

## The Swim England South West Region Water Polo Technical Committee Meeting held on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2023 via Zoom

**Attendees:** Chrissie Robinson, Director and Chair, SESWRL Ltd. (CR)  
Paul Robbins, Vice-Chair, SESWR Ltd. (PR)  
Chris Tubby, Chair SESWR Water Polo Technical Committee (CT)  
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)  
Chris Selby, Wiltshire County Representative (AR)  
Phil Whiting, BWWPL Representative (PW)  
Geoff Pearce, Regional Finance Officer SESWR Ltd. (GP)  
Helen Rimmer, RTC Administrator (HR)

### **(1) Welcome from CT and apologies**

CT inadvertently missed Toby Hogg (Cornwall Representative) from the invite list so he didn't attend the call. CT will send an apology to Toby with a copy of the minutes. As per the previous meeting, Dorset did not attend as they don't currently have a representative.

### **(2) Approval of the minutes held on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

CT was unaware that Mike C hadn't circulated the minutes to the wider group. After reviewing the minutes prior to the call, SN raised the following **matters arising** from the 26<sup>th</sup> Sep:

#### **Matters Arising**

- (i) Full Results of SW Inter Counties Tournament** – These have not been received. CT to query with Mike C (CT recalls MC completing them as the weekend progressed). Required for confirmation of results, distribution of trophies etc.
- (ii) SW Counties Competition Sep 23** – Entry forms to be sent out in early 2023 to each county. CT to pick this up as he is acting Water Polo Manager.
- (iii) Discounted fees** - Proposal for coaches/members of the committee/administrators to receive a discount against their children's' fees where applicable (as a recognition of the efforts of these individuals through the year). CT advised that for a number of reasons, this proposal had been rejected by the South West Management committee. NH (who proposed this change) has accepted this decision.
- (iv) Dorset representative** – CT advised that MC has engaged with Dorset representatives. CT noted that tensions and challenges in the county manifested themselves in a recent 'friendly' match. SN suggested that the committee needs to re-engage and mediation is required. PW advised that Dan from Weymouth is on the Dorset refereeing course, so he will have a chat with him (CT to forward across the most recent correspondence from Chris Pryke).

### **(3) Reports from Head Coaches**

**John Spicer (Boys)** – January RTC was really well attended (36 for the younger age group which led to some of the older players being moved into the older group). JS comfortable with the new format for the RTCs. 09s competed in Walsall at the end of November. Finished in 5<sup>th</sup> place and once again the final position for the SW boys was determined by a penalty shoot out. Next time round the SW will play in Division 1.

PW talked about the 06s in Blackpool (28<sup>th</sup>/29<sup>th</sup> Jan). The team was mostly 07/08s with 4 of the first seven (06s) not available. PW commented that the team was up against it in most of the games, but the spirit, effort and behaviour of the group was commendable, and the 07s will be well placed for their next IR. General disappointment that the key 06s were missing from the weekend. CT reminded the group that 07s for London and SE, will be invited again to the SW Inter Counties weekend in September.

### **Nick Hume (Girls)**

NH advised that turn out was on the low side for the girls at the January RTC. NH keen to promote and advertise for more girls, and is involved with schools who are currently playing water polo and some kids may come across. Leaflet required which could be published on the Facebook page, and then printed off so that NH can distribute. CR suggested that it is advertised through the clubs, and the players can then move up into the RTC. CR also advised that they can come from the swimming clubs as well. CS advised that Swindon Dolphins have produced a flyer and will send this through to the group (can then be edited and made available).

09s came third in Walsall and didn't have the easiest draw but played well. 06s set to play in Blackpool on 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Feb (post meeting – the girls came 2<sup>nd</sup> which was a great achievement).

### **(4) Suspended Clubs**

CR advised that the following clubs will be suspended on Thursday due to not completing the necessary affiliation tasks:

Bath University (post meeting – they've now been reinstated)  
Bristol University  
Newquay Water Polo

### **(5) Dorset Refereeing Course**

Mike C has put in place a refereeing course in Dorset on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2023, and has also asked that the course is promoted through the SW Facebook page.

