

SESWR Water Polo Technical Committee

Via Zoom on Monday 26th June 2023

Attendees: Chrissie Robinson, Regional Chair CR
Chris Tubby, SESWR WPTC Chair, CT
Mike Coles, SESWR Water Polo Manager, MC
Andrew Smart, SESWR Board Representative, AS
Bradley Poole, Somerset Representative, BP
Stuart Noyce, Devon Representative, SN
Chris Selby, Wiltshire Representative, CS
Helen Rimmer, SESWR Girls' Administrator

1. Welcome from Chair, and apologies received.
 - 1.1. CT welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially MC, who had returned as water polo manager for the region.
 - 1.2. Apologies received from Nick Hume, Girls' Head Coach; John Spicer, Boy's Head Coach; Jim Robinson, Water Polo Financial Officer; Henry Redman, Gloucester County Representative; Phillip Whiting BWWPL Representative, Toby Hogg, Cornwall Representative; Geoff Pearce, SESWR Financial Director.
2. Approval of minutes of the 30th January 2023 meeting.
 - 2.1. There were accepted as a true record of the meeting.
3. Matters arise from those minutes.
 - 3.1. There were no matters arising that were not on the agenda.
4. Updates from various groups connected to the SESWR WPTC.
 - 4.1. Swim England Water Polo Leadership Group.
 - 4.1.1. MC sent these out and they were noted.
 - 4.1.2. MC said he had not been invited to this meeting, and that he only received an invite at a special meeting convened for the regional managers and that group.
 - 4.1.3. MC shared his screen to enable those present to view the minutes. Actions included Learn to Swim Pathway concerning water polo; the competition review was still ongoing.
 - 4.1.4. SN noted that there was no information regarding talent camps and their relationship to the Regional Training Centre (RTC).
 - 4.1.5. SN further noted that there had been a drop off of those attending the RTC, and commented that players did not know in which direction they should go, ie talent centres or RTCs. Clearer direction needed to be forthcoming from Swim England.
 - 4.1.6. HR, the region's girls' administrator was asked what the numbers were like for the RTC, to which she replied that the numbers for the girls were really bad, but then the girls' team were in Liverpool for the inter-regionals. We are strong in the 2009 group, but apart from that there are only a handful in the younger age groups.
 - 4.1.7. SN asked if she knew how many paid for the first half of the year, compared with the second part, but HR said she had yet to work that out. She went on that families were being asked to pay both for the RTCs and Talent Camps.
 - 4.1.8. It was agreed to have a big push for girls in 2024. SN said we were committed for 2023, but we needed to know whether we continue in 2024 or take it in a different direction. It was asked why Craig Figes' group just didn't come and talk with the regional committees and enable us to work together. MC had invited him to this meeting, but unfortunately, he was otherwise engaged. MC would try and have a chat with Ian Mackenzie, who is the temporary chair of the SEWPLG.
 - 4.1.9. It was further agreed to try and get a meeting with Craig Figes organised.
 - 4.2. Swim England WP Calendar
 - 4.2.1. Note that there were no dates yet for forthcoming inter-regional competitions for the remainder of 2023. Wondered if this was intentional given the new talent groups set up in four areas of the country. There was nothing on the previous leadership group

minutes to suggest this was the case. However, this could be part of the SEWPLG Competition Review.

