

President: Mr Christopher Elliott

**Minutes of the Regional Directors Meeting held on Saturday 9th July 2022
via The Holiday Inn, Taunton, Commencing at 13.30.**

Present:

C Robinson	CR	Chair
P Robbins	PR	Vice Chair
D Corbett	DC	Cornwall
R Downing	RD	Devon
A Smart	AS	Dorset
B Armstrong	BA	Gloucester
M Coles	MC	Somerset
D Lee	DL	Wiltshire

Apologies:

G Pearce	GP	Finance Officer - Covid
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2022 / BM

21 Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

21.1 The Chair welcomed everyone to the first face to face meeting since March 2020. She asked if anyone needed introductions after so long!

22 Declarations of interest

22.1 AS – Item 6 – Dorset Synchro Club

22.2 MC – Item 6 – Water Polo sponsorship and reallocation of budget

23 Minutes of 13th April 2022

23.1 Acceptance proposed by DL and seconded by MC. Agreed unanimously as a true record.

24 Matters arising from above minutes

24.1 None raised

25 Committee Minutes

25.1 Operations Committee

25.1.1 May 2022 – noted

25.1.2 June 2022 – noted

25.1.3 July 2022 – Item 79 Club Development. It was stated that Clubs need to take responsibility for keeping all of their records up to date. This forms the basis for a well run organisation.

25.2 Swimming Committee

25.2.1 Coaches committee – 15 June – noted

25.2.2 Swimming committee – 29 June – noted

25.3 Water Polo Meeting

25.3.1 27 June – noted

25.4 Open Water meeting

25.4.1 28 April – meeting not quorate. Disappointing that the event could not be organised because of the lack of volunteers but pleased that we were able to join the Midlands for their event.

25.4.2 A sign of the times that minor disciplines are not being supported. A discussion followed.

25.5 Para Swimming Meeting

25.5.1 11 May – noted. This is only meeting notes as not quorate.

25.5.2 20 June – Para competition 25th September has been moved from Horfield to Hengrove because of problems with the pool.

Bristol Penguins are in Gloucester not Somerset

26 Finance Report

26.1 Report provided by GP – Appendix 1

26.2 Dorset Synchro Club – request that they continue to be exempt from the Club Affiliation fee as they do not have any paying members and were only formed to provide a platform for the swimmers to compete. Agreed unanimously

26.2 Water Polo request re sponsorship and reallocation of budget as per their minutes – refer to GP to convene a Finance Committee meeting and then advise Board members of the decision.

27 Safeguarding

27.1 There is a total reorganisation happening of the Safeguarding Team at SE. Keith Oddie is leaving the organisation mid July. Jenny Dearman is currently off sick. The administrator has also left the team. Joanne Garey is currently holding everything together.

28 Governance

28.1 Refugees

28.1.1 It was agreed unanimously via email by the Board that Regional Affiliation fee should be waived for Ukrainian refugees.

28.1.2 SE have subsequently launched a bursary scheme also for Ukrainian refugees. This has caused questions to be raised amongst the Regional Chairs nationally as to whether this should have been extended to all refugees of any nationality. Questions around inclusivity and diversity have been raised. SE have said if it was extended they would need Regional financial support for the scheme.

The Board had a long discussion on this.

28.1.2 It was decided that the Region wished to deal with individual refugees on an individual basis via their club within the Region. They did not wish to be involved in the SE bursar scheme for refugees as this seemed aimed primarily towards the commercial / pool operators sector. If we had someone within a Regional club looking for bursary support we would deal with on an individual basis together with the relevant County and club.

This was agreed unanimously as the way they wished the Chair to progress the discussion nationally.

28.2 Licensing Policy

28.2.1 The Regional Licensing Policy for swim meets was agreed unanimously. This will be placed on the website and circulated to all of the Counties.

28.3 Regional and National Presidents

28.3.1 Regional President is for the Board to nominate at the next AGM.

28.3.2 It will also be the Regions turn to nominate the National President shortly. The Chair will obtain the criteria from SE

28.4 Directors on sub committees

28.4.1 It was raised if this could be regarded as biased if a director is an elected member of a sub committee with voting rights and then has a second vote when it comes to the Board.

It was pointed out that this gives no undue influence on other directors voting.

28.5 Governance working group

28.5.1 RD circulated the responses to his recent survey. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

28.5.2 Thanks was given to RD, MC and DC for their work on this document.

28.6 Artistic Swimming

28.6.1 RD raised that some AS coaches are being asked to be coaches and Lifeguards in the same session. He has raised this with Helen Weeks at SE. She has confirmed that this is allowed with the correct qualifications. – This is already happening in many swimming clubs.

28.6.2 RD stated that if a club does not supply the required number of judges for a competition then entries will not be accepted from swimmers. It was pointed out to him that this is not allowed and needed to be removed from the competition conditions immediately.

The date of the next meeting will be 12 October via Zoom

Meeting closed 16.18