

Meeting of the Swim England South West Region Water Polo Technical Committee.
Held by Zoom on Monday 6th July 2020

Present: Ian Mackenzie, Swim England President (IM)
Mike Coles, Swim England South West President, Water Polo Secretary,
Officials & Development Coordinator & Somerset Representative (MC)
Chrissie Robinson, Swim England South West Chairman (CR)
Roger Downing, Swim England South West Vice Chairman (RD)
Stuart Noyce, Swim England South West Water Polo Technical Committee Chair (SN)
Chris Elliot, Swim England South West Regional Board Representative (CE)
Simon Tomlinson, Chief Water Polo Coach for girls (ST)
John Spicer, Chief Water Polo Coach for boys & Gloucestershire Representative (JS)
Brian Steer, Devon County Representative (BS)
Chris Pryke, Dorset County Representative (CP)
Andy Hicks, Wiltshire County Representative (AH)
Martyn Thomas, Water Polo Specialist

1. Apologies

- 1.1. Phillip Whiting, BWWPL Representative
Anthony Stevenson, Cornwall Representative.

2. Approval of Minutes of the meeting held on 2nd February 2020 at Regional Office.

- 2.1. Proposed by Roger Downing and Seconded by Simon Tomlinson.

3. Matters arising from aforementioned minutes:

- 3.1. There were no matters arising.

4. Notice of Any Other Business.

- 4.1. MC had two pieces of AOB. They were a non-SE Session proposed in Dorset and clubs talking to pool providers.

5. Updates from Swim England Water Polo Leadership Group and Swim England.

- 5.1. IM of the Leadership Group said that the minutes of this meeting had been published (Appendix I) to all members of this Water Polo Technical Committee.
- 5.2. SN updated the meeting on all cancellations of the Inter-Regions for the remainder of the year.
- 5.3. ST confirmed that all England and GB training had also ceased.
- 5.4. CR updated the meeting on the present situation with Swim England's restructuring process. She said that approximately 40 per cent of the staff would lose their jobs.
 - 5.4.1. The question was asked of CR and IM on what effect this would have in relation to water polo in England, and how many professional staff were still in post?
 - 5.4.2. IM answered that Andy Fuller, the National Development Manager had already gone. Norman Leighton, who was presently furloughed, was very likely to remain as Talent ID Officer, and would directly answer to Rachel Bailey, who was heading up National Performance across all disciplines at Swim England, avoiding duplications as there has been in the past. An example was given by Mr Mackenzie, that if swimming were using Ponds Forge in Sheffield, for a camp, then there were times when the pool could necessarily not being used for blocks of say five hours, and as such could be used by other disciplines, such as water polo or artistic swimming, including the diving pit. It also opens up the use of other facilities and personnel, such as neutralists or sports psychologists, etc. being used by the swimmers.

5.4.3. ST, who is part of the national team of water polo coaches team, praised Rachel Bailey, saying she is looking into everything to do with water polo, and has personally spoken to all the coaches. She is doing a terrific job.

6. Covid-19 Update

- 6.1. That the remaining Regional Training Academies (RTCs) for 19/20 had been cancelled
- 6.2. Many clubs had now attended Swim England's Guidance on Return to the Pool for water polo
- 6.3. RD raised the work that is presently being done on Safeguarding and DBS checking. At the moment in the South West, there are two coaches who do not presently have DBS, and several where their DBS is due to expire in the coming months. There are also 35 coaches who do not have safeguarding certificates. This will have a direct result on those coaches not being allowed back on poolside.
 - 6.3.1. MT related that he had renewed his safeguarding certificate, but still received a message from Swim England saying he had not, but later, on checking, they discovered they had been mistaken, and this seems to be happening a lot, especially with SE staff being furloughed, etc.
 - 6.3.2. RD and CR said that they were trying to sort the problem out within the region.
 - 6.3.3. ST explained that in some multi-discipline clubs, if the message is sent to the general club secretary, then this is not always relayed to the water polo section
 - 6.3.4. CR explained that all of the coaches concerned would have received an email in the last week, telling them of the situation, and they needed to act on it!
 - 6.3.5. When asked if the region's water polo secretary could receive the names of those concerned to chase up, it was explained that the region could not release the personal information to the him because of GDPR. Further discussion took place as to whether this came within the jurisdiction of GDPR amongst the committee if only names or ID Nos. were passed over.
 - 6.3.6. MC suggested that all the regional representatives at the meeting should go back to their clubs within their counties and inform clubs that this needed to be complied with, otherwise, come 1st December, if not done, under Stronger Affiliation clubs could face suspension.
 - 6.3.7. RD said he would go back to SE and request if the water polo secretary can notify the named individuals as it was deemed not sensitive or personal information.