SN has raised the following concerns regarding the course:

- Courses that are promoted under the SW banner need to be agreed by the committee. CT has spoken to Mike C about this, and he's agreed to raise these requests to the committee first in the future.
- The previous course was not funded correctly (the received monies did not cover the requested expenses). CT to query this with Mike C. Mike C has indicated that the Dorset course will be self funding and has declared the up front costs (this was confirmed by CR). Mike C to pass the monies across to SN so that the Mike C and PW's expenses can be paid accordingly.
- As Dorset are not represented at the meetings, should the SW be supporting a course in their county? CT's view is that this is a positive step in terms of encouraging their reintroduction to the group.
- Previously, the courses have been alternated between the SW and BWWPL, but the last two have been provided by the SW. SN also keen on future courses being paid for prior to the start and monies received by SN to ensure it is self funded. CT to query with Mike C.

## **(6) SW Inter County Weekend**

CT confirmed that as per **2 (ii)** above, London and the SE will be invited at the same time as the counties to the September weekend. CT to check the format with SN prior to publication to ensure the errors from 2022 are not repeated.

NH requested that for the younger players, we should consider merging some of the players from Wiltshire, Cornwall and Dorset (U13s and U15s) into one county, so that all players have an opportunity to play. CT to build this into the 2023 format. CT advised that longer days could be possible at Millfield and no requirement to include the Bristol and West final. CR will review the rules but was positive regarding the suggestion.

CS indicated that Wiltshire will look to enter a senior men teams for 2023.

## **(7) Finance Report & Budget**

SN distributed this afternoon. Couple of items of income to be finalised. Income was higher due to RTC being in surplus from increased fees. No questions regarding 2022 spend.

SN recommended that IR competitions are selected earlier to encourage attendees to pay prior to the weekend (with a view that failure to pay would jeopardise their inclusion in the group).

GP to review the files but comfortable with the initial review.

2023 Budget: Reflects RTC, SW Inter County Competition and IR entries. SN mentioned the  $\frac{3}{4}$  goals, but CT advised that Millfield have refused to accommodate them. CT to check again with Millfield. GP happy with the budget as things stand.

Some discussion (and concern) regarding the split payments and whether this may be affected by the National training at Bristol (see separate minute). It was intended as a 'cost of living' concession, but there is a possibility that parents may not pay for the second set of monies if they've committed to the £60 monthly fee set for National training.

HR advised that the number of girls was low and some didn't attend in January but they may come at later sessions (and possibly they won't then want to pay for the full set of RTC sessions). HR advised that of those that did attend, about 2/3 paid in full. Will need to see if there is a drop off and if it affects income. Chris N received quite a bit of cash due to a number of boys trialling. Situation to be monitored going forward.

SN advised that he is stepping down from the Finance Role. CT thanked Stuart for his efforts over a number of years in various positions. (post meeting) SN has advised that he will settle January's accounts and then look to hand over. In the absence of an immediate replacement, CT has asked CR for some temporary assistance until the position is filled.

## **(8) Talent Centre Programme**

CR to supply the group with a link to Craig's session regarding 'Introduction of the National Talent Centres' on Mon Feb 6<sup>th</sup>. All committee members can attend.

## **(9) Coach Training Courses (May & June RTCs)**

Nick and John are aware and will accommodate the coaches into their sessions. NH to confer with Sarah Dunsby to ensure that everybody is on the same page. Coaches will be allowed to integrate into the sessions but direction sits with Nick & John (rather than Sarah). Agreed that this is a good opportunity to supplement the SW coach group.

**(10) Recommendation for 'Water Polo Player of 2022'**

CR advised that an overall player needs to be recommended by NH & JS (with a citation). This is then passed to the management committee to review across the region against all disciplines. Usually based on achievement and needs to be supplied to CR by the end of March.

**Next meeting were agreed as follows:**

Monday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2023

Meeting closed at 20:30

### **Devon County Report**

Devon have completed their 2022 league programme and again it was a well run league. We had 5 Clubs with age groups from mini to seniors. Again the mini tournament was a huge success and enjoyed by the players and parents alike.

This year Newquay have joined the men's senior league making a total of 6 teams, Barnstaple now have their pool operational but are still having problems due to the cost of pool hire. We still have to complete the cup games, as this year for the first time we have played this on a tournament base, which has given all Clubs, and all ages more than just the knock out competition. Again this has been well attend and enjoyable.

### **Somerset County Report**

Individual clubs are enjoying an increase in numbers for the younger groups. A number of players attended the RTC and enjoyed it but struggled towards the end of session, but a positive step forward.

### **Wiltshire County Report**

20 clubs in Wiltshire but only two play polo. Encouraging the clubs to direct swimmers across to the polo clubs to improve numbers. Looking to join Wiltshire and Somerset together in respect of a combined younger teams.