

The National Arena Swimming League – West Midlands

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of The National Arena Swimming League-West Midlands on Tuesday 9th June 2026 at Pingles Leisure Centre Nuneaton start time 7.00 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, Leamington Spa, Blyth Barracudas, Boldmere, Rugby & City of Coventry

1. Apologise were received from the following clubs: Cannock Phoenix, Stratford Sharks, Long Eaton, Mansfield, Wolverhampton, Kingsbury, Redditch, Witney & District, Chase, Ledbury, Worcester, Evesham, Orion, Radford & Halesowen
2. No matter arising from 2025 AGM
3. Secretary Report (Clive Smith)

Secretary Report – AGM 2026

2025 Season – we had 3 Division (24 in the Premier 23 Division 2 (Stafford drop out in September) and 13 in Division 3

The 3 finals took place in December Division 3 was held at Stafford and was won by City of Hereford with Droitwich Cheadle & Nuneaton B being promoted - I was there to present trophy to the winners and other team pendent

Division 2 took place at Sandwell in the afternoon and was won by Boldmere with Flitwick Bilson & Evesham being promoted to the Premier League

The Premier League Final took place at Sandwell in the evening and Repton were the winners from City of Coventry runners up and Blythe Barracudas 3rd Place

After round 2 – Repton B qualified for the final, but the league rules say no B teams are allowed to compete at National and Regional Finals

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

The National Finals were held in March and moved to Sandwell from Cardiff we had 3 clubs representing this year Repton were in A Final one step further than 2025 to win the National League, on my research the last team from West Midlands league to win the National final was Radford in

1979 and only one other club has won the league which is City of Coventry on 3 occasions in the 1979's

In the B Final – Blythe finished 5th with City of Coventry 8th

For Record big thanks to all clubs who hosted in 2025

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

From my view the league moved forward again with AOE in the Premier League not perfect but we improved again and hoping this year will be even smoother.

Division 3 with smaller clubs and B teams I delegated the job roles so not one club had full responsibility.

Sandra has stepped down from role as officials co-ordinator – so I am hoping find some one in the next few weeks

4. Chairmans Report (Ralph Shepherd)

5. Chairman's Report for 2025/2026

One again we have lost one or two clubs again this year but Clive has worked hard and managed to recruit new clubs to join or rejoin our League which has replaced the ones that have pulled out

We have again run back to back galas at some of the Galas with our intention to do more and with additional time in-between them to change the teams and spectators has worked a lot better

I attended this year's League 1 & 2 final rounds at Sandwell Aquatics Centre which was very exciting, in fact the pool was the venue for the 2026 National Finals (which is not so far to travel) and as most of you know it's a fantastic pool with plenty of room for swimmers around the pool

This year's National finals we were represented by 3 West Midlands Clubs, "Repton" in the "Cup Final" which was eventually won by "Repton" with "Guilford" coming 2nd with only 25 points separating them

We were represented in the "B Final" by "Blythe Barracudas & City of Coventry" which was a very close thing with "Bromley" winning by 12 points and "Basildon" coming 2nd although our clubs "Blyth (5) & City of Coventry (8)" came up against extremely good teams that took part in the gala they kept swimming hard

I would like to congratulate all 3 of our clubs for representing us which I'm sure that they all enjoyed the experience, particularly the younger swimmers who may not have competed in a National Final before

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 again, without them we wouldn't be able to compete

Ralph Shepherd

West Midlands Arena League Chairman

5. Financial Report – The league profit £4172 in the last 12 months, Income was up by £7494 on previous year this was mainly in the door money which we agreed to put up to £5 per person . The cost were up by £2014 mainly on pool cost we trying to use better pools in the Midlands

The League still have 27K in the bank at the end of March

We agreed to keep the league fees at £40 for 2027

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 – Clive to look for new Official Co-ordinator

Financial Examiner TGFP Ltd

7. West Midlands Rules & Conditions 2025 – presented as no change

8. Resignations and applications

Resignation – Long Eaton B Solihull B & Abingdon

Applicants New Clubs Ripley

9. Teams - The list of teams to swim this season 2026– been issued prior to meeting. We have 24 in Premier and Division 2, at present we have 10 teams in Division 3 (we going to run as 2 x 5 teams in round 1&2 then all 10 we swim in the final at Sandwell on Saturday 5th December)

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 with 5 teams in each gala

This year Sandwell is booked from 10.30 in the morning and all three finals be swam back to back

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. Letter of thanks to be sent to Sandra for effort of the years
2. Photography – Clive to check with pool rules and National League rules and send to all clubs before start of the first gala
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)
4. Clive to ask all clubs who have starting equipment to put in a car just in case the pool equipment breaks down on the day of the gala
5. Hosting – last year Division three all clubs were allocated a role for volunteer to take the pressure of the Main host. Clubs have asked Clive to try allocate for Premier Division and Division 2 this year

12. Date of 2026 AGM – Tuesday 8th June 2026

13. The meeting closed at 20.30 with thanks to all present