

## Minutes of SW Para/Disability Committee Meeting, Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2021 via Zoom

- 1. Present:** Graham Cockill (GC), Chair; Chrissie Robinson (CR), SW Region Chair; Colin Trudgeon; Roger Downing, SW Region President; Gerry Griffin, SW Region Treasurer; Kerry O'Reilly (Gloucestershire); Steve Johns (Dorset); Martin Lees (ML) Swim England; Cathy Ralph (Cornwall)
- 2. Apologies:** Dave Hill (DH), Coach; Richard Smith (Wiltshire); Kay Willcox (Somerset); Carl Cooper (CC), Swim England; Maria Harris (Devon).
- 3. Minutes of meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2020:** Agreed as an accurate record.
- 4. Matters arising from minutes of 12<sup>th</sup> November meeting:** Congratulations to Reece Dunn and Stephanie Millward who have been selected to represent Great Britain at the Tokyo Paralympics.
- 5. SESW Para-Swimming Development Plan:**

### a) The New Para-Swimming Competition Pathway.

Having considered feedback from all the regions on proposals for amendments to the para-swimming year, Swim England's final proposal for the New Para-Swimming Pathway includes the following features:

- Regions will work in pairs to deliver their regional championships (as Development Meets) in the window from mid-September to the end of October. Each meet will provide 12 classification opportunities for swimmers from those regions. It is proposed that the SW pairs with the SE, although entries from other regions may also be permitted. Greater entry numbers will improve financial viability, and provide more heat to final opportunities for swimmers.
- One National Para-Swimming Championships (December) – with 12 classification opportunities.
- One National Junior Para-Swimming Championships (June) – with 12 classification opportunities; will provide opportunities for higher performing junior swimmers to meet the performance criteria for the Talent Programme. Short course; HDW but with potential to add heats to finals.
- One British Para-Swimming International Meet (BPSIM) – with international classification opportunities for athletes on the England Talent Programme.
- Two Newcomers Events (2-day events in February and June) – with 48 classification opportunities – organised and run by Swim England.

**Action: Book Regional Championships/Development Meet for October 2022 and invite SE to partner. Open to swimmers from other regions.** **Action: GC**

**Action: ML will issue an information pack containing advice on: hosting a para open meet; how to deliver classifications in a meet; and consideration times for para-swimmers.** **Action: ML**

### b) Regional Training Days

Each region is being asked to organise and run 3 training days for swimmers per year (one per term) within a programme of Swim England guidelines designed to bring more consistent delivery across the country. Attending regional training is the first step to a

swimmer achieving classification. When considered ready, the swimmer will be signed off as having the skills to be placed on the classification waiting list.

Each region is also being asked to recruit a Lead Coach for Para-Swimming, a Development Coach and a Skills Coach. Carl Cooper and Tom McManus are planning to hold an online training event for the newly recruited coaches in September (date to be announced).

**Action: Arrange date/venue for Autumn Regional Training Day (November).**

**Action: GC + Regional Office**

**Action: Recruit coaches.**

**Action: SW Region**

**c) National Pathway Engagement Days**

The Swim England Para-Swimming staff will deliver 3 online educational workshops per year (one per term), promoting the key themes and messages to be delivered at Regional Training Days. **The next online event is on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> July, entitled 'A Day with Dave'**, an interactive and informative programme led by Dave Hill, for swimmers, coaches and parents/guardians. Details have already been sent out across the region.

**d) Exeter City SC – Start Para-Swimming Centre (SPSC) request**

Exeter City SC has applied to become a Start Para-Swimming Centre, the funding for which will be considered at the Regional Management Board meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> July. The process for becoming a SPSC is outlined in the new SESW document 'Regional Procedure and Process for Start Para-Swimming Centre'. Once confirmed, representatives of the Region, Swim England and Exeter City SC will meet to agree the Service Level Agreement (reference SESW document 'Start Para-Swimming Centre Service Level Agreement').

**6. Para-Swimming Secretary:**

The vacancy for a committee member to take on the duties of Secretary still exists.

**7. SESW Safeguarding and Protecting Children Workshops:**

There are some vacancies on these workshops on 6<sup>th</sup> September and 21<sup>st</sup> September. They start at 6pm and are free to users. Booking details are outlined in the 1<sup>st</sup> July SW Region Newsletter.

**8. SW Para-Swimming Teachers and Coaches – names for mailing list:**

Please submit the names and contact details of any para-swimming teachers and coaches who you know are not on the SW mailing list, with their permission, to the SW Regional Office, so that they can be contacted with any relevant items.

**9. AOB:**

**Swim England Return to Water Survey** – please complete this if you haven't done so already. The link to the survey is in the latest SW Region Newsletter.

**Regional/National Volunteer Awards** – The SW Region is inviting nominations for the Regional Volunteer Awards. The award categories will be the same as those used by Swim England for its National Volunteer Awards (available on the SE website, link in SW Region Newsletter). The SW will then use its own awards to make nominations for the National Awards.

**10. Date of Next Meeting: Monday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2021, 7pm.**