

South West Region Artistic Swimming

Meeting notes from the Zoom meeting held on Monday 16th November 2020

All clubs except Seagulls were represented.

Each club was sent a questionnaire to complete. The questions below were sent to Maria Ramos asking for clarification

1) consider a 'bulk grading' day for our club here in Cornwall if we get a sufficient number of swimmers ready for the same time in Spring KERNOW
2) subsidise travel costs to competitions/grading events further up the region as we are so much further away than other clubs and will have limited funding due to extra pool hire costs KERNOW
3) reconsider the ratio of officials to swimmers required for smaller clubs at competitions KERNOW
4) how can we as a region support AS sections in clubs to exist when the main club seems to not bother RAD(Chippenham)
5) what plans have we got to support young in experience coaches/teachers and officials (I am thinking of mentoring on poolside etc) RAD(Chippenham)
6) Regarding judges and any updates (if/when there will be any) (W Dorset)
7) Plans for skill days next year. (W Dorset)
8) Would like to know how other clubs are managing with newcomers/trials etc/ and how they integrate these new swimmers into the sessions with all the current restrictions and bubble groups. (W Dorset)
9) closer working between clubs generally. (Taunton)
10) sharing of knowledge from higher level clubs to all clubs in region (Taunton)
11) Sharing land session ideas between us all. Using zoom seems to work well. (Taunton)
12) We would be interested in how others are keeping swimmers motivated and engaged. (Cheltenham)
13) How will the backlog of those not able to complete 'grades' be addressed in 2021? (COB)
14) We have Level X Racing in swimming. Is there a way that Artistic Swimming can plan for some sort of competition(s)? COB)
15) Please could the region provide an update on how clubs apply for funding opportunities and what criteria the region has in place for these and whether any of the criteria needs adapting to allow for COVID constraints COB)
16) I think it would be valuable to hear if other clubs have to provide lifeguards too and how this is working for them. COB)

She replied by email as below

We had a leadership call over the weekend and I will be sending out a note either later today or tomorrow. I am just waiting for some more info to come through.

We are all struggling to answer these specific questions, especially as we are all lockdown again so planning anything in the future is incredibly difficult. We had started a pilot/test on virtual grades testing which was going well. but then lockdown happened and the pools closed, so we were not able to complete the process and procedures. But we're confident that we'll have something when we eventually are allowed back in the pools.

We are also looking at creative ways for some form of competition too. I'll try and get information out to you before your meeting, if not, it will come very soon after!

Hope the meeting goes well Maria

It was agreed that as soon as we receive Maria's next email this will be sent out to all the club contacts for comments and would also be discussed at the next regional Artistic Management Committee meeting.

Each club was asked for an update on their current club situation.

Chris Robinson asked if all the clubs had completed the Return to Train document. As Artistic swimming is only one discipline in some multi discipline clubs it appears that some were omitted. Chris agreed to send out an email to all attendees and asked them to complete and to make sure that they fill in the comments section expressing their concerns.

CALNE

August back in the water 1 hour 15 mins at St Marys No spaces available at Calne pool. Lost some swimmers.

CHIPPENHAM

Has now closed. Artistic Swimming discipline not included in any pool space negotiation. Letter was received by Roger who will discuss at Regional Board.

CHELTENHAM

Lane swimming only 2 sessions of 50 mins

CITY OF BRISTOL

September back full programme 3 disciplines 2 out of 4 pools available. During this lockdown mainly land training. Losing older swimmers due to lack of exam pressure

TAUNTON

Returned in August. 1 hour 45 mins on Fridays plus Wednesday pool share
Land training being done by Alyson.

WEST DORSET

Back in in October only water time available is 1 1/2 hours on a Saturday evening. Loss 6 swimmers

KERNOW

Returned in September 1.3 metre deep pool 2 sessions per week. Now offered 1 hour Friday night back at normal pool. Pool price increases proving a problem.

TEAM BATH

August University Studio pool hours.30 mins per week.

Sunday pool hire by lane. Numbers had to be reduced due to capacity. Hope when they return to be 4.5 hours water and 2 hours land training

REGIONAL WEB SITE INFORMATION

There are lots of free courses available.

Everyone should sign up for the Regional Newsletter

Funding for clubs - on SWR web site. Go into "clubs" and find the funding matrix.

SWIM ENGLAND.

Concern was expressed about the lack of communication between Swim England and the Region

It appears that a great number of the courses etc are being advertised on social media, facebook etc. This information should come out to the Regional Artistic committee as well as the regional office for circulation. At the moment all of these webinars are being arranged by Katie Clarke.

Are we having a regional chair meeting this year?

POOL BOOKINGS

Plymouth Life Centre now on track to reopen April 2021.

Exeter Pool under construction but no opening date yet.

Must be aware of cancellation conditions before any booking is made. The conditions must be read carefully as some pools are stating that if we have to cancel, we are responsible for the full booking fee.

REGIONAL ADMIN

Chris Robinson asked for Gloucester to arrange a new County rep.

Clare Murphy to replace Jean Pitfield after the Wilts AGM.

Lou |Collings has now stepped down as Grade coordinator. The current email address for Grades is still active and all emails will go direct to Sarah Garrett.