

FENLAND LEAGUE

MINUTES OF FENLAND LEAGUE MEETING HELD AT THE HUDSON SPORTS CENTRE, WISBECH ON MONDAY 26th SEPTEMBER 2016 FOLLOWING THE AGM

PRESENT:

Ian Harrison (Boston); Trish Heider (Bottisham); Cathryn Mellersh (Bottisham); Simon Martin (Peterborough); John Burling (First Strokes); Deana Jordon (Huntingdon); Mark McGowen (March); Jane Robinson (Mildenhall); Ryan Sykes (West Norfolk); Greg Marsters (Wisbech); Simon Yeates (Chairman & City of Ely); David Robinson (Secretary); Pauline Paines (Adjudicator).

APOLOGIES:

Peter Hockerston (Boston); Nikki Harper (Chatteris); Jamie Rush (Diss); Clare Fasey (Thetford).

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:

It was agreed the minutes of the meeting held on 7th March 2016 were a true record.

MATTERS ARISING:

The secretary confirmed he had attended the fifth round gala hosted by St Neots at Bedford and had enjoyed a very friendly gala with good atmosphere. The issues with the venue would be dealt with under correspondence.

The secretary observed that the agreement to host the Junior League finals on 7th October 2017 would put a lot of pressure to arrange the venues of these finals after the fifth round is completed on 9th September. This year two of the clubs that had agreed to host finals withdrew their offer after the fifth round which had meant the A and B finals hosts had to be changed from those originally planned.

CORRESPONDENCE:

St Neots Swans had contacted the secretary asking how he had found the gala at Bedford. He had replied that although the venue was not ideal he had enjoyed the gala. There had been a problem with the relay as the pool operator did not allow diving at the shallow end but, for two teams, their first swimmer had started with a sitting dive. Also the lack of space for spectators meant some had to stand. The biggest problem was the flanges for fixing the starting platforms and he had suggested they talk to the pool management to see if they could be either covered or fixed differently.

The meeting felt strongly that the secretary should write to St Neots and ask them to report back as to their intentions as to how they intend to solve the problem by the next Fenland League committee meeting which will be in March 2017. If the problem could not be solved then they should consider hosting at a different venue. Wisbech stated they would not swim there again unless the blocks were fixed.

Wisbech asked that the warm up for both leagues should be 30 minutes. This was because teams have between 20 and 30 swimmers it would be safer and not overcrowded as it would allow coaches to run three 10 minute warm ups if they wished. It was agreed that the secretary would include this in the host club guidance notes.

A club have written to the chairman asking for clarification on using swimmers that were not shown as members of the club in which they were competing. The chairman had replied that under ASA Law swimmers must be members of the club for which they are competing.

The league have not received any details but apparently a club did use swimmers in the Senior League final that are not shown on the ASA database as members of that club. We do not check if Fenland League swimmers are bona fide members of the club they are swimming for, either in Junior or Senior Leagues, it would be too time consuming. If the club complaining contacts the secretary with the details it will be checked and if it was found to be the case then the points will be adjusted for that gala.

JUNIOR LEAGUE FINALS 2016:

With both Wisbech and Peterborough down as hosts for the 'A' Final the original intention was for Peterborough to host the 'A' Final and either Deeping or Ely to host the 'B' final but at the last moment both Deepings and Ely withdrew their offers to host therefore there was no alternative but to ask Peterborough to host the 'B' Final and Wisbech to host the 'A' Final. Bottisham, although not down as a host, have come forward with an offer to host the 'C' Final. This offer was accepted therefore the finals would be hosted as follows:

Wisbech	'A' FINAL	5.30 – 6.00pm
Peterborough	'B' FINAL	6.10 – 6.40pm
Bottisham @ Newmarket	'C' FINAL	6.00 – 6.30pm

The lane allocation would be by seeding the teams on their league standings after the round five galas.

The secretary distributed the sheets showing the points to be deducted at the finals due to clubs swimming ineligible swimmers during 2016. This disappointingly showed a total of 78 points to be deducted compared to 46 in 2015. Both Ely and St Neots had points deducted every round. Four clubs were congratulated for not having any points deducted. These were Boston, Huntingdon, Peterborough 'A' and Wisbech.

The declaration sheets as used for the finals over the last few years have had limited success but the meeting agreed these should be used and urged all clubs to make a concerted effort to make sure all their swimmers were legal for the finals.

SENIOR LEAGUE 2017:

Wisbech, Bottisham, Ely and West Norfolk all volunteered to host a gala.

It was agreed that Wisbech & Bottisham would host the first round galas and Ely & West Norfolk would host the round two galas.

The dates for Senior League 2017 as agreed at the last meeting are:

ROUND ONE – 1 JULY 2017
ROUND TWO – 16 SEPTEMBER 2017

The secretary asked these host clubs to make sure they have booked their pools.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

The holders of the 2015 Senior League 'A' Final trophy West Norfolk have misplaced it so it was not taken therefore not presented at the final at Wisbech on 17th September. West Norfolk were the winners on the night. The secretary will contact them to see if it has been located.

John Burling proposed that in addition to the perpetual trophy that we present a trophy to the winners of both Senior League finals each year for them to keep. This was agreed.

It was asked that host clubs announce any disqualification on the night and the secretary agreed to add this to the host club guidance notes. He pointed out that for two years the notes have asked clubs to record the disqualification code on the recording sheets but only about 70% are doing so although this is improving.

The secretary asked that all clubs let him know their contacts for the handbook which he will be producing in January 2017.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Monday 6th March 2017 at The Hudson Sports Centre, Wisbech at 8.00pm.