

**Chair**  
Gill Rankin

**Secretary**  
Louisa Scanlan

**Treasurer**  
Lindsey Rea

**Registration Secretary**  
Sue Tinkler



Affiliated to [swimnorthwest](http://swimnorthwest.com)

**General Meeting**

**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2022 @ 10:30am**

**Zoom**

**Clubs in Attendance**

Liverpool  
Preston  
Garston  
Blackpool  
Chorley  
Bobcats  
Garstang  
Halton  
Southport  
Fleetwood  
Wigan  
Carnforth  
Lancaster  
Kirkham and Wesham

Gill Rankin – Chair  
Louisa Scanlan – Secretary  
Sue Tinkler – Registration Secretary

Gill confirmed that this meeting was not taking the form of the AGM at this time due to the need to resolve the continuing issues with the bank account and the need to look at this a bit differently following Covid. The AGM dates will be set shortly.

Sue shared her report which was somewhat different from previous reports. It focused on the need to encourage healthy competition and get the children back in the water. It was recognized that the league had to start somewhere which might mean things needs to be slightly different this year.

Clubs confirmed their attendance as follows:

Preston – 2 teams  
Southport – 1 team  
Leyland – 2 teams  
Fleetwood – 1 team  
Ormskirk – 1 team  
Blackpool – 1 team  
Wigan – 1 team  
Halton – 1 team  
Blackburn – 1 team  
Bobcats – 1 team  
Chorley – 1 team  
Garston – 1 team  
Liverpool – 1 team  
Clitheroe – 1 team  
Lytham – 1 team  
Lancaster – 1 team  
Garstang – 1 team  
Kirkham – 1 team

Everyone was in support of running a league in some form during 2022. It was important, not only for the swimmers but also as a result of the new arena competition.

There has been an application from Bridgeford to join the league. This application has been supported by Liverpool Penguins and the team would join division C. The view of the members was that they should be allowed to enter this year and then submit the full application paperwork into the next AGM. Everyone bar one team voted to allow Bridgeford to enter the league. Gill asked Jane (Blackpool) to support the affiliation requirements for Bridgeford to be able to join the league

*Post meeting note: Bridgeford are no longer joining the league and therefore they are now structured as follow:*

*Division A – 7 teams*

*Division B – 7 teams*

*Division C – 6 teams*

### **The League and Fixtures**

Gill confirmed that the executive believed that there was an opportunity to compete a full schedule of fixtures for this year's Micro League. The Exec team do not have the capacity to deliver a Festival of Swimming unless more volunteers were able to join the committee. Now that we have more clarity on how galas can successfully be managed through Covid, it was agreed to continue with the League. The format for the League would be a 3 level League (A,B,C division) with 4 teams swimming at each gala.

Each team would be required to follow all the new health and safety rules. Medical declaration forms are required to be submitted from each club to the registration secretary by the 31<sup>st</sup> of January 2022.

The fixtures have been developed and leagues structured based on the positions at the end of 2019 season.

Gill shared the fixtures with the clubs who took individual responsibility for confirming both the dates and warm up times for their home galas along with fixtures for their remaining galas.

The fixtures have now been completed. Communication for the League is going to be run through Slack. Gill will send out a link to the following Slack channels for people to share information:

Executive Team

Teams in A division

Teams in B division

Teams in C division

### **Running the League in 2022**

There was recognition that running the League this year would require a different approach. Following feedback from all the clubs, the consensus was that it needed to be kept as simple as possible. It was essential that it was competitive and fun for the young swimmers who have yet to compete. Some clubs raised concerns about lack of swimmers at certain age groups along with a lack of referees and officials. Support was offered to ensure that galas can take place.

To ensure that the league can run, the clubs requested some rule changes / simplicity. These rule changes were agreed.

### **Declaring races**

Races are to be declared with older swimmers not being given the opportunity to swim instead. It was felt that some younger swimmers could get disheartened as they are unlikely to understand swimming up / down. They would still perceive that they had lost.

### **A division 9-year-olds**

For the 2022 A division, the swimmers at the 9-year-old age group will be swimming 25m individual races not 50m. This change will be reviewed before the 2023 season.

### **Mixed relays – 9-year-old swimmers**

As a result of Covid 19, many clubs have a lack of swimmers at the 9-year-old level. This has been because of a lack of swimming lessons and swimming teachers. To enable the teams to compete in the relays, for the 2022 season these will be mixed (2 girls and 2 boys).

Sue will make the required changes to the paperwork which will need to be submitted after the clubs have competed. The date of birth for the swimmers is as at the 27<sup>th</sup> of November 2022.

The meeting closed at 12.30pm with Gill thanking all those in attendance for supporting the league this year and ensuring that the youngest swimmers can experience competing again.

*Post Meeting note: Please can we ask for your thoughts on promotion and relegation from the leagues this year as we did not have time to address this point in the meeting.*