



Swim North West

www.swimnorthwest.org

News



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Chairman's Comments:

I am delighted to have this opportunity to write the opening address in the first newsletter from the Shadow Regional Board.

This year has been a wonderful opportunity for a very committed group of people involved in structuring swimming and aquatic sports for the North West of England in the 21st Century. All are volunteers and the work they have put in is outstanding.

It is a very exciting time for all of us and with your help as swimmers, parents, coaches, officials etc., we can structure a sport that we can all be proud of and is going to be better for everybody.

Some of you may ask how will it affect my child learning to swim at the local swim club. Well, it will - it will have an effect on all of us from young swimmers up to our Olympic Medal Winners. If you want to know more please continue to read the newsletter or visit our Web site when it is up and running. Try to get more involved at your local club and you will have the prospect of helping to lead this sport forward.

We will try to keep everyone informed of what is happening and if you have any constructive comments to make we would love to hear from you.

I would like to take this opportunity of wishing you all the very best for Christmas and a very prosperous New Year.

Toby Tunstall.



The Way Forward

Firstly we must ask ourselves these two basic questions;

Why do we need to change? What is the way forward?

WHY DO WE NEED CHANGE?

As part of the process of regionalisation, the government department of Culture, Media and Sport will be regionalised, and Sport England will be de-centralised. The most significant impact of swimming will be that most funding will be dealt with through the regions and allocated by them, whereas at present it is negotiated by and granted to ASA headquarters at Loughborough. It is worth remembering that ASA currently receives £360,000 per year from Sport England, funding various initiatives.



In addition ASA Council recognise that ASA Districts are not aligned to Sport England regions, this of course doesn't maximise benefits directly to swimming and indirectly to other agencies, for new pools etc, therefore this has to be addressed to achieve the best potential and administrative benefits and funding opportunities available.

WHAT IS THE WAY FORWARD?

Given the above factors and who is responsible for funding our sport it is, therefore, essential that our current boundaries, which were established over one hundred years ago, should now reflect the new Sport England boundaries. This will enable the regions to directly negotiate and influence how the funding can best be utilised to benefit the sport of swimming as a whole in our region.

This re-alignment will, as far as possible, create equality in terms of club numbers, membership, geographical size and population.

We in the North West are fortunate that we have not been affected by too many local government re-organisations, however, other districts especially in the South have had major problems, and these factors must also be addressed although they do not directly affect ourselves.

Sport Council regions themselves are coterminous with the areas of government offices which house regional teams for most government departments, there are also regional development agencies on identical boundaries, these regions will be making important strategic decisions about sport and in particular investment decisions on facilities and initiatives.

IN SUMMARY

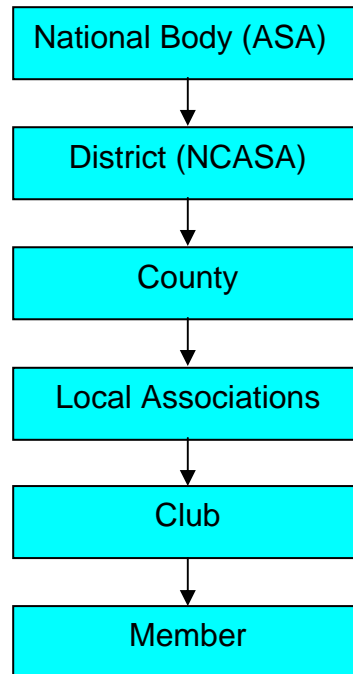
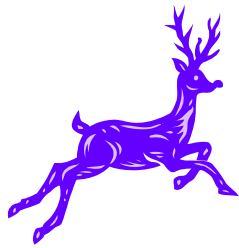
Given the overwhelming reorganisation of all the major agencies from the Government, Sport England, Sports Councils and Arts Councils, etc, it is imperative that our sport of swimming should realign its self to the agencies that have a major impact in funding, development and facilities. This will enable the new North West region to directly influence and secure the best possible future opportunities for swimming in the Northwest

OUR FUTURE IS IN OUR HANDS.