- 4.3. SESWR Management Board Report
 - 4.3.1. CR said that the Board were not due to meet until 30th July.
 - 4.3.2. She went on to say that Swim England was pushing for nominations for the national awards. Disciplines can nominate club of the year, and whether they are standing along clubs or part of a multi-club set-up, also water polo coaches can be nominated. At present there is only one water polo club nominated.
 - 4.3.3. CR continued that there were lots of changes on the governance side of things.
 - 4.3.4. MC mentioned the new regulations for water polo that were coming into force on 1st September, which required clubs to have a Level 2 Coach present at training, and also the use of team managers for junior games, and sticking to the new ratios. These had been first implemented as guidance as far back as 2018, but they were now coming into force as a requirement, and clubs could be facing finding their insurance cover being Null and Void if they failed to implement or change their risk assessments to state why they had not.
 - 4.3.5. MC said he was in contact with the IoS regarding another Level 2 Water Polo Coaching Course being planned for September, he also had details of a Level 1 Assistant Water Polo Coaches Course in Taunton, also in September. He continued that one of the biggest problems was the lack of courses held by Swim England over the last five years, and now we are being faced with this new challenge.
 - 4.3.6. As regards Team Manager's Courses and Safeguarding, these could be arranged through the regional office. Just go to the website and you can book courses there.
5. Updates from SESWR WP Head Coaches.
 - 5.1. Unfortunately, Nick Hume is not on the call having only just returned from coaching the senior men's Great Britain side in Turkey. However, MC was able to report that the Under-16s Girls' side had reached the finals of the Inter-Regions in Liverpool, and lost to the South East in penalties 17-15, to finish in the silver medal position. A great performance by the girls. This result also proved that Nick's new schedule for training at the RTCs was now proving to bear fruit.
 - 5.2. John Spicer was also unavailable due to a pre-arranged appointment, but he was scheduled to coach the Under-16s boys in the Inter-Regional Championships at Liverpool this coming weekend.
 - 5.3. Again the matter of planning events by British Swimming and Swim England was raised. AS spoke that it was not just water polo that suffered from this, and all aquatics were in the same boat. It seems to be that both governing bodies get one big event over and done with, before starting on the next.
6. Update on Inter-Regional competitions.
 - 6.1. As covered in the previous report, no further dates were forthcoming for future competitions.
7. 2023 SESWR Inter-County Championships at Millfield on 23rd/24th September.
 - 7.1. Entries had now been received from Devon, Gloucester County, Cornwall, Somerset and Wiltshire. Dorset had declined entry due to not having a water polo secretary in position. MC said he was speaking with Glen Mitchell in Bournemouth to try and resolve this.
 - 7.2. CT said he would help MC with arranging a play schedule.
8. Merchandise for SESWR water polo teams and coaches.
 - 8.1. Simon Tomlinson at Wyvern Swimwear had sent an email to MC stating that Turbo, our current merchandise suppliers, had increased their prices to £32 for boys' costumes and £55 for girls. This price hike had been met by some clubs, but others had changed supplier to Wyvern's brand, Umiko, with prices at £25.90 and £39.90. It was agreed that the South West would make this change as well.
 - 8.2. SN raised the question Waterof whether the U16 Boys team travelling to Liverpool this coming weekend had the South West Hats, etc. No one knew whether this was the case.

9. SESWR Regional Training Academies.
 - 1.1. There was just three regional training session remaining:
 - 09/09/2023
 - 07/10/2023
 - 11/11/2023
 - 9.1. It was agreed that the October date could be for the selection of the 2010's teams in preparation for the next inter-regional competition if held.
 - 9.2. MC was speaking with Millfield Enterprises as regards dates for 2024. He further mentioned that there had been a shake-up of staff at the office due to Sam Vowles leaving.
10. Finance Report and Budgets.
 - 10.1. MC said that Jim Robinson had taken over the position of Finance Officer for water polo. He was scheduled to have a meeting with SN regarding the role.
 - 10.2. SN confirmed that he would show him how he set up the budgets, etc. and how he presented the spending to the committee.
 - 10.3. Geoff Pearce and CR had been overseeing the finances since the resignation of SN last year. MC had been approving expenses from coaches, etc. and passing them over to Jim Robinson and Geoff for payment.
11. Training Courses.
 - 11.1. Coaches Level 1 and 2 from IOS. MC referred back to the early comments, that these were in hand and scheduled for September.
 - 11.2. Table Officials Courses had recently been held in Exeter with Mike Heskeith running the course via Zoom. This had been opened up across the South West.
 - 11.3. MC said he was hoping to run a referees' course in the Bristol Area in September. He would publicise it once organised.
12. Questions for county officers (written reports submitted before the meeting). Copies attached.
 - 12.1. MC commented on the Exeter v Newquay game, saying he noted quite a few majors awarded against the Cornwall side.
 - 12.2. There were no further questions.
13. Any other business.
 - 13.1. CT announced that he intended to stand down from the position of chair at the end of the year. He had held the role for two years and felt it was time to move on.
 - 13.2. SN mentioned that Brian Steer had been the Devon Representative on this committee for about 15 years, but he had now stepped down. It would be nice for him to receive a letter thanking him for his service, from the committee. This was agreed and MC would write to him.
 - 13.3. There being no further business then the meeting closed at 20.05.

Dates of next meetings:
 Monday 25th September 2023
 Monday 29th January 2024
 Monday 24th June 2024