league lost £5335 in the last 12 months, this was due to decision taken at the last AGM not to charge the clubs £40 leagues fees (with 65 clubs this would be £2600). The other major cost is £3000 increase in pool hire with few pools costing us £700 per gala. The Sponsorship this year 2983 which is net figure after bannerettes, previous year was gross then bannerettes in the cost.
TJFP next year as the auditors

6. Elections - The following were elected to the relevant posts;
Chairman Ralph Shepherd
Vice Chairman Keith Munday
Treasurer Monica Brown
Secretary Clive Smith
Results Stuart Parker
Eligibility recorder Ann Pollard

Officials' co-ordinator – TO BE APPOINTED
Financial Examiner TGFP Ltd

7. Change of Name – City of Derby to Derby Excel (Ralph Explained how that swimmers who on Excel programme will be registered to other Derbyshire club will swim there parent club in Arena League)
8. Rules and Conditions were distributed on the night and there were discussion:
 - 8.1 – All galas will be Licenced – Following conversation with Ian Mckenzie (National League Secretary) West Midlands will start this year by Licence each gala at Level 4 – in 2024 we then try move forward to level 3 in higher divisions
 - 8.2 - 9 year old swimmers why can they swim in relays but not individuals – this is down to swim England regulations 410.5 (See swim England handbook)
 - 8.3 – Round 3 – Swimmers CAN swim in Round 3 even if they NOT swam in Round 1 & 2. They must be registered with league by 30th September. For Premier league teams if you qualify for National in Cardiff then can only swim swimmers who have swam in at least 1 of the 3 rounds
 - 8.4 Adjustment typo errors
 - Condition 5.1.2.3 – add the 3rd Highest
 - Change Event 19/20 – age group 10/11
 - The list of events 27 onward – change top to female/open
9. Resignations and applications
 - Resignation – Ripley Rascals, Leighton Buzzard, Dunstable, Kidlington & Gosford, Dronfield Dolphins, Hinckley B, City of Hereford, Sandwell Aquatics B
 - Applicants New Clubs – 6 Stafford Apex, Cheltenham S&WP Leicester Sharks, Shrewsbury Long Eaton B City of Oxford
10. Teams - The list of teams to swim this season 2023– been issued prior to meeting. We have 24 in Premier and Division 2, at present we have 14 teams in Division 3 (if we have any enquiry before September, I accept them into Division 3)
 - Premier Division going to be 3 galas of 8 teams in each gala
 - Division Two going to be 4 galas of 6 team in each gala
 - Division Three going to be 2 galas with 7 each gala at present (if new team applies then 1st team go gala 1 and if 2nd team they go into gala 2)
11. The draw for round 1 was made by all present with each team being pulled out the bag for gala and lane draw.
12. Date of 2024 AGM – Tuesday 11th June @ Novetel Coventry
13. The meeting closed at 20.31 with thanks to all present