

Minutes of SW Para/Disability Swimming Committee Meeting, 13th September 2021 via Zoom

1. **Present:** Graham Cockill (Chair) (GC); Chrissie Robinson (SW Region Chair) (CR); Gerry Griffin (SW Region Treasurer) (GG); Kerry O'Reilly (Gloucestershire) (KO'R); Cathy Ralph (Cornwall) (CaR); Kay Willcox (Somerset) (KW); Paul Robbins (SW Region Management Board) (PR).
2. **Apologies:** Steve Johns (Dorset); Carl Cooper (Swim England) (CC); Martin Lees (Swim England) (ML).
3. **Minutes of Meeting held on 1st July 2021:** Agreed as an accurate record.
4. **Matters Arising from Minutes of 1st July meeting:**
 - a) Congratulations to Reece Dunn (current SW Swimmer of the Year) on gaining 3 Gold (200m Free, 200m IM, 4x100m Relay, 1 Silver (100m Butterfly), and 1 Bronze medal (100m Backstroke) at the Paralympic Games. GC sent congratulations on behalf of the region.
Congratulations to Stephanie Millward who reached 3 finals, coming 4th (4x100m Medley Relay), 8th (100m Backstroke), and the team being DQ'd in the 4x100m Freestyle Relay. She also swam in the 100m Freestyle, coming 6th in her heat.
Congratulations to Suzanna Hext who reached 2 finals, coming 4th (200m Freestyle), and 4th in the 100m Freestyle in which she was only 0.06secs behind the bronze medallist.

5. **SW Para-Swimming Development Plan (January to December 2022)**

The draft plan was written to support Swim England's drive to introduce more children with a disability to para-swimming and create more opportunities for them to progress to the para-swimming competition pathway. Providing training and support for teachers and coaches is central to the plan. After a request to include projected income figures (from Regional Training Days and the Para-Swimming Championships) the plan was adopted by the committee.

Action: GC

a) **Appointment of Para-Swimming Coaches**

Lead Coach	James Richards (Gloucester City)
Skills Coach	Adam Clarkson (Exeter City)
Skills Coach	Neil Hamp (Swim Bournemouth)
Skills Coach	Craig Skinner (Gloucester City)
Development Coach	Catherine Ralph (Carrick Masters and TR1)
Development Coach	Sharon Abley (Swim Bournemouth)

The coaches will receive an online introduction to their roles and preliminary training from Carl Cooper and the Swim England Para-Swimming staff in September (date to be determined) to prepare them to run the termly Regional Training Days.

Action: CC

b) **Autumn Regional Training Day**

We need to find a date (when the coaches are available and which is relatively free of other competitions) and venue to run the autumn term training day. The first weekend of November 2021 might be possible. Stacey (SW Development Officer, based in the SW Region office) will deal with the booking, advertising and entries. It was suggested that the charge to participate should be £20 per training day (subject to Regional Management Board approval).

Oxley (Sherborne), Marlborough School (though not taking bookings currently), Plymouth Life Centre, Canford School (Poole), Norton Radstock and Carn Brea/Helston were all mentioned as pools that might be suitable for RTDs. Please notify GC of other pools that might be suitable for RTDs.

Action: Committee Members

Confirm dates for a RTD in November 2021, Spring Term 2022 (possibly 12th March 2022 which had originally been booked at Horfield Pool for our Para-Championships, but has since been frozen by the pool, first having checked that ML doesn't want Horfield for a classification event) and Summer Term 2022.

Action: GC and Regional Office

c) Classification Event – October 2021

Martin Lees will be running a Classification Event at the end of October to which some South West swimmers have been invited. Venue and precise date unknown.

Action: ML

d) New Start Para-Swimming Centre – Exeter City SC

Agreement has been reached with Exeter City SC to become a Start Para-Swimming Centre. The launch date is Monday 18th October 2021. A Service Level Agreement (SLA), setting out the roles and responsibilities of the club, region and Swim England, has been agreed.

It is hoped that two new Start Para-Swimming Centres will be created in the South West in 2022.

e) SW Para-Swimming Championships 2022

Swim England's Para-Swimming Competition Pathway proposal is that we should in future hold our Regional Para-Swimming Championships in conjunction with the SE Region during the September/October window from 2022 onwards, alternating location each year. We will attempt to book Horfield Pool (when the pool opens its booking diary) for Sunday 25th September 2022 and invite the SE Region to join us. The entry fee per event will be £8.50.

Action: Regional Office

6. Para-Swimming Committee Secretary: the vacancy remains open.

7. AOB:

a) Safeguarding and Child Protection Workshops (online) are still being offered by the SW Region, free to participants. Booking details are on the SW Region website and in the SW Region Newsletter. Please pass this message to the clubs in your counties.

b) National Para-Swimming Championships: Committee members asked precisely when in December 2021 these championships are due to take place. GC to contact Carl and Martin for information.

Action: GC, CC and ML

c) Return to Water Survey: CR reported that, across the South West, membership is recovering although some clubs are finding it difficult to purchase water time, the cost of which is rising. It was also reported that Swim England's decision not to reduce its fee for the last quarter of 2021 was making recruitment more difficult for some.

d) Date of next meeting: Thursday 13th January 2022 at 7.30pm on Zoom