7. Update on Inter-regional competitions

- 7.1. As all competitions have been cancelled, the regions head coaches were asked if all hotel bookings had been cancelled. JS confirmed that he had not made any, and ST said he would double check.
- 7.2. 2021 dates had been investigated by SE, and had proposed dates, but at present it was not known if these would go ahead said IM. The first of these dates were for the Under-18s, scheduled for February.
- 7.3. Discussion took place that regional training needed to be worked around these dates, and as booking of Millfield needed to be done as soon as possible, the information would be gratefully received said SN.
- 7.4. IM said he would pass this on.

8. 2020 Swim England South West Region Inter-County Competition

- 8.1. This had previously been scheduled for November, but SN explained that this would not now be going ahead.
- 8.2. The question was asked by ST if it was planned to run the competition in January, but SN said this seemed unlikely now, so it was agreed unanimously to not hold 2020, and look to planning the 2021 event.

9. Swim England South West Regional Training Academy

- 9.1. This matter had been discussed between the South West Coaches involved at a meeting held via Zoom in May.
- 9.2. The plan was to split the sessions into three sections, so two sessions being held at the same time, and the centre section being used for match training.

- 9.3. It was also hoped to fit in a land training session and a session on the rules of the game, so an hour of non-water-based activities.
- 9.4. Going forward the academy would be based on competition years as opposed to academic years, as had been done in the past. Therefore, we can progress all participants in December.
- 9.5. Further discussion took place on the formation of the academy. It was agreed that this would need to be discussed further by the coaches going forward prior to the 2021 sessions starting up.
- 9.6. It was further agreed that the region would like to set up four sub-regional development sessions around the areas. These could be Wiltshire and Dorset, being held in Dorset, Somerset and one part of Devon, South Devon and Cornwall, say at Plymouth; and the final area being in South Gloucestershire, involving Bristol and Cheltenham.
- 9.7. The idea of these development sessions was to explain the parameters required to attend the Regional Academy, and to further, go forth and produce joint teams that could enter the National Age Group Competition.
- 9.8. ST asked if it was possible to ask clubs if they were preparing to enter the 2021 NAGs competition.
- 9.9. It was agreed that this was a suggestion that could be discussed at a forum of South West coaches. MC suggested that this be held after the proposed national forum that had been scheduled for July. It was generally agreed that if we held a regional forum, this would enable us to get all coaches involved with the Regional Academy.
- 9.10. Four Regional Academies had provisionally been budgeted for the remainder of 2020 due to the changes in the regional to the financial year, giving a nine-month period as opposed to a 12-month period. But this would have to be updated following the closure.
- 9.11. The new sessions would also see the new player age groups and parents, and explain what was required of them.
- 9.12. The question was asked of IM if he knew if the Under-18s Inter-Regional Competition would go ahead in February, which would give the bench mark for the regional academies, but he replied that it was still up in the air.
- 9.13. It was explained that the first sessions could only be core skills sessions and swim sessions, and there would also have to be a Covid Lead and spotters to make sure the guidance was being followed.
- 9.14. CJ pointed out the risks of the early sessions to players coming back to the water. Other disciplines were not doing anything until the end of the year. SN said he would investigate into whether Millfield could be booked, and what their cancellation policy would be.
- 9.15. ST explained that players were desperate to get back onto the water, and many were booking to go on foreign water polo camps, etc.
- 9.16. It was agreed that SN speak with Millfield and get their conditions.

