

Northern Wave Swimming Club Committee Meeting

Monday 22 January 2007 at Ludo's

Attendance

Trevor Burchick, Mike Felse, Mike Lane, Ludovic Otterbein, Mikey Maxwell, Steve Tomkins, Gareth Parkinson

Apologies for absence

None

1 Minutes of last meeting

These were agreed as accurate.

2 Insurance

The committee recently reviewed the insurance policy in place for swimmers. It was felt that the cover provided for class 3 swimmers did not justify the cost to the club and this was stopped, generating an annual saving of around £600. The cost of insuring class 2 swimmers will now be passed on to those members who wish to swim competitively. Steve will chase up payments for this on the door at Tuesday swim. Anyone who has not paid will not be insured to swim in competitions.

3 Cash flow

Door receipts over the past month have been average. Attendance needs to be boosted to improve takings.

Ludo is currently negotiating a potential sponsorship deal for the water polo team with Hot Village. The current deal would be for three years and would cover pool hire and coaching costs. This would relieve the pressure to enhance door receipts on other nights.

Sunday continues to be the least cost effective night. We can't have the pool as 25m due to the time it takes to reconfigure it: there is a 50m session immediately before ours now. The alternative to cut pool costs is to reduce Sunday to an hour session which would save £30 per week. It was decided to keep things as they are for now and review again in March.

4 Pool time

The committee would like to try and retain Mickey as a coach as it is uncertain what Rob's long term plans are once he graduates.

There are two dates in February that paralympic events are taking place at the MAC. The club has been asked if it will accept only having a 25m pool on these two dates. The committee agreed subject to the coaching plan being adaptable.

The triathlon club have approached Trevor regarding a reciprocal training arrangement. They currently train in the MAC pool on a Sunday before us for one hour. They have asked about allowing members from both clubs to attend each others sessions for a fee of £2. The committee felt this would not be equitable as our session is half an hour longer. We decided that triathlon members are welcome to attend our session but they will be required to pay our full price. Care needs to be taken to ensure they pay!

5 Club development

A members' meeting was scheduled for 24 January to discuss ideas from members about how to develop the club.

Some members felt the social swimmers were subsidising the coaching, however they are getting the same amount of pool space as those training for less money!

Some have questioned why the Sunday swim is only 50p more than Tuesday when the training session is twice as long. This is not true as Tuesday water polo makes up a further 45 minutes so the sessions are actually the same overall.

It has been suggested that a 'void' exists between the social and competitive swimmers on a Tuesday. The committee wasn't sure on the best way to address this and decided to discuss the matter with Rob.

Mikey commented that Tuesday water polo seemed to be turning into another practice session for the water polo team which removed any fun aspect for other members. The team had been asked to stay more often on a Tuesday in order to boost numbers and encourage others to stay and play. Both points of view were acknowledged and the team members present thanked for this commitment.

An annual membership fee and the option to pay a fixed annual amount rather than paying weekly were suggested. It was felt that a membership fee would discourage some people. The option of an annual or monthly subscription was discussed. It is not possible to setup direct debits so it would have to rely on members setting up standing orders. How could this be administered? It was agreed that further research would be done.

The committee felt that a swim captain should be appointed for coordinating relays etc for competitions. It was decided that this needed to be a flexible position and be filled by someone that tended to go to most competitions. It was felt that nominations should be invited and an election held. Mike Lane is going to coordinate this.

6 Social events

Members have commented that there aren't enough social events organised anymore! This will be pursued at the development meeting on 24 January. The aim is to get members more involved in organising social outings. Volunteers will be sought to design and coordinate the decorations and entertainment for the swim event during Pride Games. A funding bid is being worked out for this.

7 Newsletter

The current newsletter is nearing completion, a little behind planned schedule. It is planned to do a newsletter every six months to reduce the costs. It was suggested that each one should include something humorous and maybe Martin Catlow could be contacted to do some articles. In future editorial and publication deadlines will be set to try and keep the newsletter on schedule. The editorial deadline for the next newsletter will be 15 June 2007.

8 Training camp

The committee would like to hold another training camp following the success of this event last year. The proposed dates would be 13-15 April 2007, again at Lancaster University. Mike Lane is currently coordinating this. The accommodation is available and he's just waiting to hear about the pool.

9 Water polo

The water polo team have joined the Bolton & District Swimming and Water Polo Association. They are currently guest members costing £45 per year. They'll have 14 matches to play between April and October. They will be responsible for organising their home matches and meeting the cost of these.

The team have been offered help and advice from Geoff but they do not want to take him on as a coach. Ludo and Rob are currently looking for a coach.

Gareth has been to train with both Salford and Manchester universities teams and both have said Manchester Sharks players can go along to their sessions.

Darren has been nominated as vice captain.

10 Marketing

It was suggested that we produce a promotional leaflet for the club. Mike Lane and Gareth will work on ideas for this. There are still some flyers for swimming and water polo left over from last year's Pride. Mike Felse and Bernie will distribute these.

Trevor and Gareth are continuing to work on the new website. Progress isn't at fast as they'd hoped due to personal commitments.

No date was set for the next meeting.