

President Roger Downing

Minutes of the Coach Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 14th December 2021 via Zoom at 1015am

Present: Chrissie Robinson (CR) Regional Chair
Paul Robbins (PR) Regional Vice Chair
Stacey Millett (SM) Regional Development Officer
Chris Alderton (CA) Team Bath AS
Jan Hutchings (JH) Poole SC on behalf of Barry Aldrick
Jo John (JJ) Exeter City SC
Rich Smith (RS) Marlborough Penguins
Joel Knight (JK) Mount Kelly Swimming on behalf of Greg King
Euan Dale (ED) Millfield School

1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

CR welcomed all to the meeting, apologies listed below.

Apologies: Chris Vickery – SESW Staff
James Richards – Gloucester City SC
Mike Parker – Swim England Talent
Jon Wills – Soundwell SC
Barry Aldrick – Poole SC
Jason Quiterio – Caradon SC
Lisa Atkinson – City of Bristol
Greg King-Limb – Mount Kelly Swimming

2. Declarations of Interest

None

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting 29.09.2020

Accepted as a true record

4. Matters Arising Not on the Agenda

None

5. Governance

Teaching and Coaching Register

CR made those attending the meeting aware that the Teaching and Coaching register was being worked on by Swim England. They are doing a full review of the Safeguarding and DBS expiries and contacting where needed. Next they will be looking at qualifications.

CA asked if this would be an open document for Clubs. CR stated that this is a Swim England document containing membership details, not something that would be shared. However all clubs have access to view their own membership through OMS.

It is important coaches keep their training and records up to date, keep an eye on expiry dates and renew early where possible.

Swim Mark, Stronger Affiliation and Constitutions

These areas aren't so relevant to coaches but it was discussed around the need to be aware of these things in order to support their committees if needed.

2 clubs have recently been suspended in the Region for not complying with Strong Affiliation so it is important to ensure everything is in place by the deadline.

Stronger Affiliation will be changing names to Club Affiliation at some point next year.

Constitutions will be changing at some point in the New Year, there have been changes made to the model template which Swim England have produced. It will be released with a full complement of guidance notes to help clubs when amending theirs.

6. Competitions

Licensing Criteria

Since the return to competition in September the licensing criteria has been relaxed in terms of numbers of officials needed to carry out events. This criteria should be returned to pre-COVID guidelines by January 2022 however this may be changed as this is something that is being discussed by the Swimming Officials Group at Swim England.

CA asked if this is going to be sustainable going forward and whether this was creating a barrier for a club running meets. Also mentioned that it is becoming more difficult for clubs to run meets especially distance events and asked whether these decisions have been made in line with the current Swim England work around distance events.

PR responded that the Swimming Officials Group we discussing all of the options and returning to pre-COVID numbers may result in less trainees being able to attend and more qualified Officials being needed.

In terms of know if this links with the Swim England work around distance events we would need to seek clarification from Mike Parker at SE Talent.

Regional Champs 2022

Qualifying times have been published for the 2022 Summer Champs. These times have been based on the Qualifying times that were issued for 2020 which didn't happen. Over Christmas these times will be looked at and compared to events which have taken place to gain an understanding of where they sit in terms of performance in the Region.

We are keen to keep the event accessible but also maintain the standard of a Regional Event.

All of the venues for the Summer Champs are booked and they are detailed on the Regional Website - <https://www.swimwest.org.uk/competitions/>

At all of the 2022 Champs the decision at the moment is that the events will not be open to spectators. Discussion was had around the benefits of no spectators including more

space for athletes if venues have capacity limits, also a larger number of people coming forward to volunteer so they can enter the venue. If the information goes out relatively soon with the current COVID situation people will be understanding of the decisions. It was agreed that the events need to as safe and COVID friendly as we can make them. PR also stated that it was better to say they couldn't then change to they can rather than the other way round.

JH raised a query on behalf of Barry Aldrick – will the relays events be happening again at the Summer Champs. CR responded that they were unlikely to happen not necessarily due to COVID but due to a lack of entries in the past.

ED asked if livestreaming is going to be considered as a thing for all future events even when there aren't any restrictions in place. CR replied that we are looking into livestreaming options and would like to make this something we can provide at all of our events. SM has been in discussions with some providers and will widen conversations with other Regions and Swim England for some further direction or information from them.

ED also asked going forward how would Regional events be run and who would be responsible for the events. CR explained the Region wanted to move forward from one person having to organise everything, the events would be regionally run but organised by volunteers in the areas local to the venues. For example the Plymouth event planning and organising of volunteers etc. would be done by a club local to Plymouth and the same at Millfield and Bristol.

JK asked as Greg King-Limb was the promoter for the Winter Champs who will be the promoter going forward. CR is likely to be the promoter and attend all of the events, Chris Vickery to do the planning and coordination of the event from the Office.

ED noted that the attendance at the Winter Championships was lower than previous years or was that not the case? CR added the entries were not necessarily lower but there could be a few different reasons which may have contributed to less entries such as the event being on then cancelled then back on again, some clubs didn't enter as they didn't see any benefit to the meet and PR added that not all clubs see relevance of regional events.

ED stated that it is important that the Regional events maintain their credibility and status but PR added that some clubs won't attend both Regional and National Events especially in the summer.

7. Open Forum to include AOB

JJ mentioned that in Exeter they have faced a 20% increase in pool hire fees and they don't have any access to a pool to run any meets in. Exeter have recently lost their Secretary and Treasurer, but have a new Chair and Secretary in place. JJ is more involved with the administrative side of running the club at the moment due to the change in personnel. Exeter don't have enough pool time for their own members at the moment, looking for more.

CA said that his home pool have a big focus on Swim Fit sessions but no membership system in place. What happens when clubs are priced out of their venues?

JH stated that in Poole they have been squeezed out of the leisure centres over the years but they do have use of a school pool which has enabled them to pick up lost time and continue.

RS has the same problem with the council and pool time, some clubs have all of their pre-COVID time back whereas others haven't. it is a mixed bag in the area.

This was followed by a discussion by all around pool time, costs and availability. CR noted that tomorrow (15.12.21) a decision was being made about 4 pools in Cornwall County and this may result in clubs losing their pools completely.

No AOB was stated.

Next meeting - Wednesday 9th February 2022 at 1015am

Meeting Closed – 11.10am