

The Swim England South West Region Water Polo Technical Committee Meeting held on Monday 26th September via Zoom

Attendees: Paul Robbins, Vice-Chair, SESWR Ltd. (PR)
Chris Tubby, Chair SESWR Water Polo Technical Committee (CT)
Mike Coles, SESWR Water Polo Manager (MC)
Stuart Noyce, SESWR Water Polo Finance Officer (SN)
John Spicer, Boy's Head Coach (JS)
Nick Hume, Girl's Head Coach (NH)
Brad Poole, Somerset ASA Representative (BP)
Brian Steer, Devon County Representative (BS)
Andrew Rycznowski, Wiltshire County Representative (AR)
Phil Whiting, BWWPL Representative (PW)
Helen Rimmer, RTC Administrator (HR)

Welcome from chair and apologies.

- 1.1. Chris Tubby, also giving a late addition to the agenda to include a request from NH on his request for recognition for coaches with children attending the RTC. He would include this in a suitable place in the agenda. He gave a welcome to AR, who had accepted the invitation of MC to represent the views of Wiltshire in the lack of an appointed representative.
- 1.2. Apologies were received from Andrew Smart, Board Representative on this committee, and Toby Hogg, the new Cornwall Representative who was on holiday.
- 1.3. MC explained that there were no apologies received from Dorset, as they were yet to appoint anyone representative to this committee, but he would give a further explanation to the meeting under Item 13.

2. Approval of the minutes held on 27th June 2022.

- 2.1. MC said the minutes had been circulated. All agreed they were recorded as a true record of that meeting.

3. Matters Arising

- 3.1. No matters arising.

4. Updates from Groups

- 4.1. The minutes of the last Swim England Leadership Group meeting had been circulated. Toby King and Craig Figes had been invited to attend this meeting, but neither were attending.
- 4.2. Swim England Competition Calendar: This was what it was, and is available to view on the Swim England website. NH said SE were reviewing the whole structure and the regions would be updated.
- 4.3. Swim England Management Board: PR said they were due to have their next board meeting on Wednesday 5th October, so no new information was available relevant to this meeting. PR had not received any updates from CR.

5. Reports from SESWR Head Coaches

- 5.1. JS gave an update on the boys' 2009 friendly inter-regional competitions with London and South East, which went very well. On the next RTC, the teams would be picked for 2009s.
- 5.2. SN asked if notification could be sent out via social media and email to non-RTC 2009s to be invited to trial, as this was open recruitment for team selection. NH asked why it was open recruitment, and SN explained that it was a rule of the region. He continued that sometimes players do not attend the RTC due to other commitments.
- 5.3. NH reported that his report was similar to JS, and said it was good to get the teams together prior to the next SE competition. He agreed that we were ahead of other regions in terms of number of players attending RTCs, etc.

6. Update on Inter-Regional Competitions.

- 6.1. CT reported that it was good to see the teams competing on the weekend of 17th and 18th, and that all pool time was used. MC reported that it was a very successful

competition with a few disappointments. The first was the refreshments did not materialise except for Saturday morning but weren't there Saturday afternoon and Sunday. The other disappointment was the number of table officials who turned up following the recent table officials' course, which had over 40 attendees, but only a few of them attended the tournament to gain their regional qualification for tabling. Wyvern Swimwear provided a shop that looked to be very busy, and he had received praise for the tournament from the other regions that had attended.

- 6.2. Entries would be submitted for the 2009 competitions in due course. MC had been notified that a room had been booked for the appointed south west referee for the boys competition, but had not had one booked for the girls' competition. Both events were being held in Walsal. The boys was on 26th and 27th November, and the girls event on 3rd and 4th of December.
- 6.3. Team, coaches and team managers would be appointed at the next RTC on 8th October at Millfield.

7. 2022 Inter-County Tournament held on 17th and 18th September.

- 7.1. Full results on the inter-county tournament would be forthcoming in due course.

