



Swim England East Region
Minutes of the Disability Leadership Group Meeting
29th April 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
	Louise Hughes (LH)	Hertfordshire Representative
	Anthony Moore (TM)	Norfolk Representative
	Christopher Pagan (CP)	Essex Representative

Also present: James Salmon, Regional Manager (JSa)

25/13 Apologies

- 25/13.1 Apologies received from Paula Durrant(PD), Cambridgeshire, and Martin Lees (ML) Swim England Para-Swimming Talent Officer.

25/14 Declarations of conflict of interest

- 25/14.1 None declared.

25/15 Previous minutes

- 25/15.1 The minutes of the meeting on 21st January 2025 were circulated prior to the meeting and were agreed.

25/16 Matters arising

- 25/16.1 None raised.

25/17 Athlete recognition

- 25/17.1 **CP - Essex** – Rio Rogers, Brock Winston, Rowan Bren, Kai Bradford and Jason Vandermeer all competed at the British Nationals held at the London Aquatics Centre.
- Elizabeth Gray from Chelmsford Swimming Club swam in Serbia with the school scholar.
- 25/17.2 **TM – Norfolk** – William Ellard and Jude Gunner from Norwich Swan competed at the British Nationals. William Ellard has qualified for the Worlds in Singapore. Jude Gunner, having recently achieved international classification, qualified for several finals.

25/17.3 **AB – Suffolk** – Jessica-Jane Applegate unveiled the London Aquatics Centre Honours Board at the British National. She is the first name on the Board as the first athlete to break a record in the London Aquatics Centre pool.
Corey Hare attended the British Nationals.

25/17.4 **SG – Bedfordshire** – At the first weekend of the Regional Swimming Championships, Flitwick Dolphin SC swimmers were successful.
Abigail Wickens - silver medal in the 50m, 100m and 400m freestyle.
Ida Corcoran - gold medal in the 100m butterfly, bronze medal in the 100m and 400m freestyle, and bronze medal in the 100m breaststroke.
Newly classified swimmer Florence Richbell - silver medal in the 100m breaststroke.

25/17.5 **LH – Hertfordshire** – Louise Fiddes attended the British Nationals and qualified for several finals. She has been selected for the World Championships team.

25/18 **County reports**

25/18.1 **TM - Norfolk** – The Norfolk Swimability meet will be held on 6th July. Preparations are in hand.

25/18.2 **AB - Suffolk** - The Suffolk Swimability was held on 5th April and was very successful. There were 63 swimmers from seven clubs – Team Ipswich, Mildenhall and Team Waveney from Suffolk, and Colchester Phoenix, Runnymede, Great Yarmouth and Special Olympics Norfolk.
A new swimmer from Mildenhall, Sebastian Cash, received the top boy award – it was his first meet. Jessica-Jane Applegate attended and supported the meet.

The Lions sponsor the meet and provide the medals and certificates. Suffolk pay for the pool hire. Caroline Coldfield, Suffolk President, attended and presented the certificates, alongside the President of Alliance who presented the medals.

The date for next year's meet is to be confirmed.

25/18.3 **SG -Bedfordshire** – SG reported continuing to disseminate Para/disability opportunities for swimmers, team managers and coaches throughout the Bedfordshire clubs, encouraging clubs to have a designated disability officer, actively promoting inclusion.

Across Bedfordshire County, there is one swimmer with a disability exception certificate, and four have a para-swimming classification.

25/18.4 **LH – Hertfordshire** - Nothing to report as Hertfordshire currently do not have a disability committee, although there is a disability manager.

25/18.5 **CP – Essex** – The Essex Swimability Meet is being held on 5th September.

CP reported that the City of Cambridge Para-Swimming coach had contacted him to see if there were any swimmers who would be interested in entering The Jeanne Barker Open Meet on 5th and 6th July.

25/19 2025 Budget and Plan

- 25/19.1 The budget was considered. Training sessions are on target.
- PW reported that there will be an update on the budget after the meet in September.

25/20 Regional training sessions 2025

- 25/20.1 The next development day is on 18th May at Grange Paddocks, Bishop Stortford. It will be focusing on starts, turns and relays.
- 25/20.2 JSa reported that there are 12 swimmers registered so far for the session. PW will ask Emma Winter (EW) to re-advertise the session.
- 25/20.3 PW advised that, after 18th May, that he will source a venue for the next development day in November.
- PW emphasised that the session are not just for classified swimmers. They are designed for swimmers who are looking at starting the classified journey. He asked that potential swimmers were encouraged to attend, as this will give them confidence with other coaches and it also allows them to experience a development training session purely built, based on their skill set.

25/21 Para-Swimming Championships 2025

- 25/21.1 PW reported that the Para-Swimming Championships will be held on 21st September 2025, with classification on 20th and 21st at Newmarket Leisure Centre.
- 25/21.2 PW reported that he has the licence for the meet and that the conditions and entry system will go live once the Long Course Regional Swimming Championships have finished so that para-swimmers with classification do not get confused about which Regionals to enter.
- PW also reported that he will contact Keith Belton (KB) and Graham Spratt (GS) to see if they would be available to run the electronic timing (AOE). LH confirmed that she should be available.
- Action: PW to contact KB and GS regarding running the AOE on 21st September and let LH know.
- 25/21.3 HS confirmed that she will help with the volunteers again this year. SG will also help.
- 25/21.4 AB confirmed that she will be attending as Regional President.
- 25/21.5 PW confirmed that Stewart Murray will be the lead technical official for the meet.

25/22 Any other business

25/22.1 CP reported that the Down Syndrome European Championships will take place in Portugal between 25th October and 1st November 2025. Two swimmers from Essex will be attending.

25/22.2 HS asked for volunteers to help at the Essex Swimability meet.

25/22.3 PW reported on his visit, with JSa, to Colchester Phoenix last month.

25/23 Confidential items

25/23.1 None raised.

25/24 Next meeting

25/24.1 The next meeting is scheduled for 16th September 2025 at 8pm.