10. Finance Report and Budgets (Included in these minutes)

- 10.1. The revised budget had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was pretty much had everything cancelled, and following on from previous discussions, the regional academy would also now be cancelled.
- 10.2. The equipment budget required rebound nets to allow for the three sections mentioned under Item 9.2, at Millfield for skills, and also a dozen new Size 3 balls and some replacement match balls in size 4 & 5.
- 10.3. It was further proposed that coaching and officials' courses be held if they could be done, online.
- 10.4. A Level 1 Coaching Assistant course was about to start online, with the practical sessions to follow on when back in the water. It was suggested that these practical sessions could be run in conjunction with the regional academy, and MT agreed that this was possible.
- 10.5. SN informed CR that he still had some money from the last academy. CR said she would email him the region's bank details to enable him to pay this in.

- 15.1. MC informed the meeting that he had become aware that Dorchester Leisure 1610 were planning on holding a water polo development session sometime in the near future. Unfortunately, the centre were not Swim England affiliated and as such no Swim England affiliated club could not advertise the event to their club members and club should not promote the event to its players .
 - 15.1.1. Private individuals could not be stopped from attending, but they could not attend in a club capacity.
 - 15.1.2. MC and RD were looking further into the issues, and were advising Dorset County.
 - 15.1.3. The leisure centre were putting it on as part of their business development plan. However, Dorset County would prefer to run their own session, which of course would be Swim England registered event, but would exclude members of Dorchester Leisure 1610 from attending if not swim England members.
 - 15.1.4. CP said he was aware of the course and that Fred Fowler was aware of the situation and liaising with the clubs in the county.
 - 15.1.5. MC advised the meeting that he was further aware of a similar situation involving Tiverton Leisure Centre in Devon. This was run as a leisure centre session. However, he was trying to convince those members to affiliate to Swim England.
 - 15.1.6. It was agreed that nothing could be done directly and for the situation to be monitored.
- 15.2. MC asked county representatives to inform clubs to get in touch with their pool providers regarding their return to the pool once they reopened.
 - 15.2.1. He had been informed by Newton Abbot that Teignbridge Leisure had told the club that they would be one of the last users to return to the pool, whilst Parkwood, who controlled Legacy Leisure, had said the complete opposite and that clubs would be one of the first back into pools because of their lane discipline and membership lists to get in touch with people if there was a local breakout.
 - 15.2.2. Mid Devon Leisure were taking a similar stance, and as such Exeter City Water Polo were talking with them as regards hiring pools at Crediton, etc, as Parkwood, who are the present leisure providers, their contract runs out in August and Exeter City Council are considering taking the pool running back in house and are not even talking to clubs at this stage.
 - 15.2.3. In Taunton, the pool is managed by Everyone Active, and the provider is Sport & Leisure Management. Their contract is about to be renewed by Taunton Deane Council.
 - 15.2.4. CE said that Parkwood, who run one pool in Cornwall, had been talking with the club to say they would be first back in; however GLL who run 12 pools in Cornwall, despite the clubs being in regular talks prior to lockdown, were now saying nothing of their plans on reopening, but it is rumoured that the clubs will be the last back in.
 - 15.2.5. Furthermore, unlike North Somerset Council, who were planning to financially assist the leisure centres in their area, Cornwall Council are not prepared to give any financial help to the centres, so some may not open at all.
- 15.3. CP raised a subject as requested by Dorset County on the subject of the suspensions that were received by some of his counties players in the 2019 Inter County Competition. He asked if these were still in place? MC explained to him that the actual wording on the letters received by those concerned, with copies to him and county secretaries, was that the suspensions would be served from 30th January 2020 in any event promoted by Swim England South West Region Inter Counties in which you would have been eligible to participate. Therefore, the suspensions would stand in the 2021 competition.
- 15.4. CR brought up the subject of Team Managers Training, informing the meeting that the ratios in the latest issue of Wavepower had changed, but unfortunately, she was not aware what these were. MC said he would seek out the information and let the members of the committee know for future reference.

