

Minutes of the Swim England South West Region's Water Polo Technical Committee Meeting held on Monday 3rd February 2020, at the Regional Offices, Castle Business Centre, Castle Road, Chelston Business Park, Wellington, TA21 9JQ

1. **Apologies:**

- 1.1. No apologies were received for this meeting.
- 1.2. Present: Stuart Noyce (chairman), Mike Coles (President, Secretary, Somerset Representative), Phillip Whiting (Bristol & West Water Polo League representative), Chris Pryke (Dorset representative), Brian Steer (Devon representative), Chris Elliot (Elected Board Representative), Andrew Jack (Swim England South West Region Club Development Officer, replacing Stephany Gadd who is on maternity leave), Roger Downing (Board Vice Chairman), Simon Tomlinson (Girls' Head Coach), Martyn Thomas (water polo specialist), John Spicer (Boys' Head Coach).

2. **Approval of Minutes of 14th October Meeting.**

- 2.1. The minutes were passed as a true record of the meeting.

3. **Matters Arising from those minutes**

- 3.1. An update to say that under 8.1 of the 14th October Meeting, that a volunteer had been found as communications officer, here name is Brenda Fewtrell and Chair would be updating her to the regional office staff to enable her to be able to update the webpages and how we put the secure data onto the SE system. Her background is in IT and she lives close to the regional office.

4. **Notice of items for AOB**

- 4.1. Chair raised an item regarding an expense claim from one of the coaches.

5. **Swim England Update**

- 5.1. The Secretary informed the meeting that an update had been issued by Swim England in the form of a Blog from Toby King, the new chairman of the Swim England Water Polo Management Group. This could be found on Appendix 1.
- 5.2. The Secretary further informed the meeting that there had been no further news on the long-awaited official's course. However, Martyn Thomas informed him that the Midlands Water Polo League were in fact holding a course. The secretary said he would write to Claire Coleman, Swim England's volunteer coordinator, Andy Fuller, Swim England water polo manager and the new chairman of the management group, Toby King, to ask what was going on after the South West had been told that they would be the first to get the new course, and new presenters trained up, but he had heard nothing. Andrew Jacks said he would also enquire to see that was going on.

6. **Swim England Inter-Region Championships.**

- 6.1. Simon Tomlinson, Head Coach, reported that the Under-18s Girls Competition held in East Manchester Leisure Centre, was an extremely tough weekend for South West Sharks girls and they struggled in this Division 1 event, and finished in fifth place, but they were one of the few teams to push the eventual winners, Ireland.
- 6.2. Simon went on that for future events he would be looking at pools in the Taunton area and friendly games verses club teams for water time to get the teams together prior to tournaments to allow them to play together more so than they are at present.

