Minutes of SW Para/Disability Swimming Committee Meeting, 16th February 2022 via Zoom

1. **Present:** Graham Cockill (Chair) (GC); Chrissie Robinson (SW Region Chair) (CR); Geoff Pearce (SW Region Treasurer) (GP); Kerry O'Reilly (Gloucestershire) (KO'R); Cathy Ralph (Cornwall) (CaR); Kay Willcox (Somerset) (KW); Paul Robbins (SW Region Management Board) (PR): Stacey Millett (SW Office)(SM); Chris Vickery (SW Office) (CV).

2. **Apologies:** Steve Johns (Dorset); Carl Cooper (Swim England) (CC); Martin Lees (Swim England) (ML) – all attending British International Meet in Aberdeen.
(Devon – currently finding a new representative)

3. **Minutes of Meeting held on 13th September 2021:** Agreed as an accurate record.

4. **Matters Arising from Minutes of 13th September meeting:** None

5. **Para-Swimming Talent Pathway:**
Stacey outlined the latest developments to the Talent Pathway being proposed by Swim England for para-swimmers. The original Pathway Programme is now going to be called the Development Programme, and will become more aligned to include and integrate para-swimmers. It fits above the County programme, but below the National Programme.
There will be two face to face camps (Autumn 2022 and Summer 2023), and an online engagement day (Spring 2023) with up to 6 places for para-swimmers selected from rankings by the National Para team. The SW region will be responsible for planning and booking venues, recruiting the lead and skills coaches and team manager, and for delivering the sessions.
In the short term Swim England doesn't imagine all 6 places to be filled but sees 6 as a long term target to work towards.
For information, the following swimmers have been selected for the para-swimming talent programme. Abigail Daly (Devonport); Alexander Hobbs (Mt Kelly); Cameron Vearncombe (Plymouth Lea); Ella Williams (Swindon Dolphin); Isabella Haynes (Swim Bournemouth); Jacob Wood (Gloucester); Kieran Williams (Newquay); Luke Boyles (Bournemouth Coll); Sebastian Williams (Mt Kelly); Xander Harris (Devonport); Zack Sturgess (Swim Bournemouth).

6. **SW Para-Swimming Development Plan (January to December 2022)**
   a) **January 2022 Regional Training Day.**

This was held at Taunton School, Somerset from 12 to 4.30pm.
11 swimmers attended the session and were split into 4 groups which were led by the following coaches: Lead Coach James Richards (Gloucester City); Development Coach Catherine Ralph (Carrick Masters); Skills Coaches Adam Clarkson (Exeter City), Craig Skinner (Gloucester City) and Neil Hamp (Swim Bournemouth).
In the pool the swimmers had a 90 minute session which covered aquatic alignment, stroke drills and progressions with a focus on developing skills. Throughout the session the swimmers were

asked to think about and feed back on their performance. The swimmers were asked 'can you feel a difference', 'how can you improve' and 'what are you learning'.
The pool session was followed by a classroom workshop on the topic of nutrition, in which the swimmers showed great interest.
The overall feedback from the swimmers was that it was a great day at a great venue. Both the facilities and access to the venue were good.

While parents/guardians were not able to attend the pool sessions, they were able to sit in on the nutrition session.

When advertising future training days, we will seek information on the booking form about swimmers' needs (eg wheelchair access, proximity and adequacy of parking etc). We will also consider whether a team manager needs to be present. KO'R will ask the Lead Coach about this.
Action KO'R

b) Dates/Venues of Future Regional Training Days

We will try to book venues for the next 3 regional training days in suitable locations - probably Taunton School (Summer 2022), Marlborough College (Autumn 2022), and a new venue (Spring 2023). **Action: CV/SM**

ML has stated that swimmers can attend regional training days to have their skills assessed by the coaches with a view to being placed on the classification waiting list. The Lead Coach is aware of this.

c) SW Para-Swimming Championships, 25th September 2022 at Horfield Pool, Bristol

Arrangements are well under way. The draft meet pack was agreed with a few updating suggestions. The entry fee per event will be £8.50. We will be pairing with the South East Region to secure a larger entry as requested by Swim England. Entries from other regions will still be welcomed as previously.
Jill Beard will organise training for officials on the day at Horfield, and then the gala will be used for their assessment. There will also be opportunities for swimmers to be classified at Filton Pool on the day.
GC will be the promoter, and in his absence PR.
CV will process entries. Coaches will be expected to marshall during the warm up.
Still to be arranged: Announcer; Recorder of Results; Finalise licence with Licensing Officer; Gazebo at Filton Pool if foyer not completed; Medals.
ML is arranging classifiers. **Action ML**
It was agreed to discuss Medals and to how they might be awarded (and any consequent alterations to the meet pack) at the next meeting.
Action: GC

d) Start Para-Swimming Centres – new clubs for 2022?

We are looking to establish 2 new start para-swimming centres in 2022, but it is recognised that recruiting new clubs as we emerge from Covid and clubs seek to re-establish themselves might be difficult. ML is pursuing the possibility of a new start para-swimming centre in Wiltshire.

Action: ML

7. **Para-Swimming Secretary –** the vacancy remains open

8. **Any Other Business**

a) Para-Swimming National Engagement Day.
Swim England Para-Swimming Talent Coaches Carl Cooper and Jack Chambers are running an online National Engagement Day for Para-Swimmers on Saturday 12th March for those who attend Regional Training Days.

b) KO'R reported that two Gloucester swimmers are currently competing at the International Meet in Aberdeen.

c) CV confirmed that SM runs the SW Twitter and Facebook accounts.

d) Guidance has been issued by Jill Beard (SW Officials Secretary) to ensure that referees are aware of how the rules regarding Disability Certificates and Classification for para-swimmers should be applied at swim meets.

9. **Date of next meeting: Wednesday 11th May 2022, 7pm, Zoom**