Post Meeting Information: MC contacted Jackie Hilliard as regards to this, and was informed that there was a Team Managers Seminar for members of South West clubs on the 8th September, 2020, at 7.00 pm. Water Polo Team Managers welcome to apply.

Swim England Water Polo Leadership Group and Regional Managers

Minutes of the Zoom meeting held 22 April 2020

Group Members: Toby King - TK (Chair)

Mike Hesketh - MH (Competitions Lead)
Ben McDonald – BM (Volunteering Lead & South East Region)
Adam Older – AO (Officials)
Chris Stephens – CS (Officials)
Sean King – SK (Coaching Lead)
Fiona Gorman – FG (Communications Lead)
Ian Mackenzie - IM (SOC Rep)
Norman Leighton - NL (Water Polo Talent Officer)

Regional Managers: Dawn and Richard Cousins - RC (North East Region)

Mike Coles - MC (South West Region)
Michael Dixon - MD (North West)
Nigel Greenwood – NG (West Midlands)
Simon Lecomber – SL (East)

Attendees: Claire Coleman – CC (Head of Volunteering and Pathways)

David Meli – DM (Consultant)
Siân Breen - SB (Senior Administration Officer)

1. **Chair's Welcome, Introductions and Apologies**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, noting that Peggy Etiebet (London) and Helen Pack (East Midlands) were not in attendance, and explained the roles of the Leadership Group members.

It was noted that Andy Fuller (AF - Water Polo Development Manager) was not present at the meeting as the day marked the end of his employment with Swim England. With the structure change following the introduction of a new Head of Performance Operations position it was recognised that, to fall in line with the other disciplines, the position of Development Manager was no longer required. Once the strategy is published and Swim England is in a position to recruit, it is anticipated that Water Polo will be resourced accordingly. AF's work and contribution to the sport were recognised and all present expressed their thanks and wished AF the best for the future.

The Chair expressed his sadness at the news of the passing of Mike Glover, widely known and respected in the Water Polo community. The Leadership Group and Regional Managers sent their best wishes and thoughts to Mike's family.

2. **Covid-19**

Ongoing work to keep athletes mentally and physically fit was outlined, from S&C sessions to baking competitions and 120 attending a Zoom yoga class the previous weekend. Issues with sleep had been raised as a concern and as such the Talent team were working with a psychologist to provide advice.

Actions

Action Number	Action	Completion Date
17	CC to circulate list of contacts for courses.	Prior to next meeting
18	CC, CS and AO to discuss improved communications with officials.	Prior to next meeting
19	CS and NL to discuss required improvements to BUCs officials.	Prior to next meeting
20	CC to ensure correct definition of LLC present on the website <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Information in the Handbook – ensure list of trophies and competitions criteria is fit for purpose.• Safety regulations – up to date and include all required information.	Prior to next meeting
21	SB to circulate relevant Handbook sections to the LG to review.	By 17 July

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- UK Coaching – Safeguarding and Protecting Children Workshop
- A Local Safeguarding Children Boards' (LSCB) safeguarding course for those in regular contact with children – certificate must include an LSCB logo
- National Health Service accredited safeguarding training for those in regular contact with children.
- Safer Activities for Everyone (SAFE) CIC standard safeguarding training, which has to be completed every two years.
- Child Safeguarding training delivered by the Football Association or the England and Wales Cricket Board.

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English and Welsh Member Options

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If you are looking for your Personal Key and are a member of Swim England or Swim Wales club you can login here to obtain it, Scottish Swimming members click [here](#).

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English and Welsh Member Options

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To manage courses as an authorised presenter click [here](#).

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sclUK Safeguarding & Protecting Children		07/05/2019	01/01/2019		REJECTED

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