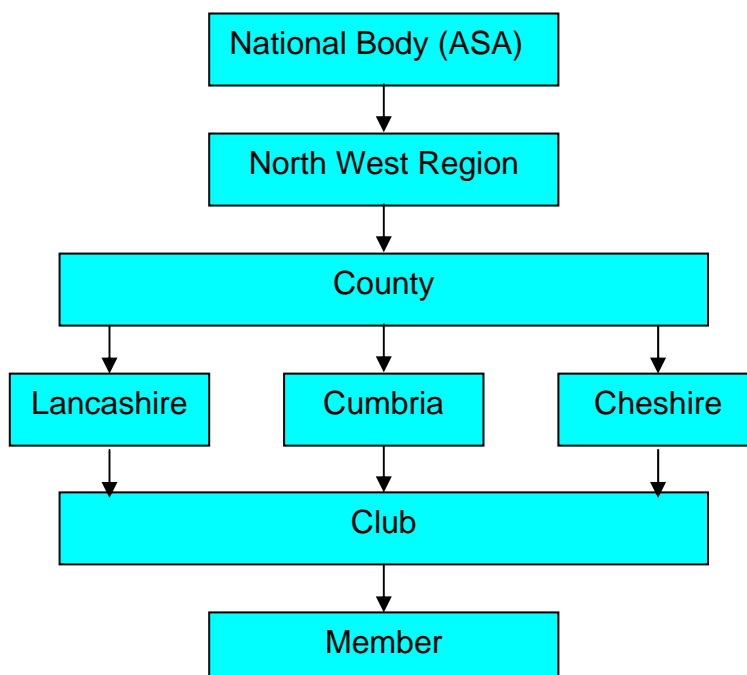
County Structure

Currently, the existing Northern Counties Amateur Swimming Association (NCASA) District comprises of the counties of Cheshire, Cumbria, Lancashire, and the Isle of Man together with part of Staffordshire and the city of Stoke-on-Trent.



Following detailed consideration by the working group looking at this very important structure, they advised after taking into account all the options available and numerous potential models for a new County structure, to concentrate on just two i.e. a five county model, or a three county model.

It is the recommendation that the North West region be based upon a three county model, consisting of Cheshire, Cumbria and Lancashire, including Greater Manchester, Merseyside and the Isle of Man. As you can see, once again, the new proposal mirrors local government reforms.



In real terms there is **NO CHANGE** to the structure of County swimming in the new North West Region.

Finally, under the new proposals we will be saying goodbye to our friends from Parts of Staffordshire, including the City of Stoke on Trent and Derbyshire, we wish them well for the future.

LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS

NO CHANGE

Now we have our proposed new county structure, can anybody argue against a tiered competition structure for all of our competitors?

Region: Level 1 Licenced Meet

Counties: Level 2

Local Association: Level 3

Why not contact us with your thoughts?

The Constitution

The new draft constitution for the North West region is well underway reflecting all the duties, responsibilities and regulations for the Northwest region and how it operates. As you can imagine the draft constitution is a complex and in-depth document. On approval of the document at the inaugural General Meeting of the North West Region in October 2005, copies will be available via the new proposed website.

DESIGN

New North West Logo

Calling all creative, artistic, and interested readers. The North West Region needs a new logo, which will be used on our newsletter, website, and all regional stationery and communications.

This is your chance to design a new logo and be part of the new region. All entries must be received by 31st January 2005. Designs must be computer generated. Forward your entry to Jim Wilks on the following email: n.j.wilks@talk21.com



We look forward to your innovative and creative designs. The winning logo will be displayed in the next newsletter!

The Website

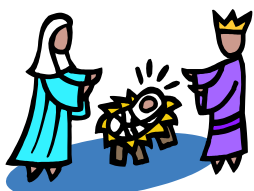
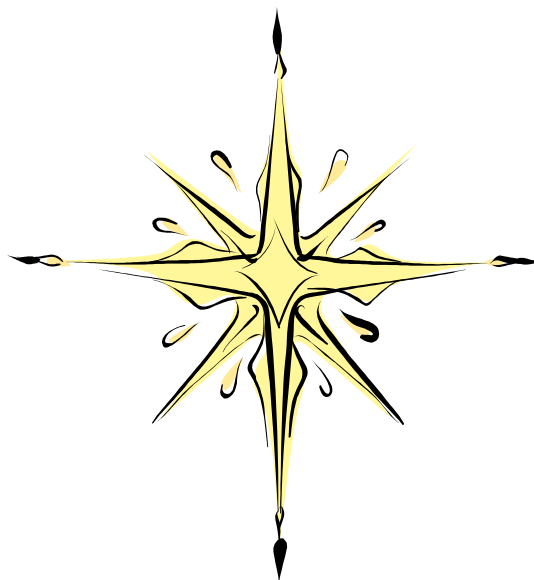
We intend to have a new and interactive web site to use as a main vehicle for communication for all members of the North West region. The intention is to keep everybody updated with all aspects of regional information. Special features will include recruitment, development, competition structure and meeting minutes as well as a focus on swimmers in the region, competition results, your question answered, coaches hot tips etc. etc.

Why don't you let us know what you would like to see in your newsletter?
If web design is your profession, and you would be prepared to give help and advice, please
Contact Jim Wilks at n.j.wilks@talk21.com

Who's Who?

Your Shadow Regional Board Members:-

Mr Toby Tunstall	Chairperson
Mr Simon Rothwell	Hon Secretary
Mr John Armour	Hon Treasurer
Mr Neil Booth	
Dr. Alan Boyle	
Mr. Brian Boyle	
Mr. David Broomhall	
Mrs. Pauline Pick	
Mr Dave Salmon	
Mr. James Wilks	



**Merry Christmas & Happy New Year
To All
From the Shadow Board**