- 6.3. John Spicer, Head Coach of the boys reported back from the weekend's Under-18s Boys Event held in Sheffield. South West Sharks were competing in Division 2 along with West Midlands, Ireland, South East, Scotland, North West Ravens and Wales. The squad consisted of: Henry Davis (Capt.), Sam Allix, Xander McKie, Luke Tubby, James Willis, James Seller, Joe Ashworth, Will Thompson, Scott Sullivan, James Coleman, Angus Nile, Will Barnicle and Johnny Cruttenden.
- Opening Group matches:
 South West Sharks v Ireland lost 5-6
 South West Sharks v South East win 6-3
 South West Sharks v Scotland draw 6-6
- This enabled the Sharks to finish second in the group, but into the semi-finals with West Midlands, winning 6-5.
 In the final they lost to Ireland 5-7.
- It should be noted that as a result of National League weekend clashes the majority of this team have not played together or even trained together for six months. That said and done this team began to forge as a unit straight away and after a tight loss to Ireland played better and better each match up until the disappointing final at the conclusion of an exhausting weekend. In all honestly it was the SW v West Mids fixture which was the talk of the division, some old rivalry and scores to be settled. On paper the West Midlands had the stronger team by several players meaning only a flat out star performance would be required for the place in the final. SW boys rode several storms to eventually take the win in the final minute on a man up. A very emotional affair and possibly one that sapped just a little too much energy.
- The coaching team of Stu McKie, Jimmy Walsh and John Spicer have been impressed by the boy's response to instruction and match prep. The boys - ranging over 3 birth years have worked together extremely well. They looked good in the water and behaved impeccably in and out of the pool. This should bode well for future events.
- James Willis was nominated as MVP by attending English Academy Coaches.
 Team South West were supported by family and friends who all did an amazing job up on the balcony.
- As coach I'd like to thank the South West for providing this opportunity for the boys and pay particular thanks to Jimmy Walsh who has given time and valuable assistance to team South West this weekend without any of his boys being present. I could say the same thing about John Spicer but I know he's only in it for the free Premier Inn breakfast!
- 6.4. The Girls Under-14s were off the mark this year reported Simon Tomlinson, and below par compared to previous years. The competition was held at the beginning of December, 2019, at Walsall.
- 6.5. The Boys Under-14s event was also held at Walsall a week later than the girls event, and South West Sharks finished in the top five, giving a good performance and missed the finals on goal difference.
- 6.6. The South West region will host the boys' Under-16 Division One Championship at GL1 in Gloucester on 27-28 June, with the North West hosting Division Two at Palatine Leisure Centre in Blackpool on the same weekend.
- 6.7. On 4-5 July, the girls' Division One teams will be in action in Blackpool in which South West Sharks will compete.
- 6.8. Accommodation is in the process of being sought for the girls competition, but Simon warned that obviously it will be expensive for Blackpool in the Summer.

7. SE SWR Inter-County Event 2019 Feedback:

- 7.1. The secretary and chairman gave a brief report on the championships, and the secretary reported on disciplinary action on several players with the punishments given to those players.

8. SE SWR Inter-County Event 2020

- 8.1. Discussion took place on the dates for this year's event, and Stuart Noyce reported that he would be speaking with Millfield regarding possible dates. Post meeting note. Date booked as 31st October & 1st November.
 - 8.2. Entry Deadline and Fees were also discussed. Obviously, the deadline for entry forms was dependent on the dates of the competition, and all counties would be informed when known.
 - 8.3. On fees discussion took place on who should pay for the officials. It was decided that counties would be responsible for table officials (except leads), and referees would be appointed by the referees' coordinator, and the region would be responsible for their expenses. However, this would be reflected in the cost of entry for the counties, and the entry fee would be amended accordingly. The Finance Officer would be taking a closer look at the necessary cost.
- 9. Regional Academy Updates:**
- 9.1. John Spicer fed back that the bottom age groups were short and there ~~is~~ was a desperate need to recruit more players into these age groups. Discussion took place on the necessary requirement of skills for these players. They need players born 2007/2008, with 2009s from September.
 - 9.2. Simon Tomlinson reported that it was different for the girls' age groups, and they were flush with younger age groups, but more were needed.
 - 9.3. The secretary asked if they had managed to recruit more players from Cornwall and Wiltshire, to which the reply was a few from Cornwall, but no more from Wiltshire.
 - 9.4. The secretary was requested to put out a communique on social media and websites requesting more players to attend and email clubs.
 - 9.5. Again extra pool time was discussed for the regional teams, with costs shared amongst the participants, and maybe friendlies arranged with local teams. This was agreed to be a good idea and ST would investigate.
- 10. Finance Report: Appendix 2.**
- 10.1. It was noted that the Under-16s Girls hotel had not been shown as charged to the water polo account, and that this would make a difference to the spend shown.
- 11. Training Courses**
- 11.1. Martyn Thomas gave feedback on the Level 1 course in Dorset, saying that the venue was ideal and that nine coaches had gained their qualifications.
 - 11.2. There was not such a good report back on the Level 2 course in Plymouth. Apparently, Plymouth Life had been double booked, and as such candidates had to use the pool at Marjohns.
 - 11.3. It had been suggested that maybe we look at holding courses at Millfield, linking in with the regional academy dates, but it was pointed out that they needed to be attached to clubs, so that candidates got the club discounts.
 - 11.4. Swim England have suggested that a Level 1 course is held somewhere in the region, together with a Level 2 course maybe in Dorset or Cheltenham.
- 12. Questions on County Reports**
- 12.1. For the first time county reports had been requested prior to the meeting, and published to all. These are attached to the minutes.
 - 12.2. Chris Elliot reported that there was a problem for water polo clubs in Cornwall, with both Newquay and Penzance facing significant rises in the cost of pool hire through GLL and now Parkwood who run the facilities in Penzance.
 - 12.3. He had now raised the matter with the local MP regarding water time costs in general, and this was being taken further.
- 13. Reports from following officers:**
- 13.1. Management Board Report
 - 13.1.1. Roger Downing produced a written report, and this has been attached to the minutes.

