



Swim England East Region
Minutes of the Masters' Leadership Group Meeting
1st December 2025 at 7pm, via Zoom

Present:

Douglas Drake (DD)	Manager
Gerry Metcalf (GM)	Swim England East Region Director
Marianne Phoenix (MP)	Norfolk Representative
Liz Woolner (LW)	Bedfordshire Representative

Also present: Stewart Murray (SMu), Regional Chairman, and Emma Winter (EW), Regional Administrator

25/46 Apologies and introductions

- 25/46.1 No apologies were received.
- 25/46.2 The meeting was declared inquorate.

25/47 Masters Leadership Group

- 25/47.1 The Group discussed challenges with county representative participation, noting that Cambridgeshire, Hertfordshire and Suffolk are currently not actively participating, whilst Essex recently lost their representative.
- 25/47.2 GM proposed a new structure for representatives on the Masters Leadership Group, suggesting six volunteers instead of one representative per county. If agreed, GM will take a proposal to the Regional Board meeting on 9th December 2025.

SMu noted that the Masters' swimming community is close-knit, and there are many interested swimmers who could contribute to improving events. He suggested that the focus should be on individual interest rather than county representation. The Group acknowledged the need for better attendance at future meetings to make decisions and improve the organisation of events.

Action: GM to take the proposal, to transition from county representatives to six willing Masters volunteers, to the Board meeting on December 9th for approval.

Action: GM/EW to inform all meeting participants of Board's decision.

25/48 Masters Championships 2026

25/48.1 The Group discussed the organisation of the East Region Masters Championships and the venue at Mildenhall, where there is only 150 seating capacity.

However, the Group decided to take the Masters Championships back to Newmarket Leisure Centre because of its accessibility. It was agreed to explore the availability for two potential dates: September 20th 2026 and October 4th 2026.

The Group also discussed concerns about the lighting at the Newmarket Leisure Centre pool, which SMu raised as a safety issue.

EW confirmed that she would inquire about pool availability for the potential dates and follow up about resolving the lighting issue.

Actions: EW to enquire about pool availability for 20th September 2026 and 4th October 2026 at Newmarket Leisure Centre.

EW also to follow up on the resolution of the lighting issues and sort out parking arrangements.

25/49 Masters Open Water Development Day 2026

25/49.1 The Group discussed the Open Water Development Day with EW. It was confirmed that the maximum number of places available would be 30. There was a discussion about potentially opening it up to other Regions if numbers were insufficient.

25/50 Meeting dates

25/50.1 The next meeting was scheduled for February 4th at 6:30pm.