



The National Arena Swimming League - London

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of The National Arena Swimming League-London
via Zoom on Wednesday, 29th May 2024**

Those present: Marc Barrot(MB) (Camden Swiss Cottage), Chairman, Kay Grimshaw(KG) (Saxon Crown), Administration Officer, Ian Mackenzie(IM) (Hoddesdon), Treasurer, Sheila Mackenzie(SM) (Hoddesdon), Secretary and Sofia Marcal Whittles (SMW), Elected Member

The following clubs were represented:- Aylesbury & District SC, Basildon & Phoenix SC, Bishops Stortford SC, Borough of Harrow SC, Broomfield Park SC, Camden Swiss Cottage SC, Chelsea & Westminster SC, Hillingdon SC and Leighton Buzzard SC.

The meeting commenced at 7pm,

1. Apologies for absence Enfield Swim Squad, Saxon Crown SC and Ware SC

2. Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 1st June 2023 These were approved.

3. Matters arising None

4. Secretary's report for the year to 31st March, 2024 SM highlighted some points.

The full report is available on the website.

In response to a question about the referees appointed for the galas, SM said that the league is very fortunate in having a loyal team of experienced referees and starters who continue to support the galas - giving their time freely for the benefit of the athletes. None of the referees appointed during the season had swimmers in the galas, and all were fully qualified referees. SM stated that every effort is made to appoint the referees to a gala in which their club is not involved. This then avoids any perceived conflict of interest.

5. Financial report

a) Balance sheet as at 31st March 2024

IM presented the accounts for the year to 31.3.24, and commented on various points. The cost of hire of pools continues to increase substantially. There was no income from fines for the lack of provision of required officials or for late withdrawal from the league.

There was more income from spectator fees this year, and there were still substantial funds, but with continuing increases in pool hire there was a need to ensure that funds were not eroded drastically in future years. Therefore a proposal was being made for an increase in registration fees for the year 2025-2026, and also for a small percentage increase in those fees each year subsequently.

There were no questions and the accounts were adopted.

b) Secretary's advanced expenses - proposal

The executive committee had proposed the removal of this item of expenditure. SM stated that as long as the expenses of postage, stationery and delivery of paperwork for the rounds was covered, there was no need for any additional payment.

The proposal for the removal of the Secretary's advanced expenses was agreed.

c) Payment towards expenses of teams qualifying for a final on the national finals weekend in March 2025, in accordance with the National League's qualification criteria.

It was suggested by two teams which would normally attend the finals weekend that perhaps this payment was not necessary, especially as the amount was insignificant against the costs incurred. SM felt that it should still be offered by the league, and it was suggested that there should be an option to decline the financial contribution if the team felt that was appropriate for them.

IM will ask the teams if they will accept or decline the financial contribution, and if declined then the money will be accounted for as a donation to the league funds.

The proposal for a financial contribution of £500 per team was agreed.

d) Registration fees 2025-2026

It was proposed that the registration fee for 2025-2026 will be £160, rising to £200 for late payment.

This was agreed.

e) Future year's registration fees

There was a proposal for a small percentage increase in the registration fee year on year.

This was agreed - and will come into effect for the registration fees for 2026-2027.

f) Fines

It was agreed that there will be no increase in fines for the non-provision of required officials, or for late withdrawal from the league, or for withdrawal from the rounds.

6. National Secretary's report

The National Secretary's report is available on the website. IM commented on various aspects.

IM advised that Arena, via their UK distributor, Solo Sports, continue to be fully supportive of the League, and that the contract has been agreed for a further five years of sponsorship until 2030.

IM announced that commencing in 2025-2026 season, there will be a change of date for the last round. The rounds have always been on the second full weekend of the months of October, November and December, but in order to accommodate the Swim England Winters in December, the final round of the league will be held on the first full weekend of December from December 2025 onwards. The Swim England will use the second weekend.

7. Programme 2024, and changes to conditions

The programme for 2024 will continue with 51 events.

It was noted that any changes in the National League conditions will be reflected in the London league conditions where applicable.

Also noted was that the spectator entrance fee for the galas in 2024 will be £5.

8. The election of the executive committee to serve for the next 12 months

As there was only one nomination for the each of the posts, the following were elected for the roles, without a vote being necessary:

a) Chairman	Marc Barrot (Camden Swiss Cottage)
b) Treasurer	Ian Mackenzie (Hoddesdon)
c) Secretary	Sheila Mackenzie (Hoddesdon)
d) Administration Officer	Kay Grimshaw (Saxon Crown)
e) Elected Member	Sofia Marcal Whittles (Chelsea & Westminster)

9. Election of two delegates to The National Swimming League Annual General Meeting on 23rd June, 2024 via Zoom

Sheila Mackenzie and Kay Grimshaw were elected as the two delegates to The National Swimming League Annual General Meeting.

10. To confirm the teams in the divisions on Saturdays 12th October, 9th November and 14th December 2024

In April, invitations to register were sent to all those teams which competed last year. Registrations are now complete.

Three teams - Shiverers, Leander and Hertford - have withdrawn from the league.

Minutes subject to approval at the Annual General Meeting 2025

Premier division: Enfield Swim Squad and Bishops Stortford were promoted to the premier division in December 2023. The premier division will have 16 teams for 2024.

Division one: Shiverers and Halstead were relegated to division one in December 2023, and Brompton and Dunmow Atlantis were promoted from division two. There were only 14 teams in the division last season, and to maximise the number to 16 teams this season, no teams were relegated, and to cover the withdrawals of Shiverers and Leander, two extra teams are promoted from division two - these are Colchester and Dunstable.

Division two: There were 16 teams in the division last season, so with the promotion of four teams, and the withdrawal of Hertford, division two currently has 11 teams.

11. Draw for round one The draw for round one on Saturday 12th October 2024 was announced.

The Chairman closed the meeting, thanking those who had given up their time to attend.