- 13.1.2. He added that Safeguarding was now a major issue across the region and includes water polo in that.
- 13.1.3. A new Wavepower document is being released, and he urged clubs to look at the new Code of Conduct.
- 13.2. Development Officer
 - 13.2.1. Mike Coles reported that most of the items in development had already been covered in terms of courses, etc.
- 13.3. Officials Co-ordinator
 - 13.3.1. Mike Coles reported that there was a shortage of officials across the South West, and he had officiated at approximately 92 matches, similarly high numbers were reported by the other more experienced officials. This was not sustainable and there was a desperate need for new officials through new courses as had previously been covered.

14. Correspondence.

- 14.1. Andy correspondence had been covered under other items. No specific correspondence to this meeting.

15. Club Development Officer Update.

- 15.1. Andy Jacks, who was covering the maternity leave of Stephany Gadd, reported that nominations for Water Polo Club of the year 2019 were needed by him by the end of February.
- 15.2. Discussion on any networking and cluster clubs took place. Somerset were in the process of putting something together between Weston-super-Mare, Frome, Taunton and Yeovil Spartans.

16. Any Other Business.

- 16.1. The finance officer raised a query regarding the expenses put in by one of the assistant coaches at a recent inter-region event. If he had put in an expense claim saying that if he had travelled by car, then the expenses would have been £135. However, he travelled instead by train and put in a claim of £130. However, it was noted that he had travelled first class. When queried by the finance officer, he explained that he had back problems, and as such needed the extra leg room provided in first class.
- 16.2. It was decided to accept this on this occasion, but requested that any future travel by train by anyone is at the cheapest option in future.

17. Work Plan.

- 17.1. Stuart Noyce said that this was a work in progress, where he would be producing a calendar of tasks which the SESW water polo group needs to do each year so that in can be planned in.

18. Dates of next meetings

Monday 6th July, 2020
Monday 5th October 2020
Monday 1st February 2021

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Blog: A hectic start as we begin to devise a new five-year strategy for water polo

January 29, 2020

In the first of a series of regular updates, the new chairman of the Swim England Water Polo Leadership Group, Toby King, reflects on his first month in the role.

It's been a hectic three weeks since my appointment was confirmed at the beginning of the year.

I have had numerous discussions with various stakeholders and would like to update the community on where we have got to and what to expect in the next few months.

Composition of the Leadership Group

The Group so far consists of Ian Mackenzie, Swim England Sport Operating Committee Discipline Liaison, Andy Fuller, Swim England Water Polo Development Manager, Norman Leighton, Swim England Talent Development Officer Water Polo, and myself.

I am delighted to announce that Mike Hesketh, recently recognised for his long-term dedication to English water polo (<https://www.swimming.org/waterpolo/top-moments-2019/>), has accepted the role as competitions lead.

We are also advertising for the lead roles in volunteering (<https://www.swimming.org/careers/vacancy/volunteer-volunteering-lead-swim-england-2>) and technical officials (<https://www.swimming.org/careers/vacancy/volunteer-technical-officials-lead-swim-england-3>), while coaching and communications positions will be published shortly – please keep an eye on the Careers in Aquatics website (<https://www.swimming.org/careers/>) for more details.

Five-year strategy

We have started working on devising a new five-year strategy for water polo in England.

