**NORTH TYNESIDE SWIMMING CLUB AGM**

**SUNDAY 10TH MARCH 2024**

**PRESENT:**

David Quinn (Chair) Apologies: Kieran Glynn (Secretary)

Graham Dotchin (Treasurer)

Andrew Robertson (Gala Secretary)

Malini Nanvaty (Swim Mark)

Gillian Dresner (Membership Secretary)

Claire Renney (Welfare Officer)

Chris Tibbs (Head Caoch)

Joanne Devanney

Chris Durkin

Susan Soan

Ian Dale

Louise Raftery

Chris Durkin

Garry Hunter

Colin Clark

Steven Renney

Jude Tomlinson

**AGENDA**

**1** **ADDRESSED FROM LAST YEAR** (now resolved):

* Gala secretary – Andrew Robertson
* Not all parents are on Facebook – bulk emails are now also sent out
* Club kit – new kit ordered and distributed by Paul Wetherley
* Galas – new guide to upcoming galas issued at start of 2024

**2 CHAIRS REPORT MAIN POINTS** (full report is available to read on Facebook)

* Club Organiser has now been set up to use at full potential eg galas/payments/etc, parents and swimmers all have their own login
* SWIMMING PASSPORT developed by Emma Quinn and supported by Swim England, will hold additional information and is especially aimed at neurodiverse swimmers and those with special consideration
* Kieran Glynn has taken on the role of club secretary which has so far resulted in extra pool time, land training and regular sessions at Sunderland Aquatic Centre
* Gala attendance has increased hugely (20 galas 60 attendees)
* We had 15 N&D qualifiers compared to 7 last year
* Diddy League is up and running again
* TEAMS saw 40 swimmers competing and a medal!
* David acknowledged recent difficulties with behaviours at galas and at sessions. The Code of Conduct has been re-circulated to every swimmer and needs to be signed and returned to Kieran
* Parents Code of Conduct also needs to be revisited
* Plan to develop a behaviour/consequences policy
* David acknowledged the success of the Christmas Party (thanks given to Garry Hunter) and the club internal gala (thanks to everyone involved) which brought in the fun side of the club
* Coaches awards were given based on attitude and behaviour
* “the club exists to gain life skills and relationships and shows how to learn in an environment which is different from school”

**HEAD COACH REPORT**

* Chris acknowledged the “best support team the club has ever had!”
* Thank you to committee members, volunteers and coaches
* Looking forward to new challenges for the club and swimmers
* Two swimmers qualified for National Relay Team finals
* Two for County Camp
* N&Ds saw 15 qualifying swimmers, 64 qualifying swims and five finals
* Charlotte Hunters achievement of gold, silver and bronze medals at N&Ds was acknowledged as well as her incredible 50m fly time which puts her as the fastest in her age group in the country
* N&D Teams saw swimmers in TEN finals and a bronze medal for the 13/14year age group girls Ava Glynn, Erin Wetherley, Lizzie Whitfield and Charlotte Hunter
* Dry side is up and running and going strong
* Chris reiterated the importance of turning up on time as 300+m can be done in warm up alone
* 35,000m can be swam over the 13 week cycle if sessions attended and on time
* “Eat well and sleep well, all helps with performance”

**TREASURER** (report provided)

* July 22 end: we had just returned after covid, club was in a £7k deficit (although £2k had not been collected from galas entries)
* Much stronger position now
* Revenue can no longer increase from membership as all squads are full
* “Non profit” – money invested back into club for eg coaches/equipment/more pool time
* Last One Standing/MW Sponsorship/internal gala has increased financial position to cover 5x monthly operating costs (acknowledgement to Coach Ellen’s grandpa Alan Christie for running LOS and Steven Renney for sponsorship)

**MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY**

* Club currently has 100 swimmers and 20 members who are paid workforce/volunteers

A squad – 23

B squad – 25

C squad – 25

SD1 – 14

SD2 – 13

**PLAN FOR UPCOMING YEAR**

* Malini has now submitted report for Swim Mark accreditation
* Diversity and Inclusion action plan – how can we include/offer opportunities for more diverse members?
* Could we offer teaching opportunities?
* Those who haven’t done so already, coaches and volunteers to complete the free online course available on Swim England
* Make the website more accessible
* Good to see more people are obviously searching for NTSC as we are now on the page (Google)
* Upcoming galas are available on the club website
* “Do something a bit different?”

Suggestions

* trip to Glasgow for a gala which will include a training session with previous family members the Carsons (who are now with Kingston ASC) and a BBQ
* Alton Towers
* Bowling/climbimg
* Swim Camp abroad – Graham has looked into but currently costs are very high. Joanne suggested fundraising which Paul Wetherley is looking into
* Claire has updated the Club Constitution as per Swim England – approved and needs to be signed off by Swim England and sent to Malini
* Use of the second lane on Fridays?\* Currently there are two lanes available to Stroke Development on Fridays 6pm-7pm. One lane could be used for SD the other for eg stroke clinic

\*to be discussed further

**PARENT QUESTIONS**

* Colin Clark:

‘The committee and coaches are no doubt  aware of the March 2024 - listening review into the culture within aquatics, which "details abuse, racism, bullying, bad practice, negative experiences and a poor culture within the sport".

It states,

"There have been behaviours and practices within aquatics that are unacceptable and have caused real pain and suffering to people taking part"

And highlights

“… swimmers with special needs said they often felt overlooked and less valued”

Bearing this in mind, and indeed sport Englands statement that “the "stark" conclusions "represented a crossroads moment both for Swim England and everyone involved in the sport more widely", adding the governing body's funding was dependent on its ability to change.”

Within this context are the committee and coaches aware of their legal obligation to abide by the disability act (2010), the equality act and swim Englands existing diversity and inclusion criteria?  And that the potential legal and financial penalties of ignoring them.

Finally do the committee agree that any paid employee or volunteer within the club,  who was found to not be fully implementing any of the above frameworks, not practicing in the spirit of inclusion and diversity, or by action or inaction allowing discrimination to happen, should be reported to the relevant authorities, with the club fully supporting any investigation’

David Quinn stated that the club are passionate about providing a safe place for all swimmers within the club and that we have educational needs to help improve how we work with all swimmers (highlighting the course for Foundations in Inclusivity). We need to address our Diversity and Inclusivity Action Plan across the club and we will look at each of these areas under Swim England guidance. David also acknowledged issues with recent behaviours of both swimmers and parents as included within the Chair’s report. In respect of the negative behaviours, the committee and coaches are working together to develop a behaviour policy, looking into the consequences of failures to adhere to the Code of Conduct. This year the club has developed a ‘Swimmers Passport’ which has been rolled out to all swimmers and was designed specifically for swimmers who are neurodiverse or who have extra needs.

* Louise Raftery
* Thanked all the coaches and volunteers for their continued hard work at the club and also for the appraisals.
* Steven Renney
* Also thanked the coaches and volunteers and acknowledged the immense amount of work that goes on behind the scenes. Coaches also seconded thanks to the committee and volunteers who keep the club running!