8. 2023 SESWR Inter-County Championship

- 8.1. MC proposed the dates of the 23rd and 24th September, again at Millfield. Entry forms would be sent out early in 2023.

9. SESWR Regional Training Centre

- 9.1. There were just two dates remaining for 2023, on Saturday 8th October and Saturday 12th November.

- 9.2. MC had provisionally booked the following dates for the 2023 RTCs:

Dates for 2023:

07/01/2023

04/03/2023

29/04/2023

13/05/2023

09/09/2023

07/10/2023

11/11/2023

- 9.3. The date of the April one was queried as it was a Bank Holiday weekend, MC said he would look into changing this date for a June date.
- 9.4. NH asked if another set of goals has been purchased. SN said that the reallocation of the budget had been approved, but we were waiting on agreement from Millfield that they can be stored at the pool before proceeding.
- 9.5. MC said that another invite would go out to all clubs inviting coaches to attend. NH also asked if parents could be made aware that they are welcome to attend his talks given prior to each RTC. The information available was as much for them as the players and coaches.

10. Finance Report and budgets

- 10.1. SN gave a review of the budget situation with a view of spendings to date, and payments received.
- 10.2. He would review the budget and submit it to the region's Finance Director at the earliest possibility.
- 10.3. He thought it best to order another set of match hats with the region's logo on, and presently they only had the one set.
- 10.4. NH commented on the fact that Swimming Teams entering the County Team Championships had all their accommodation, meals and travel, plus a team shirt provided by Gloucester County, whilst if this had been a water polo event, parents were expected to pay. MC commented that it was the same for all the county teams at this event, including Devon and Somerset. Meanwhile water polo players are expected to meet all their costs.
- 10.5. NH went on to explain his proposal regarding recognising the work of coaches in the region, by allowing one of their children to receive free sessions at the RTCs. After much discussion this was unanimously agreed as long as all coaches and administrators received the same benefit. It was further agreed to raise the fee paid by

players for attending the RTC to £12.00 to finance this. It was agreed to ask this to be ratified at the next board meeting.

11. Training Courses

- 11.1. MC reported that a Level 1 Water Polo Assistant Coaches Course was in progress via Zoom and at Taunton.
- 11.2. He continued that there was a planned Level 2 Coaches Course planned for December, also at Taunton.
- 11.3. A successful Table Officials Course had been held with 40 candidates attending. This had been hosted by MC and Paula Manning. Candidates would be assessed and move forward to become either club table officials, or move forward to become regional table officials, by attending regional or national events.
- 11.4. A water polo referees' course was planned for Sunday 2nd October, at Clifton College in Bristol. This was an opportunity of candidates to gain both Parts 1 and 2, enabling them, after mentoring, to become regional referees.

12. County Reports

- 12.1. Counties were asked to submit reports of activities within the counties, these are attached as separate appendixes.

13. Update of present situation in Dorset and Wiltshire as regards Water Polo.

- 13.1. MC gave a report of the present situation in Dorset, following a Zoom meeting with representatives from the three active clubs, Bridport, Bournemouth and Weymouth and Portland. This followed on from the resignation of the county water polo secretary and the representative who sat on this committee. He reported that no one was prepared to take on the responsibility of county secretary for water polo, and all seemed keen just to promote the activities of only their club. Having spoken with the county secretary of Dorset ASA, they are not prepared financially back just one club entering a competition as a club, and claiming to represent the county without fair trials which would be open to all Dorset members to be selected. Therefore the position is at stalemate.
- 13.2. AR who was chair of Wiltshire County spoke of the situation within his county. He was speaking with Swindon Dolphins and Bradford on Avon, but they were not communicating with the county committee. However, having now spoken with a representative from the clubs, he was hopeful of being able to move forward, and that a representative for water polo in the county would be in place by Christmas. AR was thanked for attending and clearing up the position.