Whilst it is clearly early days and we are not yet in a position to set numerical targets, the consultations led by David Meli last month have been hugely helpful.

Our vision is that, by 2024, many more people are playing water polo at the right level for them. We think the key strategic themes will be:

- Widening participation

- Competitions

- Coach and officials development

- Talent pathway

There will be an over-arching theme of improved communications to, and from, the water polo community at large – historically a major weakness.

The strategic themes will be accompanied by a series of specific actions and measured against a set of objective metrics.

We plan to achieve this by delivering a series of ‘enablers’ to support the clubs, players, coaches, officials and other volunteers to deliver our mission.

We are, of course, also aware of the significant financial burden put on players and parents, especially at the performance end of the sport, and will be looking at how to better promote our sport to secure revenue of various different sorts to try to reduce this burden.

We hope to complete recruitment of the Leadership Group by the end of February and publish the full strategy within a further six weeks.

England senior men’s team

As an example of how we are starting to develop the strategy, I have held discussions with Dave Taylor and Dave Edwards about continuing in their roles as head coach and team manager of the England men’s senior water polo team.

I am delighted that they are both very committed to creating a meaningful and aspirational programme.

Although still at an early stage, we would like to build quickly towards playing and challenging some of the teams that qualify for the European Senior Championships (Malta, Netherlands, Turkey) as well as supporting Commonwealth fixtures and perhaps gaining support from British Swimming through the home countries group for a British entry to the European Championship qualifiers.

Their early thoughts on a programme include the following:

2020: England v Scotland and perhaps England v Wales; EU Nations in the Czech Republic in June. Training weekends and fixtures in Belgium or northern France or Portugal, as well as some Manchester weekends.

2021: England v Scotland and perhaps England v Wales; EU Nations in the Czech Republic in June. Ten to 12-day tour of South Africa or shorter trip to Turkey or Singapore. Training weekends and fixtures in Holland and Belgium in addition to Manchester weekends.

2022: Possible Commonwealth (or similar standard) water polo tournament and Malta or Hungary mini tour and fixtures.

2023-24: LEN European Championships qualifiers (GBR) if results are worthy of entry and British Swimming/Great Britain water polo support that entry.

The World University Games will also be pursued if an invitation is extended to Great Britain for qualification, subject to BUCS agreement.

If any England eligible player would like to be considered and they have not yet been in an England or Great Britain U19 or senior squad, please could they email dave.edwards@bfdrones.org (mailto:dave.edwards@bfdrones.org%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) with their name, date of birth, club and coach contact details.

England senior women's team

Recently appointed head coach Nick Buller and assistant coach Peggy Etiebet are also strongly committed to working with our players to produce a sustainable and internationally respected programme.

They have drafted a 'Blueprint for Success', incorporating a strategic analysis of the pathway needed to fulfil the aspiration of a British entry into the 2024 European Championships (subject to British Swimming support), including entry into the World University Games in 2021 and 2023 (subject to an invitation and BUCS agreement).

The coaches would be delighted to enter the squad for a Commonwealth water polo, or similar standard, tournament in 2022, and are also considering entry into a European league.

The programme is currently securing pool time for training, expected to be monthly weekend sessions with two training camps for this year.

The initial weekend will include an information session for the players about the four-year programme.

Information about the selection process will be sent out shortly by the coaching team.

And finally...

Please do share any thoughts you have on how we can develop the sport we love with your Swim England regional manager or Andy Fuller (<mailto:andy.fuller@swimming.org>) or Norman Leighton (<mailto:norman.leighton@swimming.org>).

Thank you for reading this!

