

1. **Minutes of Swim England South West Region Water Polo Technical Committee held on Monday, February 4th 2019, Held at regional headquarters Wellington.**
2. **Apologies** were received from Martyn Thomas (specialist), Simon Tomlinson ( head coach females and Somerset representative), Colin Hunt ( water polo males administrator), Phil Garrad ( water polo financial officer), Andy Hicks ( Wiltshire representative), Mandy Jones (water polo females administrator).
3. **Attendees:** Stuart Noyce (chairman), Chris Pryke (Dorset representative), Stephanie Gadd (Swim England South West Region Club Development Officer) John Spicer (Head Coach Males and Gloucestershire representative), Brian Steer (Devon representative), Chris Elliott (Regional Board Representative), Roger Downing (Regional Board vice-chairman) Sarah Tomlinson (Bristol and West Water Polo League representative), Bob Holman ( Swim England South West Regional president), Stacey Millett (Swim England South West Regional Development officer) and Mike Coles (Secretary, officials coordinator, water polo development officer).
4. **Question & Answer Session with Andy Fuller**, Swim England's Water Polo Development Manager gave a presentation on Skype to the meeting.
  - 4.1. Andy spoke about the talent pathway and squad development, and how this would align more with the regions.
  - 4.2. He spoke about a clear approach to investment which included EU Nations competition through qualification entering a team in the University games there were general investment areas being supported across the whole Sport but more importantly was transparency and accountability.
  - 4.3. It would be a general investment in students with work to engage universities to stabilise and grow on service provisions for competition activity as previously mentioned and expand into new Markets Collegiate water polo i.e. work with further education authorities across the country.
  - 4.4. He was aware some work on this proposal had already been carried out by region and he would further expand this in the near future.
  - 4.5. The money for university development was ring-fenced and there were soon to be a meeting be held in Birmingham which clubs and regions across the country would be invited to attend. He was aware that more coaches and officials are needed and this would be investigated.
  - 4.6. he was aware that there was a great opportunity in the South West with Universities already involved with water polo such as in the Bristol area including Bath.
  - 4.7. Sarah Dunsbee has been working on coaching courses which involved Martyn Thomas. These were waiting on internal verification qualifications. A senior coaches programme was due to be rolled out, and also there would be prior recognition learning for some coaches. Swim England were also looking at some courses for officials at a super-regional level.
  - 4.8. Mr Fuller said that the START programme would be rolled out once again, and there would be an opportunity for clubs who had previously benefited from these grants to again benefit from this money, and encourage other clubs to participate.
5.
  - 5.1. Questions raised by Mike Coles regarding the introduction, earlier in the year, of the new rules by Fina, and that many local leagues were not implementing these rules until seminars had been held for local officials, and therefore leagues were not

introducing these rules, and he understood that they were waiting for clarification from Fina on certain parts of these rules had Andy heard anything?

- 5.2. Andy said that this was correct and that Mike Jukes was working on this and that news of these seminars would be notified to the regions and leagues in due course.
- 5.3. Stuart Noyce raised the question why prioritise on a collegiate programme when clubs and regions had structures already in place and competitions running?  
Bearing in mind that most students were only at these establishments for three to four years, it seemed better to concentrate resources on increasing participation through the existing structures and expand participation.
- 5.4. Mr Fuller pointed out that these funding streams were already in place for higher education, and as such, it opened an opportunity for those clubs and communities close to these facilities to make use of these opportunities to work closely and share in the benefits provided.
- 5.5. Mr Fuller was thanked for his participation, and a pdf of the points he outlined in his presentation can be found in Appendix One.

## **6. Introduction of Stephanie Gadd, Swim England South West Region's Club Development Officer**, and replacement of Yvonne Stead, who has moved to the London Region:

- 6.1. Steph has recently joined the South West team as our new Club Development Officer. She has a wealth of experience in sport development including six years as a development officer with the Kent County Football Association where she helped clubs with all aspects of club development including helping clubs gain Club Mark accreditations, governance queries, volunteer development and coach education.
- 6.2. She also has great experience of working on high profile sports events including the London 2012 Paralympics and the FIFA U20 Women's World Cup 2014 in Canada. She is looking forward to using all her knowledge, skills and experience to develop swimming clubs here in the South West.
- 6.3. Steph also loves to travel and has just visited over 50 countries and counting!

## **7. Minutes of the last meeting** held on Monday, October 8th 2018.

- 7.1. These were passed as a true record.

## **8. Matters arising from those minutes:**

- 8.1. The chairman asked if 4.8 had been raised with Norman Leighton. The secretary responded that he had not had a response to the question. John Spicer said that he would ask the question again when he met the National Talent ID officer at a forthcoming event he was attending.
- 8.2. Stuart Noyce asked if 9.8 whereby the coaches, Simon Tomlinson and John Spicer reported that the boy's session was full, and in fact had to turn away a few, but could they now be asked to come back to the next session as players are moved up. Those with a birth date of 2007 and 2008 were to be invited to the next session for trials. It was agreed to move up 2005 and put 2006, 2007 and 2008s to the early session.
- 8.3. It was asked if on 9.14 regarding the barbecue at Sandford Lido could be moved to Millfield, and this was agreed so both boys and girls could be at same date and venue.
- 8.4. Mike Coles was asked if there was any progress on officials' courses, but he replied he was waiting for the go-ahead from Mike Jukes. This was dependent on ratification of interpretations of the new rules introduced by Fina in December 2018.

