Swim England South West Region  
Water Polo Technical Committee

## **Held on Monday 7th February 2022, via Zoom**

**Attendees:**

Chris Tubby, Chair of SESWRWPTC (CT)

Roger Downing, President of SESWR

Chrissie Robinson, Chair SESWR (CR)

Mike Coles, SESWR Water Polo Manager (MC)

Stuart Noyce, SESWR Water Polo Finance Officer (SN)

Nick Hume, SESWR Water Polo Chief Coach, Girls

John Spicer, SESWR Water Polo Chief Coach Boys & Glos County Representative (JS)

Brian Steer, Devon County Representative (BS)

Chris Pryke, Dorset County Representative (CP)

Brad Poole, Somerset County Representative (BP)

Chris Selby, Stand in representative for Wiltshire County (CS)

Phil Whiting, Bristol & West Water Polo League Representative (PW)

1. **Welcome from the chair, Chris Tubby, and apologies received.**
   1. Apologies received from Anthony Stevenson, Cornwall County Representative; Martyn Thomas, Water Polo Specialist; Andrew Smart, Regional Board Representative for Water Polo.
   2. CT said that he could not believe that it had been three months since we last met, and had been talking with MC and ST and was sure they would steer him in the right direction.
2. **Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 4th October 2021**
   1. These were approved.
3. **Matters arising from those minutes**
   1. No matters arising.
4. **Updates from various groups**
   1. Swim England Water Polo Leadership Group
      1. Taken as read and no matters arising.
   2. Swim England Water Polo Leadership Group Competition Review
      1. Taken as read and no matters arising. JS said that Rachel Bailey was due to give a review on this, but it had not happened.
   3. Swim England including Competition Calendar
      1. MC informed the meeting that all dates had been included in the calendar, and informed the meeting that the South West was hosting the Under-16 Boys event. SN said that he could not understand why it had taken them a year to sort out the calendar, but we still had the same calendar as before. MC said that once again SE had washed their hand of the event, and it had been handed back to the volunteer group.
      2. MC would go back to the next leadership group and again stress the need for better times lines earlier.
      3. It was suggested that Rachel Bailey and Toby King be invited to the next meeting of this group on the 27th June 2022 so that we can explain our problems faced.
   4. Swim England South West Management Board
      1. CR gave a brief update on events at the board, including the good news that we now have new water polo in Tiverton Water Polo Club. There is due to be a county review, looking at the roles that they are doing with aquatics. The other important thing is Safeguarding, and making sure all water polo coaches involved with the South West have their DBS in place, and also that they have attended a Safeguarding course. SN suggested that we need to ensure all those attending the RTCs and go away with the teams have their necessary details up to date. Safeguarding courses are still free to those who want to attend.
      2. CR added that it was important that all committees have up-to-date job descriptions for those in post.
5. **Report from SESWR Water Polo Head Coaches Reports**
   1. NH reported from the December U16 Girls Inter-Region Competitions at Walsall. The girls had won their division, and so gained promotion with some good performances. He continued that the girls were very inexperienced in competition.
   2. Stemming from the performances, he proposed a new coaching structure be set up. NH went on to give an overview and why changes were needed in the training structure. The purpose of this was to raise the level of the girls, and this would show up in the number of inter-regional competitions won by the South West, and also be benchmarked by the number of players that went on to national academies. It was hoped that the boys would also be able to follow this training structure.
      1. CT asked if anyone wished to make any comments. There had been no negative feedback. CS and BP were encouraged to go along to the RTA.
      2. A vote was taken that we agree to follow the changes proposed by Nick Hume. SN did question what we were voting on, and MC explained that this was a rubber stamp that this committee was in favour of this change. The vote agreed that this be taken forward at the RTA was unanimously in favour.
   3. JS reported on the November U16s Boys Inter-Region Competitions at Walsall. Stu Mckie and Jimmy Walsh were the coaches with Stuart Noyce as the Team Manager. A full report had been received. The South West finished in fourth place. The North West won all their games, and there were three teams on four points, and under the FINA protocol for drawn games put us into that position. SN commended that he thought the boys also suffered from lack of competition. He added that all the players behaved impeccably.
   4. CT mentioned he had received an email from a parent regarding the quota system for players being selected for the National Academy. He wanted to know why another player had dropped out, why his son had not been selected to go in his place? It was agreed that if the quota had been reached, and another player was of a suitable standard to be included, then we in the South West should push for that player to go to the national academy if the South West coaches thought they were of a necessary standard.
6. **Update on Inter-Regional Competitions**
   1. James Ross had contacted the South West to invite them to a warm-up tournament at Basingstoke on the 19th March for 2007 for boys and girls. Cost was £150 per team, and it was agreed that this should be cost neautral, and therefore player contributions would be asked for. Phil Whiting had agreed to be our referee at the event. Team would be selected at the RTC on 5th March. Discussion took place on the various dates that had been banded around. MC suggested that SN and JS speak with James Ross regarding the dates and confirmation of the age groups. SN said that the 2005 girls would be in Blackpool for the Inter-Regions. However, NH thought it would be a good idea for us to enter, and he would ask one of the other coaches to go with them. SN suggested that the player contribution should be £15.00.
   2. MC had confirmed entry to the up and coming inter-region in Blackpool for both Under-18s Boys and Girls, and the entry fee of £400 per event had been forwarded to the Finance Officer of the South West, for payment. It was confirmed that both the boys and girls were in Division One.
      1. The girls event was on the 19th and 20th March at Blackpool. It was agreed that once again players would be asked to board rooms with parents, rather than the region booking rooms, but rooms would be booked for the coaches, team managers and referee.
