

Swim England South West Region Water Polo Technical Committee

Held on Monday 27th June 2022, via Zoom

Attendees:

Chris Tubby, Chair of SESWRWPTC (CT)
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
Brian Steer, Devon County Representative (BS)
Brad Poole, Somerset County Representative (BP)
Andy Smart, SESWR Board Representative (AS)

1. Welcome from the chair, Chris Tubby, and apologies received.

- 1.1. Apologies received from Anthony Stevenson, Cornwall County Representative; Martyn Thomas, Water Polo Specialist; John Spicer, Boy's Head Coach; Phil Whiting, BWWPL Representative; No Wiltshire County Representatives have been appointed. No Dorset County Representatives have been appointed.
- 1.2. A welcome was given by Chair, CT.

2. Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 7th February 2022

- 2.1. These were approved. All agreed that they were a true record.

3. Matters arising from those minutes

- 3.1. SN asked about the invite to members of the Leadership Group to attend, ie Rachel Bailey or Toby King? MC replied that both had declined. CR said that she would try to get someone from the national groups to attend. NH replied that hopefully Craig Figes would be in post, and therefore would attend in that capacity.

4. Updates from various groups

4.1. Swim England Water Polo Leadership Group

- 4.1.1. The group had only met last week, and the minutes were yet to be published. MC commented that there had been an update on referees' gradings.

4.2. Swim England including Competition Calendar

- 4.2.1. Was filling up, but still, major dates were missing. NH remarked that several different groups were inputting into the calendar, but he was hopeful that once Craig Figes came on board, he could influence this. It was further noted that presently Norman Leighton is out of action having been involved in an accident. NH continued to give an outline of the problems involved.

4.3. Swim England South West Management Board

- 4.3.1. CR gave an update on the current position but stressed that there was due to be a meeting the following weekend of the board, and therefore anything she reported on today was already about three months out of date.
- 4.3.2. She continued by reiterating that all coaches used by the South West were fully up to date on their coaching safeguarding and DBS.
- 4.3.3. MC commented that at the forthcoming competition in Winchester, there was a problem with a team manager attending, as she was yet to be qualified as a TM1.

5. Reports from SESWR Water Polo Head Coaches

5.1. NH gave the report as the Girl's Head Coach.

- 5.1.1. NH reported that he had been appointed in September and he had been trying to ascertain what the aspirations of the programme were at a national level. He believed it to be a mix of development and competitive programme.
- 5.1.2. At the regional academy, he was trying to establish a programme of education not just for the players, but also for regional and club coaches, and also for parents, and therefore they were all welcome to stay and listen to his talks given at the academy.
- 5.1.3. He had one session with the 05s before they competed in Walsall, where they finished in third place. With the 07s he had two training sessions before they competed in Liverpool at the end of June, where they finished in fourth place out of the 10 teams.
- 5.1.4. He emphasised that his desire for the regional teams was that they were competitive and challenged for the top three places in the regional competitions. To do this he felt that there was a need for a sub-regional development programme, because of the distances between the top-flight clubs. He reported that having read the Devon report, this was already beginning to happen in that county. This was for the 09s and younger. He said that this needed to be run out in the other counties.
- 5.1.5. SN pointed out that there was a big gap in age groups because of the lack of competition during the Covid years. He added that the region intended to invite teams from the West Midlands and South-East to use up water time in September, during the inter-county competition. The age groups would be the 06s and 09s.
- 5.1.6. NH said that players needed more games. He suggested we hire Millfield, because of its central location, and invite players of a particular age group, mix them up, play games with different coaches allocated to each team, and play a mini-festival. Maybe fund-raising at the same time. SN suggested a feasibility study be put together with costings. It could be based on individuals paying, rather than clubs, to try and eradicate club rivalry.
- 5.1.7. NH continued that the girls needed to improve by changing the culture of water polo in the southwest.

5.2. Report from John Spicer, Boy's Head Coach

- 5.2.1. CT said that there has not been a report submitted by JS. MC said that when he had submitted his apologies, he had commented that he had obtained a set of $\frac{3}{4}$ size goals, but it was believed that these were the aluminium style goals, that were not suitable for the academy.
- 5.2.2. CT further added that the 05s had won their competition at Blackpool with Stu Mckie and Jimmy Walsh coaching. So congratulations to them.
- 5.2.3. JS would be the coach of the 07s at next week's competition at Millfield, with Glen Mitchell as assistant coach, and Chris Newton as team manager.

6. Update on Inter-Regional Competitions

- 6.1. An update was given on the South East Tournament at Winchester. It was commented on that the South West would not be sending a referee after the last competition only the South West referee, Phil Whiting had turned and officiated the whole tournament on his own.
- 6.2. 07 Boys would be competing at Millfield on 2nd and 3rd July 2022. MC was the Tournament Director; timing equipment was being provided by ourselves and Newton Abbot, with kind thanks to them. Size 4 balls would be provided by Swim England.
- 6.3. MC added that they had been unable to get the normal food and refreshments provided, but he would stop off at a supermarket and get refreshments for the officials. Street Swimming Club would provide refreshments for the spectators.
- 6.4. Two types of whistles would be used by the referees to try and alleviate the problems of the two pitches.

7. 2022 SESWR Inter-County Championships at Millfield, 17th & 18th September.