14. Any other business

- 14.1. MC announced that he would be stepping down from the position of Water Polo Manager. He had held the post for over five years, but it was time for someone new to take on the position. He agreed to stay in post until his successor had been appointed, and to hand over the role to that person.

15. Next meeting were agreed as follows:

- Monday 30th January 2023
- Monday 26th June 2023
- Monday 25th September.

Meeting closed at 20:10

. Cornwall County Report

Newquay Water Polo:

The Newquay men's team are plodding along as ever training once a week Tuesdays 8:00 - 9:00. This is at Newquay Waterworld which is a GLL centre and is being charged £99 per hour. They are currently not playing regular games but will be exploring entering the Devon league again soon.

The Juniors after a successful trial period over May, June & July this year started back in the pool on the 8th of October. This will be taking them up to the 17th of December so 11 sessions from 11-12:00 on Saturdays for the same price as above.

Penzance Water polo:

They are currently suspended so as of now have no Waterpolo activity taking place

St Austell Water polo:

Since Covid-19 St Austell Waterpolo have been unable to start back up due to cost & Availability of pool time, although they are still attempting to get pool time for both the Senior men's team and the Junior team.

Cornwall Water polo:

The senior men recently became South West champions after beating Devon & Somerset at Millfield on the 18th of September.

Devon County Report

Devon does not have much to report this term, the league is still in progress, but has been well supported by the Clubs. It has been a difficult time with the new pools at Exeter and Barnstaple being delayed in their opening, but with the exception of a couple of games, we are due to complete the league in the second week of October. The under 13 competition continues to be a favourite with the players and parents alike.

The Devon committee are aware that there are still cases of Covid being reported and have treated cancellations with some degree of compassion. That said, from next year's competition we will readdress the situation and make such fines as necessary.

County trials and sub-regional development sessions were and are being held at SSP Exeter. This will allow other coaches to coach teams and assess the players and help bridge the gap between club and regional training, working on key basic techniques. Our cup competition this year will be run on a tournament basis; this will be held at Exeter and Plymouth and will give each age group several games instead of the possibility of just one game. This will culminate in a playoff between the first and second teams to determine the cup winners and third and fourth teams playing off for final positions.

Brian Steer
Devon County

Somerset County Report

Yeovil Spartans:

Yeovil Spartans continue to grow in size, and hopefully next year will be able to supply players for the county sides.

Frome Water polo:

Frome Water Polo are presently in second position in the Bristol & West Water Polo League, and continue to show consistency in their games through their well-established players led by coach and player, Brad Poole. However, it is felt that there is a need to retrain the lead coach to a Level 2 Water Polo Coach.

They have a number of youngsters who have also joined in recent times, following the establishment of a junior water polo session. It is hoped that this will go from strength to strength.

Taunton Deane Water polo:

Water polo continues in Taunton Deane, although there are some concerns that the senior side is showing signs of strain through lack of players, but the junior section is still strong.

With Head Coach Simon Tomlinson's daughters now both at Exeter and with his national duties with England and Great Britain, the club side is missing his drive.

They currently languish at the bottom of Division 1 of the Bristol and West Water Polo League, and look certain to be relegated next season.

Weston-super-Mare Water polo:

Weston's squad continue to grow with the support of the whole club, and now boast a senior men's team, women, Under-17s and Under-15s, and a flourishing younger age group by establishing mini water polo, to set up a "conveyor system" of players through all age groups. Their coaching staff, under the leadership of Head Coach Mike Coles, Senior Coach Nick Purslow, and junior coaches Simon Farrance and Bence Bisztritsányi, has joined the club, having learnt his water polo in Budapest, Hungary.

They are restarting their mini water polo again in October, with the full backing of the club.

Somerset Water Polo

After their dismal performance in the inter-county championships, it has been suggested that the county re-establish their county league for senior, women, Under-17s, Under-15s and Under-13s. This is being investigated by the head coaches of all four clubs, plus University of Bath, who also are registered with the county.