      2. The boys event was on the 26th and 27th March, also at Blackpool. The same accommodation would be used as for the girls in 6.2.1. Chair said he had received communication from a 2005 player stressing that as the competition was so early in the year, that there then seemed little point in continuing with the RTC once the competition had taken place. It was suggested by SN that if a player wished to attend the first session where selection took place for the 2005, then they could pay just £10.00. SN suggested that both teams play a warm-up match, and this was confirmed by JS that they would be playing Cheltenham on the Friday before. NH suggested that because of the short time span, players needed to be told if they were in the squad now. SN said that NH should contact the respective players on who was available, and almost pre-select the team. NH also had concerns regarding team managers, etc. CT suggested that himself, SN and MC have another meeting the week after the RTC to look at some of the logistics, and also look at a future policy regarding selection because of the late programme issue. A meeting was agreed to be held after this meeting for those with an interest. *Post meeting note: A meeting has been arranged for Tuesday 8th March at 9.45 pm.*
      3. It was agreed that the future events as mentioned in the agenda for 2007 through to 2009 would also be entered, and the entry fee paid by the region as agreed in the budget.
   3. Team selection for these future events would be at the RTA. SN suggested that a small sub-committee be established to discuss team managers and coaches for these events, and the results communicated to the rest of the group. It was suggested that these be CT, MC, NH, JS and SN. A strategy would be established for future events.
7. 2022 SESWR Inter-County Championships at Millfield, 17th & 18th September.
   1. MC confirmed that this had been booked. Entries would be sent out at the end of May, and SN would confirm the cost from the budget.
8. SESW Regional Academy.
   1. A proposal had come from the board as regards remuneration for Head Coaches. This had come in respect of making payments for all disciplines to the coaches involved with talent ID events standardised. It was a straightforward choice between being paid a set sum for coaching, or receiving expenses in regards to mileage. The difference between each for the set sum would need to be declared to HM Revenue and you could be liable for income tax, whilst travel expenses did not. It was explained that water polo had traditionally done it via expenses, whilst swimming had gone down the route of remuneration. It was agreed to continue to pay travel expenses based on mileage.
   2. Dates booked for future RTA were confirmed as:  
      Saturday 5th March 17:00-21:00 Hours  
      Saturday 30th April Ditto  
      Saturday 14th May Ditto  
      Saturday 11th June Ditto  
      Saturday 10th September Ditto  
      Saturday 8th October Ditto  
      Saturday 12th November Ditto
   3. SN confirmed that new hats had been purchased, and new balls would be purchased to ensure that this was replaced on a rolling programme.
   4. Coaches had been invited to attend this. MC said that he had personally received several individuals contacting him directly asking if they could go. He reminded those present that it was a coach recommendation. So when this information was cascaded out by the county representatives, could they reiterate to the coaches that they needed to recommend players to attend. SN expressed concern that some players had yet to pay, and again it was reiterated that returning players would need to pay the full amount, and new players and 2005s
9. Finance Budget for this committee
   1. SN said that the budget had been agreed by the board.
   2. SN said that he would be speaking with the former finance office, Gerry Griffin, regarding income and expenditures had not been shown on the forecast he had been sent. He went on that we were about £3,000 down on budget prediction. SN would send round to the members of the committee.
10. Water Polo Training Courses
    1. MC explained that IoS stood for the Institute of Swimming. They were the organisation which was part of Swim England, that arranged the courses for the Assistant Water Polo Coaches and Coaches. He was awaiting information. *Post Meeting Note: An Assistant Water Polo Coaches Course (Level 1) had been arranged for September, and a Coaches Course (Level 2) had been arranged for December. Both were being tutored by Simon Tomlinson and can be booked through IoS for £350.*
    2. A table officials course was in the process of being sorted. MC had been permitted by Chris Stephens, that he could run this. Date to be announced.
    3. Sunday 13th March had been booked via Zoom, for Part 1, Rules and Applications. This was a two-hour course and had a multi-choice exam at the end of it. Once passed, candidates can officiate club training matches. Part 2 had to be classroom-based and once passed they can referee local league and regional events, so a date in April or early May was being looked at, subject to the availability of the presenters. There would be a charge of £10 for this to cover the expenses of the presenters.
11. Questions for County Representatives on their written reports that had been submitted before the meeting.
    1. No report has been received from Cornwall.
    2. Devon Report: BS wrote that Devon has been running their leagues since 1st July and has had the following teams entered:-  
       Under 13. Barnstaple, Exeter, Newton, Paignton & Taunton.  
       Under 15. Barnstaple, Devonport, Exeter, Newton & Taunton.  
       Under 17. Barnstaple, Devonport, Exeter, Newton & Taunton.  
       Under 19. Devonport & Newton.  
       Ladies. Devonport, Exeter & Newton  
       Seniors. Barnstaple, Devonport, Exeter, Newton & Taunton.   
       The under 13 is run on a tournament base and it has been well received by the players and parents. Devon has also held trials for the upcoming inter regional’s, which again has been well attended for each age group. It was decided that due to the current climate we would not hold our usual cup comps to give the league a chance to be completed.  
       We as a committee are aware that there are still cases of Covid being reported and are keeping an eye on this situation. We have decided to run the full league programme for the 2022 season as long as Club have the pool time and the government protocol does not change.
    3. Dorset Report: Chris Pryke submitted that Dorset continues to progress with regular senior and junior winter water polo training across the County together with a series of localised matches involving Bridport, Weymouth & Bournemouth.
    4. BP commented that he had nothing to report from Somerset. He had been speaking with Simon Tomlinson at Taunton, and Weston. Weston had now established a junior section and now had a women’s team. BP continued that at Frome more juniors had started playing, and in the next 12 months he was hoping to play some games.
    5. CS, who was standing in for Andy Hicks, the Wiltshire Representative said that he had nothing to report.
    6. MC said he had nothing further to add as all items had been covered.
12. Any other business
    1. MC gave a vote of thanks to RD who was attending his last meeting. RD went on to thank the members of the committee who had volunteered on the committee.

