



Swim England East Region
Minutes of the Disability Leadership Group Meeting
19th August 2025 at 8pm

Present	Peter Winter (PW)	Disability Swimming Manager
	Helen Stephens (HS)	East Region Director
	Ann Byrne (AB)	Suffolk Representative
	Sandra Grant (SG)	Bedfordshire Representative
	Anthony Moore (TM)	Norfolk Representative

Also present: James Salmon, Regional Manager (JSa)

- 25/25 Apologies**
- 25/25.1 Apologies received from Martin Lees (ML), Swim England Para-Swimming Talent Officer.
- 25/25.2 No apologies were received from Paula Durrant (PD), Cambridgeshire, Louise Hughes (LH), Hertfordshire and Chris Pagan (CP), Essex.
- 25/26 Declarations of conflict of interest**
- 25/26.1 None declared.
- 25/27 Previous minutes**
- 25/27.1 The minutes of the meeting on 29th April 2025 were circulated prior to the meeting and were agreed.
- 25/28 Matters arising**
- 25/28.1 25/21.2 PW to contact KB and GS regarding running the AOE on 21st September and let LH know – Actioned.
- 25/29 Athlete recognition**
- 25/29.1 **TM – Norfolk** – Nothing to report.
- 25/29.2 **SG - Bedfordshire** – Maggie Cotter (Flitwick Dolphins Swimming Club) had some great swims at the British Transplant Games, winning gold for 50m backstroke and bronze medals for the 50m, 100m and 200m Freestyle.
- Ida Corcoran, Abi Wickens and Florrie Richbell, all from Flitwick Dolphins Swimming Club, put in good performances at the British Junior Para Championships in June - Ida achieving a personal best (PB) in 100m breaststroke and Florrie in 50m freestyle, 100m backstroke and 100m breaststroke.

Abi and Ida qualified for the English Summer Nationals. Unfortunately Abi could not attend owing to injury - but Ida did compete and had some good swims.

Abi Wickens has become a Sporting Champion through Everyone Active. This allows her access to all their Centres, alongside mentoring and support from renowned athletes.

- 25/29.3 **AB – Suffolk** – Corey Hare (Team Ipswich Swimming Club), Ryan Crouch (Deben Swimming Club) and Peter Winter (Newmarket & District Swimming Club) all competed at the British Masters Championships at the London Aquatics Centre.

Corey Hare competed at the East Region Open Water Championships and won a regional silver medal as well as the Suffolk Cup for the 5K. He also competed in the 7.5k at the National Open Water event. Carey competed at both events as an able-bodied swimmer.

Sebastian Cash from Mildenhall Swimming Club is being classified at the Para Swimming meet in September.

- 25/29.4 **Essex** – There was no report from Essex.
AB reported that Christina Hann competed at the British Masters at the London Aquatic Centre and she also competed at the East Region Open Water Championships and swam the 1k.

- 25/29.5 **Cambridgeshire** – There was no report from Cambridgeshire.

- 25/29.6 **Hertfordshire** – There was no report from Hertfordshire.

- 25/29.7 PW reported that Sam Bradley (Luton Swimming Club) and Oliver Shergard (Colchester and Deben Swimming Club) competed at the British Masters in London and both medalled.

PW reported that there was a good number of swimmers who competed at the Junior Para Swimming meet in Coventry and at the Swim England and British Summer meets in Sheffield.

- 25/29.8 AB reported that Leah Crisp (Norwich Swan Swimming Club), who is 12 years old, has been classified as an S14. She competed at the Swim England Summer Nationals and achieved several medals.

25/30 **County reports**

- 25/30.1 **AB - Suffolk** – The 2026 Suffolk Swimability meet will take place on Saturday 11th April 2026.

- 25/30.2 **TM - Norfolk** - The Norfolk Swimability meet was held in July. It ran very well and had a lot of positive feedback. TM reported that the number of swims was down this year compared to previous years.

TM will inform PW, JSa and Emma Winter (EW) of the date for 2026 once it has been confirmed.

- 25/30.3 **SG – Bedfordshire** – SG reported that Flitwick Dolphins have updated the Para page on their website to be as welcoming as possible, showing pictures of a range of their disability/para swimmers and a coach who has a disability.
- SG reported that she is trying to work with other Bedfordshire clubs to do the same, but reported that it is a slow progress.
- 25/30.4 **Essex** – HS reported that Essex is holding their first Swimability meet on 6th September. There are 50 entries.
- The meet is being sponsored by Billericay Lions Club and they are supplying the certificates, helping with timekeeping and providing the food for after the meet.
- 25/30.5 **Cambridgeshire** – No report given.
- 25/30.6 **Hertfordshire** – No report given.
- 25/31 2025 Budget and Plan**
- 25/31.1 PW reported that the budget position will be clearer after the Para meet, once all the entries and the spectator fees are in.
- 25/32 Regional training sessions 2025**
- 25/32.1 PW reported that the next training session will be arranged after the Para meet. He will ask EW to publish and circulate the date and venue when the venue booking is confirmed.
- PW stated that he will try to keep the training sessions central to the Region.
- 25/33 Para-Swimming Championships 2025**
- 25/33.1 PW reported that there are currently 28 entries for the Para meet, with two full days of classification. 11 athletes are being classified.
- Classification is taking place from 2pm until 6pm on the Saturday and from 8am until 3pm on the Sunday, with the meet happening afterwards.
- PW reported that the classification is being delivered by Swim England and the Region is hosting.
- Stewart Murray will be the lead referee for the meet. AB is attending as the Regional President. HS is helping with the volunteers, and SG will help wherever needed on the Sunday.
- PW reported that screens are being delivered for the classification, and the Region has new branding walls. Athletes, with their medals, will be able to have their photos taken in front of these walls.

25/33.2 PW confirmed that the athletes being classified are included in the entry numbers and explained that for the athletes to be classified it is a condition that they enter the meet.

HS questioned whether the meet was financially viable. PW reported that last year the meet made a small loss.

PW reported that Swim England cover the cost of the classification side of the meet, so the Region will only be paying for the hire of the pool for the meet and the expenses for the officials. The viability will not be known until the final numbers are in.

25/34

Any other business

25/34.1 AB reported that Nick Thompson, Coach from Norwich Swan, and William Ellard are both going to the Manchester Performance Centre.

Sue Purchase is now at Norwich Swan coaching one session a week.

25/34.2 PW reported that ML had sent an email to athletes and coaches regarding the Regional Para meets which are taking place in September and October.

25/35

Confidential items

25/35.1 None raised.

25/36

Next meeting

25/36.1 The next meeting is scheduled for 18th November 2025 at 8pm.