- 7.1. Entries had been received from Devon, Gloucester County and Somerset only. Devon had entered teams in every event; Gloucester had done the same, except for the Senior Men's competition; Somerset had entered the Senior Men, Senior Ladies and Under-15s Mixed Competition. No entries received from Wiltshire, Dorset or Cornwall.

- 7.2. MC added that Henry Redman was now appointed Gloucester County representative.
- 7.3. SN asked if Wiltshire and Dorset could enter a joint team, but MC explained that this was a SESWR Championship, and therefore very difficult to relax the conditions laid down in the handbook controlling this competition. He went on to say that the problems being encountered in the aforementioned counties were different in each one. In Wiltshire, because their development camps had stopped, the County Management Committee felt that they could not support an entry. In Dorset, the secretary for water polo, Fred Fowler, had resigned; and the county representative, who had been Chris Pryke, did not stand for re-election. They felt that they did not have the support of the clubs in the county. In Cornwall, the club were finding it hard to hire pools for water polo. St Austell had tried to restart, but could not get support from players, etc. At Penzance, they were having difficulty obtaining enough water time. The only club that seemed to be thriving was Newquay, which had just restarted its junior section. *Post-meeting note: MC had been in communication with Toby Hogg of Newquay, who had shown interest in entering the Senior Men into the County Competition. He also showed a willingness to take on the role of Cornwall's Representative on this committee. This had now been ratified by the secretary of Cornwall, and their president, Chris Elliot.*
- 7.4. It was agreed that a meeting is set up with the counties concerned to see what could be done to help them. *Post Meeting Note: A meeting has been set up with Dorset clubs for Monday 11th July, via Zoom.*
8. SESW Regional Academy.
 - 8.1. Three more dates remained in the current calendar:
 - 8.1.1. Saturday 10th September 17:00-21:00
 - Saturday 8th October Ditto
 - Saturday 12th November Ditto
 - 8.2. CT said that he had received a request from NH that two further sets of goals were needed for the academy to enable it to achieve its maximum potential with four pitches being set up. SN commented that there was enough money in the budget, but it would need to be taken from another area where the money had not been used, Workforce Development. It was agreed to raise the question with the Finance Director at the Board meeting on Saturday 9th July.
9. Finance Budget for this committee
 - 9.1. SN said that the present budget report had been sent out to the members.
 - 9.2. He added that the numbers attending the academy, were up on the budget projections, so there was also more money there.
 - 9.3. He did have concerns that the inter-county numbers were down, and therefore there could be a shortfall on it. He suggested that we charge the visiting region £150 per team to try and help this.
 - 9.4. SN asked CR if sponsorship could be allowed, similar to Exeter. She replied that we were governed by Swim England. She asked if a paper could be put together and given to the Finance Director, who could take it to the board.
 - 9.5. SN said that some expenses were overdue. MC said that he would resubmit his expenses that had yet to be paid from March and May.
10. Water Polo Training Courses
 - 10.1. MC said that the IoS had arranged an Assistant Coaches Course and a Coaches Course for the Autumn.
 - 10.2. SN reported that although he had paid money to the IoS, he had not heard anything. MC would investigate.
 - 10.3. A table officials course had yet to run, but MC said he had now been given the go ahead to run a course by Chris Stevens, so would start planning.
 - 10.4. Referees Courses had been run with Part 1 in March, and Part 2 in May. 19 candidates had taken part, 10 had continued to Part 2, and they were now receiving appointments to referee with mentors.
11. Questions for County Officers from their written reports.
 - 11.1. No report has been received from Cornwall.
 - 11.2. Devon Report: BS wrote: Devon has again been able to run the league this year and the support and help of the Club's has been great. The under 13 competition is run on a tournament basis, playing in each Club's home pool, and again very popular. The cup

competition this year will be run along the same lines, with the tournaments being held at Plymouth Life Centre and St Sidwell's Point Exeter, this will give Club more games.

The following teams have entered the league this season:-

Under 13 Barnstaple, Exeter, Newton, Paignton & Newton

Under 15 Barnstaple, Devonport, Exeter, Newton, Paignton & Taunton

Under 17 Barnstaple, Devonport, Exeter & Newton

Under 19 No Comp

Ladies Barnstaple, Devonport, Exeter and Newton

Seniors Barnstaple, Devonport, Exeter, Newton Abbot; Taunton

The Devon committee are aware that there are still cases of Covid being reported and some of the Clubs are also having difficulty with their pool times, therefore it has been decided that no fines would be imposed on Club for the cancellation of fixtures this year.

Devon is holding county trials and training sessions from June to Sept. We start the first of three 10-week blocks of development sessions for the 2012-2009 age group. This will be the first sub-regional development session to help bridge the gap between club and regional training, working on key basic techniques. These sessions would be from 6.30 – 8.00 on Friday evenings. The first 2 sessions for the under 13 & 15 have seen an attendance of 50 players.

It is regret that Devon has to announce the passing of Mr Bill Baker, a very active member of the Devon ASA and a stalwart for the refereeing in the County.

11.3. Dorset Report: No report submitted

11.4. Gloucester County: No report submitted

11.5. Somerset Report: No report submitted

12. Report from Water Polo Manager.

12.1. MC said he had nothing further to add as all items had been covered.

13. Any other business

13.1. Discussion took place on a finance issue. It was agreed that there were too many issues involved, and further investigation would be carried out to conclude.

Dates of the next meeting:

Monday 26th September 2022

Monday 30th January 2023

Monday 26th June 2023

Monday 25th September 2023