

The National Arena Swimming League – West Midlands

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of The National Arena Swimming League-West Midlands on Tuesday 10th June 2025 at Pingles Leisure Centre Nuneaton start time 7.05 pm.

Those present: Ralph Shepherd (Derby Excel) Chairman; Keith Munday (Sandwell) Vice Chair, Monica Brown (Stratford Sharks) Treasurer, Clive Smith Secretary, Ann Pollard (Stourbridge) Eligibility Recorder

Secretary and representatives from the following clubs. – Etwall Eagles, Worcester, Leamington Spa, Blyth Barracudas, Boldmere, Kingsbury, & City of Coventry

1. Apologise were received from the following clubs: Orion, Camphill, Radford, Long Eaton, Stradford Sharks, Pershore, Sutton in Ashfield, Stafford Apex, Witney & District, Solihull, Cheadle & District, Arnold, Mansfield, Evesham, Flitwick, Ledbury, Chase
2. Matters Arising – Bonus points rule that was bought in after round 2 worked there was only one place movement following round 3.

Welfare Officer, the league do not need to appoint Welfare officer as each club should have one, they don't have to be at gala but if issue comes up they would need to deal with the matter.

PA Systems and AOE was sorted for 2024 for 2024 by Clive

Reminder that 2025 round 3 will be swam on 1st Saturday as requested by Swim England to give swimmers more time to prepare for Winter GB's – therefore Round 3 be 6th December

3. Secretary Report (Clive Smith)

2024 Season again we moved to more back to back galas and the Premier league ran at Level 3 for 8 of 9 galas (round 3 – AOE operator for gala at Pingles)

Division 2 changed to 3 galas of 8 teams like premier

This year we used the Sandwell pool which I have say great facilities including 2 finals

The major issue with back to back is the change over and the car parking

December we had the 3 finals

Premier Winners – Repton runners up Blythe Barracudas

Division Two – Leicester Sharks runners up – Repton B (with City of Oxford and Long Eaton promoted to the Premier League)

Ralph and myself we at Sandwell for the finals and Ralph presented the trophies and pendants at the end of the galas

Division 3 all galas were swam at Redditch and Lemington – Monica went each round to one of pools and was at Final at Redditch where Arnold was winners and Camphill runners up

The National Finals were held in March at Cardiff we had 3 clubs representing this year Repton were in A Final where they finished runners up to Guildford by 4 points and B Final we had 2 teams Blythe Barracudas 4th and City of Coventry 10th

For Record big thanks to all clubs who hosted in 2024

Thanks goes to committee who help run league Ralph Monica Sandra Stuart Keith & Ann

4. Chairmans Report (Ralph Shepherd)

Unfortunately, we have lost one or two clubs this year but Clive has again managed to recruit new clubs to join or rejoin our League which has replaced the ones that left

We have again run back to back galas at some of the Leagues with additional time in-between to give the spectators chance to move out and new ones come in which worked better this year

I would again like to thank the officials, volunteers and Clubs that hosted the galas of the West Midlands Arena League for all their efforts that they have put in making it successful yet again

As you know it seems that getting officials for galas, not just in the West Midlands Arena League but as usual our volunteers came up trumps to fill the roles

This year's finals we were represented by 3 West Midlands Clubs, "Repton" in the "Cup Final" which was eventually won by "Guildford" with "Repton" coming a creditable 2nd with only 4 points separating them

We were represented in the "B Final" by "Blythe Barracudas & City of Coventry" which was again a very close thing with "Camden Swiss Cottage" winning by 4 points and "Basildon" coming 2nd but our clubs "Blyth & City of Coventry" came up against extremely good teams that took part in their gala

I would like to congratulate them for representing our League which I'm sure that they all enjoyed the experience particularly the younger swimmers who may not have competed in a National Final before

Ralph Shepherd

West Midlands Chairman

5. Financial Report – The league loss £1386 in the last 12 months, Income was up by £284 on previous year this was mainly in the door money. The cost were up by £2752 mainly on pool cost. This is first year we had to for AOE at the pools in the Premier which estimated at £1350. In round 1 we had to use Coventry pool which cost around 2500 for 1 day lot more than any other pool we used in whole 2024.

With pool costs continuing to rise we had discuss on how to increase the income of the league.

The League still have just short of £23K in the bank at the end of March

1. We agreed to keep the league fees at £40 for 2026
2. The meeting agreed to change the door entrance to £5 adults but FOC for children (16 and under) – Clive going explore making the payment method card only, we had reports last year of spectators not having cash when arriving at door, these people were allowed free.

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 – Sandra Grant
Financial Examiner TGFP Ltd
7. West Midlands Rules & Conditions 2025 – presented as no change
The Nationals League Rules and Conditions – Clive will send to all this week and ask for any feedback to the National AGM on Sunday 22nd June
8. Resignations and applications
Resignation – Telford Aqua & Northgate
Applicants New Clubs – Burton, City of Hereford Cheltenham WPSC, Droitwich & Nuneaton B
9. Teams - The list of teams to swim this season 2024– been issued prior to meeting. We have 24 in Premier and Division 2, at present we have 11 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 3 galas of 8 team in each gala
Division Three going to be 2 galas one of 6 teams and 1 of 7 teams
10. The draw for round 1 was made by all present with each team being pulled out the bag for gala and lane draw.
11. Any other business:
 1. Referees to be sent Rules and Conditions of the League

2. Honours board for the website – Clive to arrange and get on Website
3. Changing Rooms issues of Photography, host clubs and venues to section boys and girls separate. Have 2 adults (male and female where possible to monitor at start and finish of gala)

12. Date of 2026 AGM – Tuesday 9th June @ Pingles Leisure Centre Nuneaton

13. The meeting closed at 20.45 with thanks to all present