Dates of the next meeting:

**Monday 27th June 2022**

**Monday 26th September 2022**

**Monday 30th January 2023**

Post-meeting involving CT, MC, JS, NH and SN.

CT ask to consider the inter-region tournaments in March, and how to select for these? He went on to explain that there was a clash with the BWPL. JS said that it was not so bad for the boys as there was three weeks post-selection. SN suggested that we write to all those interested, and then we select the team on 5th March, but if a player cannot attend, they be considered on past knowledge and performance. He continued that players before the selection could book rooms that could be cancelled if not needed. This was following the latest advice from Swim England.

CT would compose the email that would go out to all the 2005 and 2006 players on the boys, and include 2007, together with 2005 and 2006 players.

A notice would need to be replied to by 27th February. Then NH would try and get a game with Bristol Women as a warm-up game prior to the tournament at Bristol.

JS would try and get a warm-up game on the 25th February. NH did point out that a slight problem with some players being away with the 2003 England Team to Athens. Simon Tomlinson has agreed to help with selection. There were plenty of people available for Team Manager, and NH would speak with Sue Webb.

JS asked if it went ok with December Under-14s to SN, and he said yes.

CT would compose the email together and would forward on to the administrators to be sent out to the players concerned. In that email it would be explained why the selection had to have been done in this way.

SN said he would find out what was sent out to the Under-14s in December, and would send this across to CT to help.

The key points were that the needed to know if they had been selected, they had to pay, and that they needed to book their own accommodation.

It was agreed that 14th May RTA would be used to pick the 2007 team for the next competition in Liverpool for the girls, and Millfield for the boys. SN said that being doing this six weeks prior, it makes sure that they get a chance book accommodation and pay. Also to order their kit from Wyvern Swimwear. JS said that there was a slight issues in that he had a National Academy, but SN pointed out that if they were at the National Academy, then they would be good enough to play in the team.

SN asked what were the age of the children of the administrators, as he wondered if we needed to look at succession planning to make sure there is another set of parents following through. CT asked if we had a number of people willing? SN pointed out that we had been lucky in the past with good administrators.

Finally NH asked if there was enough money in the budget to buy another set of goals. MC suggested we either talk with Millfield or look towards sponsorship. Maybe when the inter-county event is going on, then we look at more opportunities to raise money through such things as a barbecue, etc.