



Swim England East Region
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
23rd April 2025, by Zoom

Present (voting Members):

Members of the Members' Forum:

Lesley Cox-Smith	Swim England Bedfordshire
Su Felce	Swim England Bedfordshire
Jo Stalley	Swim England Bedfordshire
Claire Challenger	Swim England Cambridgeshire
Chris Church	Swim England Cambridgeshire
Paula Durrant	Swim England Cambridgeshire
Jane Howell	Swim England Essex
Helen Stephens	Swim England Essex
Jackie Harvey	Swim England Hertfordshire
Louise Hughes	Swim England Hertfordshire and Regional Records Officer
Simon Lever	Swim England Hertfordshire and Audit Risk & Probity Committee
Jonathan Pope	Swim England Hertfordshire
Jonn Sandon	Swim England Hertfordshire
Marianne Phoenix	Swim England Norfolk
Tracey Spinner	Swim England Norfolk
Karen Woodhouse	Swim England Norfolk
Ian Cotton	Swim England Suffolk
Sarah Elmer	Swim England Suffolk
Chris Winter	Swim England Suffolk

Also present in a non-voting capacity:

Keith Belton	Finance Director
Ian Mackenzie	Director
Sheila Mackenzie	Director
Geraldine Metcalf	Director
Stewart Murray	Director
Helen Stephens	Director
Chris Galer	Regional Membership Officer
Dean Walker	President and Water Polo Manager
Ann Byrne	President Elect
Sarah Nooteboom	

Discipline Managers:

Doug Drake	Masters Manager
David Metcalf	Swimming Officials Manager
Peter Winter	Disability Manager

Staff:

Jo Stalley	Regional Operations Officer
Fran Vesztrocy	Regional Welfare Officer
Emma Winter	Regional Administrator



- 25/01** **Introductions, purpose of the meeting and voting arrangements**
- 25/01.1 Stewart Murray (SMu) opened the meeting and welcomed those in attendance, providing an overview of the meeting agenda and confirming the voting arrangements.
- 25/02** **Apologies for absence**
- 25/02.1 Apologies were received from Joan Wheeler and Nicola Rix.
- 25/02.2 Helen Kent-Jackson sent her apologies after the meeting.
- 25/02.3 Keith Belton (KB) reported that James Salmon (JSa), Regional Manager, was on holiday.
- 25/02.4 Ann Byrne attended the meeting at 7.15pm and apologised for being late.
- 25/03** **Declarations of conflicts of interest**
- 25/03.1 There were two declarations of conflicts of interest – SMu for 25/06.1 and 25/06.5 and IM for 25/06.2.
- 25/04** **Minutes**
- 25/04.1 The minutes of the Annual General Meeting on 24th April 2024 were approved. There were no questions raised.
- 25/05** **Annual Report and Accounts**
- 25/05.1 The Annual Report and Accounts had been circulated prior to the meeting. There were no questions raised.
- 25/06** **Elections**
- 25/06.1 The recommendation from the Nominations Committee that Stewart Murray be appointed as Chairman – was approved.
- 25/06.2 The recommendation from the Nominations Committee that Ian Mackenzie and Helen Stephens be appointed as Directors – was approved.
- 25/06.3 The recommendation from the Nominations Committee that Ann Byrne be appointed as President until April 2026 – was approved.
- 25/06.4 The recommendation from the Nominations Committee that Max Paines be appointed as President Elect until April 2026 – was approved.
- 25/06.5 There was ratification of the appointment of Geraldine Metcalf, Sheila Mackenzie, Tom Baster and Stewart Murray as Directors in August 2024.
- 25/06.6 There was ratification of the appointment of Doug Drake as the Masters Leadership Group Manager.
- 25/06.7 Swim England East Region is entitled to nine Members on the Members' Forum of Swim England. There is a criterion for how these places are filled.
- It was noted that this year the Members from Swim England East Region will be:-
The President – Ann Byrne
Board Members – Tom Baster, Keith Belton, Ian Mackenzie, Sheila Mackenzie, Geraldine Metcalf, Helen Stephens, Stewart Murray and Lottie Thompson.



- 25/07 Appointment of the Independent Financial Examiners**
- 25/07.1 The recommendation from the Directors that Stephenson Smart be appointed as the Independent Financial Examiners until April 2026 – was approved.
- 25/08 Report by the 2024-2025 President**
- 25/08.1 The outgoing President, Dean Walker, reported on his term of office. Dean thanked everyone for their welcome and support at the many events that he has attend over the past 12 months. Dean reported that every event was a reminder of how vibrant, passionate and talented Swim England East Region truly is. He has watched Masters swim with the same passion as the juniors, and he has seen teamwork, resilience, and sportsmanship in every discipline – artistic swimming, diving, open water, swimming and water polo.
- Dean said that although his official role as President is ending, that he will still be around, always cheering and supporting, and always proud to be part of Swim England East Region.
- 25/08.2 SMu thanked Dean for his services as President, and for his report.
- 25/08.3 SMu formally announced Ann Byrne as the East Region President for 2025/2026.
- 25/09 Date of Annual General Meeting 2026**
- 25/09.1 The Annual General Meeting will take place on 22nd April 2026 at 7pm.
- 25/10 Closing remarks by the Chairman**
- 25/10.1 SMu thanked everyone for appointing him as the Chairman of Swim England East Region.
- He stated that the Region is viewed as one of the stronger Regions – a status to be proud of, and he is personally looking forward to the opportunity to build on that to ensure that the Region’s strategic goals are aligned with the One Swim England Strategy, and the Region can continue to improve. The clear focus for the Region this year will be to be more inclusive, and to look at welfare issues and club support. Also to ensure that there are robust communication platforms.