Toby King – chairman, Swim England Water Polo Leadership Group

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Swim England SW Polo Finance Report Q1-3 2020-21 - 27/1/20

	Code	Item	Full Year Budget	Profile Budget	Spend/Income to Date	Year End Estimate	Est Year End Variance	Notes
Committee Expenses	A1	Room Hire	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	£ -	
	A2	Refreshments	£ 75	£ 50	£ 62	£ 90	£ 15	
	A3	Travel Claims	£ 1,067	£ 711	£ 494	£ 750	-£ 317	
South West Championships	B1	Entry Fees	-£ 3,360	-£ 3,360	-£ 2,760	-£ 3,240	£ 120	1
	B2	Specs Entry/Shop	-£ 350	-£ 350	-£ 40	-£ 200	£ 150	
	B3	Pool Hire	£ 4,250	£ 4,250	£ -	£ 3,164	-£ 1,086	
	B4	Expenses	£ 450	£ 300	£ 780	£ 780	£ 330	2
Development	C2	Workforce Development	£ 1,000	£ 1,000	£ 374	£ 374	-£ 626	
	C3	Equipment	£ 3,000	£ 3,000	£ 2,447	£ 3,000	£ -	3
RTC	D1	Pool Hire	£ 7,000	£ 6,000	£ 3,598	£ 6,328	-£ 672	
	D2	Player Payments	-£ 7,000	-£ 6,000	-£ 5,175	-£ 5,300	£ 1,700	4
	D3	Expenses	£ 1,400	£ 1,200	£ 1,335	£ 2,000	£ 600	
Inter Regional Championships	E1	Entry Fees	£ 2,400	£ 1,600	£ 1,600	£ 2,400	£ -	
	E2	Hotel and Expenses	£ 7,116	£ 4,744	£ 3,212	£ 6,000	-£ 1,116	5
	E3	Player Contributions	-£ 5,460	-£ 5,460	-£ 5,040	-£ 5,460	£ -	
TOTAL							-£ 902.39	

Notes

- 1 Only showing entry fees received for Devon, Glouc, Dorset, Wilt
- 2 Includes Costs of refreshments and over due to refs costs
- 3 Remainder to be spent on replacement balls
- 4 Girls sessions not full
- 5 Don't appear to have IR U16s room claim

Devon County ASA Waterpolo Report

We have seen the end of our 2019 season and again with all age groups participating except for an under 19 league. The under 13 tournament was again well attended and going forward to the 2020 season this has been increased to 6 tournaments.

Competitions

Under 13 came 3rd in the Manchester Festival.

Under 15 won Manchester and Cheltenham Festival

Under 15 boys won NAG's

Under 16 boys NAG's Runner up

Under 19 boys won NAG's

Ladies National League Division 3 Winners Qualified for Playoff's

Men's National League Division 2 Finished 3rd Qualified for Playoff's

Recognition

Charlie Pitt England under 17 Boys

Jasmine Coleman England Schools Girls

Jessica Garrad England Schools Girls

Ella-Louise Jones England Ladies

Olli Wright GB under 19 Boys Squad

Lily-May Girvin GB under 17 Girls Squad

Tom Manley Playing for Dusseldorf & WP Performance Athlete of year

Robyn Greenslade Waterpolo Scholarship at Indiana University

Dorset Report for February 2020 SESWR Technical Water Polo Committee

Dorset are establishing a water polo County youth academy.

We still await the development of referee training structure to enable Dorset to host a grade D referee course, agreed in 2018.

The development of woman's water polo continues in Dorset with the county having entered its first female team at the recent SW inter county championships.

Anashe Chisadza (originally Christchurch - now Bristol & Otter) was a member of the 2019 Swim England Water Polo girls under 17 squad.

Kathy Rogers (originally Christchurch - now Otter) member of the 2019 Swim England Water Polo women's senior squad.

Chris Pryke

Glos County Report Feb 2020

Sandford Parks Lido to host Brit Champs next three years

Competition

Cheltenham Spartans - BWWPL Prem 1st
City of Bristol Barbarians - BWWPL Div 1 - 1st
City of Bristol Women - BWWPL 2nd
City of Bristol Juniors - BWWPL Div 1 - 1st

Cheltenham u15 Boys Nag's 4th

Cheltenham u13 BWWPL Tournament 1st

Honours

Amy Berry - SE Female player of the year

Charlie Brogan - Brit Swimming Male player of the year

Representation

Joe Ashworth - England u17

Amy Berry - GB u19 Euro Qualifiers (captain)

Charlie Brogan - GB u17 Euro Qualifiers & GB u19

Tom Hunt - GB u19

Oliver Stanley - GB u19

Joe Hubble - GB u19

Matilda Dugdale - England Schools

James Willis - England Schools

Somerset Report for SESWR Water Polo Technical Meeting 3rd February 2020

Somerset have suffered the blow with the resignation of their Chief Coach, Simon Tomlinson, who has to give up the position due to pressure of his England commitments.

