

# Artistic Swimming Leadership Group

Minutes of the meeting held at 10am on 20.2.21 via Zoom

Draft minutes' subject to approval by all members of Artistic Swimming Leadership Group.

**Present:** Maria Ramos – Artistic Swimming Chair  
 Hannah Secher – Officials & Workforce Lead  
 Sarah Clarke – Athlete Reward & Recognition Lead  
 Louise Ross – Coach Development Lead  
 Ian Atkinson – Competition, Technology & Presentation Lead  
 Jim Boucher – SOC Representative

**Staff:** Claire Coleman  
 Karen Thorpe

| Min No:   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
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| <b>1.</b> | <b>Level X on Land &amp; general Squad Update - KT</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|           | <p>We currently have 115 entries with 113 videos submitted which is a great start for a new venture. Judging is all sorted and we go live with 10 finalists in all categories on Saturday 27th February. There are 38 clubs represented and the event will be live streamed via zoom on Facebook.</p> <p>A full list of results will go on the website and all participants will receive a certificate; there will also be social media posts</p> <p>There have been some questions asked over who the event was open to and it was agreed that masters will be taken into account if a similar event is run again</p> <p>Some clarity is needed from the Finance director over which pot the funds are going into from the event; we need sufficient funding to manage the sport and to deliver for our National Squads</p> <p>MR recommended that we raise again with the CEO's of British Swimming and Swim England over funding – Aquatic Swimming currently receive no funds at all to deliver from grassroots through to Olympic performance, so where do we fit and how do we continue</p> <p>MR stated that the Comms team had been very supportive in promoting the event</p> |
| <b>2.</b> | <b>Return to Competition Roadmap - MR</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|           | <p>What does our competition programme look like; what should we be aiming for and what does our competition structure look like?</p> <p>Physical competition not feasible until athletes have been back in the water for 6 months but there was a concern we may lose some swimmers if they have no competition to focus on</p> <p>There was a big discussion over what events could be put on and how it could look like; an initial structure started to come together</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |

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|           | What will 'returning to the pool' look like – do we know whether it has been signed off as being safe to train in the pool due to the Chlorine                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>3.</b> | <b>Update on admin and Development roles and Strategy - CC</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|           | <p>After the restructure in August the Club Development team and the National Development officer for Artistic Swimming were removed. We now have 4 key areas in all disciplines:<br/> Governance and Standards – Helen Weeks<br/> Volunteering – Thysia Pater-Dye (seconded)<br/> Club and Operator Relationships – Andy Jack<br/> Club Growth – Becky Walker</p> <p>There was a need for standardisation across all the leadership groups and therefore each will receive a primary and secondary admin; the minutes will be circulated for amends to the group with the final minutes to be published within 2 weeks of approved by the chair.</p> <p>Chris Jones is the primary admin for this group with Nicola Ross as the secondary. Chris was unable to attend this meeting so following the agreed practice Julie Harrison is acting administrator.</p> <p>HS raised some questions around a young volunteer programme and KT shared details of the programme pulled together by Sarah Darragh before her departure. All regions run an YVP that is one to everyone. It was felt that this would be too swimming orientated. It was agreed that if it was part of the group's ambition, an artistic YVP could run but would need technical input and delivery support from the community.</p> <p>There was discussion about ensuring the group had fair access to resources as a 'smaller' discipline. CC explained that knowing the group's strategy was key to ensuring access to resources.</p> |
| <b>4.</b> | <b>Funding Update - KT</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|           | <p>Webinars between September and December raised £5500. We need to raise £1,000 /month and currently on target to achieve this<br/> Looking to submit a funding bid to Sport England<br/> Our funding bid has been rejected by UK Sport and we are currently appealing the decision; there is also a pot of money available to unsuccessful bids which could be looked at<br/> Some parents have formed a fundraising group</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>5.</b> | <b>International Update (Olympics, Europeans) – KT &amp; MR</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|           | <p>Olympics are still likely to go ahead as planned, however it will be a very different experience for our athletes, however Team GB will be hosting a home coming celebration just for the athletes.</p> <p>European champs is going ahead in its full capacity; MR has asked for more details of the protocols surrounding the event.</p> <p>Maybe put some feelers out for judges now</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>6.</b> | <b>Dates for 2021 Meetings - ALL</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
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|           | <p>TOR states should be a minimum of 4 meetings/year; it was agreed Saturday mornings worked best for everyone. The next 3 meetings will be late May/June, early Sept and early Dec.</p> <p>There are 2 Regional manager's meetings per year; SC agreed to be part of the meetings to liaise for the group;</p> <p>All Artistic updates can be sent through the regional emailer system.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>7.</b> | <b>A.O.B:</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|           | <p>ASLG Terms of Reference (MR/JB): these have now been updated and a few tweaks on wording needed<br/>It maybe that a dedicated Comms lead is needed;</p> <p>HS – regions have been asking if they can run the national programme locally; MR confirmed that there are no plans to license virtual competitions so no problem if they wish to do so.</p> <p>Virtual grades – do we publish before we go back into the pool; SC advised that this does need to happen 6 weeks before back in the pool; It was agreed a package of content is needed.</p> <p>Coaching courses Level 1&amp;2 – some have been signed off; there are also new qualifications coming through that need to be piloted</p> <p>LR – mentoring programme; was going to wait until 2022 but group thought a shortened version would be good to do this year.</p> |