He will be succeeded by Nick Purslow of Weston-super-Mare as senior coach, assisted by Brad Poole of Frome. Mike Coles as secretary of Somerset, praised Simon for his work with the Somerset team, and wished him good luck in the future.

Somerset Seniors were pleased with their result from the Swim England South West Region's Inter-county tournament result as runners-up behind Devon, but disappointed with the fact that Gloucestershire had chosen to withdraw at late notice, and that there were no teams from Cornwall and Wiltshire. Hoping this will change for this year's championship.

Somerset will hold their county tournament in September 2020, at Millfield, and hope to see teams from all five of their local teams, Frome, Taunton Deane, University of Bath, Weston-super-Mare and Yeovil Spartans.

They also hope that they will be able to enter teams in more than just the senior men's tournament.

The following Somerset Players had international, regional or county representation:

Nyah Tomlinson of Taunton Deane and Exeter City played International Tournament in Hungary for the 2004 National Squad

Rhys White of Taunton Deane represented Wales at the Under-18s Inter Region event.

Darcey Tomlinson and Amelia Owens, both of Taunton Deane, represented the South West Region at Under-14 Level.

Several Taunton Deane players were also selected for other county sides and regional sides.

They were: Amelia Jones who represented Dorset at County Level and was also selected for the South West; Freya Jones represented Dorset and the South West; and Isobel Baker represented Devon and the South West.

Mike Coles

Somerset ASA Water Polo Secretary

Results for Inter County Champs 2019 Sat 23rd November

1010	14&UM - Dev v Wilt	21-1	1010	14&UM - Dors v Corn	2-16
1050	Ladies - Glouc v Corn	14-1	1050	Ladies - Dev v Dors	9-0
1120	14&UM - Wilt v Corn	1-18	1120	14&UM - Glouc v Dors	17-1
			1150	Ladies - Glouc v Dors	8-3
1200	18&UB - Dev v Corn	13-8	1220	Ladies - Corn v Dev	0-10
1250	14&UM - Glouc v Wilt	24-0	1250	14&UM - Dev v Corn	12-6
1320	Ladies - Dev v Glouc	7-4	1320	Ladies - Corn v Dors	3-7
1400	18&UB - Glouc v Corn	7-1	1400	Mens - Dev v Dors	10-8
1450	14&UM - Corn v Glouc	1-13	1450	14&UM - Dev v Dors	13-4
1520	18&UB - Dev v Glouc	8-12	1520	Mens - Som v Dors	8-3
1620	14&UM - Dev v Glouc	4-11	1620	14&UM - Dor v Wilt	12-5
			1650	Mens - Som v Dev	5-10

Results for Inter County Champs 2019 - Sun 24th November

Time	Pitch A (timing b end)	(Table)	Time	Pitch B	(Table)
1015	12&UM - Glouc v Corn	9-5	1015	12&UM - Dev v Wilts	23-0
1100	16&UB - Dor v Glouc	1-17	1100	16&UB - Dev v Corn	16-3
1145	12&UM - Dev v Corn	18-4	1145	12&UM - Dor v Wilts	15-2
1215	16&UB - Corn v Glouc	8-13	1215	16&UB - Dev v Dor	17-3
1300	12&UM - Dev v Dor	13-3	1300	12UM - Wilts v Glouc	0-13
1330	16&UB - Dev v Glouc	6-15	1330	16&UB - Corn v Dor	17-3
1415	12&UM - Glouc v Dor	11-3	1415	12&UM - Corn v Wilts	11-1
1455	12&UM - Corn v Dor	5-6			
1525	12&UM - Dev v Glouc	16-2	1500	16&UG - Dev v Glouc	19-12