## **9. Items for AOB**

- 9.1. Stuart Noyce asked for the inclusion of a regionals male administration coordinator be discussed and also the forthcoming Youth Games in Devon.

## **10. Job Descriptions**

- 10.1. The secretary reported that he was working on this at the moment, and had only a few left to complete and would circulate for comment.

## **11. Swim England Inter-Regional Championships**

- 11.1. Under 14s girls and boys, reports had been submitted by the coaches. It was all good news! The girls had finished as runners up in the competition, and the boys won their event.
- 11.2. The Under 18s Girls and Boys again was good news, with the girls winning their event, and the boys finishing runners up in their division.
- 11.3. The Under 16s event for the girls and boys was scheduled for June and July.
- 11.4. The accommodation has been booked for the boys and the females head coach would be asked regarding the girls.
- 11.5. Discussion took place regarding the fee paid regarding selection to a South West Water Polo team. It was agreed unanimously that this would be £70.00 per player, regardless of whether the accommodation was used or not. The money was used to cover the costs incurred to the region in entering the event of which the hotel was only part of the cost. It would also encourage players to stay as a team over the weekend
- 11.6. This money had to be paid to the region three weeks prior to the competition or the individual's place would be lost, and a reserve invited to attend in their place.

## **12. SE SWR Inter-County Championships**

- 12.1. The tournament director reported that the event had gone well, despite the senior team from Cornwall pulling out at the last minute, which did leave gaps in the programme.
- 12.2. Fine Designs had contributed £241.20, 15% of the total of tee-shirts and sweatshirt sales. £120.00 was taken in admissions and the coffee sales organised by Colin Hunt.
- 12.3. All trophies need to be back for the next meeting on the 8th July 2019 ready for engraving, etc. Sue Dors would be informed as to the medal requirements for the 2019 competition.
- 12.4. It was agreed that the admission charge would be the same at £1.00 per person, plus £1.00 for a programme. Mr Noyce said he was hoping to source someone to produce the programme to make it a more attractive purchase.
- 12.5. The officials for the competition would be sorted by the official's coordinator Mike Coles.
- 12.6. Registration of players would once again be required and the request for team managers to have attended the appropriate courses, and together with coaches needed to be DBS checked. The necessary assurances would be sought from the county representatives. Stacey Millett said that courses for team managers could be arranged at the Regional Offices in Wellington.
- 12.7. Registration of players (Feedback from this year)
- 12.8. A request had been received from the girl's head coach, Simon Tomlinson that at this year's competition, could the 14 & Under category be separated to boys and girls. If not rules around minimum numbers of girls per team? Girls polo is developing fast and most clubs tell me they have as many girls attending as boys. Lots of regional girl players didn't get selected for their county teams!. Discussion took place and it was agreed that as a trial it would be put on the entry form and gauge the response from the entries.

## **13. Regional Academy Update**

- 13.1. The bookings for 2019 had been completed at Millfield and included one for July. Mr Noyce had produced an outline calendar of events and this is attached as Appendix 2. These could be subject to change.

- 13.2. The boys' head coach, Mr Spicer reported a disappointing response at the last training date in January but was sure the attendance would be better at the next one.
- 13.3. The boys' administrator, Mr Hunt had written to the secretary expressing a wish to be replaced for personal reasons. Mr Noyce said that he would take over the role in the interim until a permanent replacement could be found. Stacey Millett agreed to sort out a Gmail address for the role. Mr Hunt was thanked for his services.
- 13.4. No report had been received from the girls' administrator Mandy Jones.
- 13.5. No progress had been made on the issue of communication to the water polo community as regards to the academies. The Chairmen asked if he could possibly help with this issue, and it was agreed that he arranged to meet with Stacey at the regional office at a future date.
- 13.6. It was agreed that a dozen Size 4 balls be purchased for the regional academies, and storage is investigated at Millfield. The secretary agreed to arrange this with Waterpolo Market.

#### **14. Finance Report**

- 14.1. Mr Garrad had published an income and expenditure spreadsheet for the meeting, and Mr Downing had completed a profit and loss spreadsheet and reported the financial situation of the water polo section of the region had only a £2,600 deficit, which reflected well on the committee, which had a predicted deficit of £10,000.
- 14.2. The region's Financial Officer, Mrs Chrissie Robinson had reviewed the submitted budget and a report prepared for the forthcoming Strategy Meeting being held at the Holiday Inn at Taunton on Saturday, March 23rd. All interested parties were urged to attend.
- 14.3. Discussion took place on the purchase of electronic timing equipment, and it was agreed to support this for 2019, review it and see if a second set could be purchased in 2020. This would assist bids to take place for inter-regional events at Millfield.
- 14.4. The secretary raised the matter of grants for financial assistance being dealt with by the water polo subcommittee. At present these were dealt with by himself and the region's financial officer, Mrs Robinson. It was agreed that further information was required and this would be investigated.

#### **15. Training Courses (Report from Development Coordinator)**

- 15.1. Mike Coles reported the progress of courses
- 15.1.1. Referees (All courses presently suspended by Swim England)
- 15.1.2. Coaches: A successful Level 1 course had been held at Newton Abbot, and had been well supported. It was hoped that a Level 2 could be held at Plymouth, supported by Devonport Royals. It was suggested that potential candidates be encouraged through bursaries from county and region, and also asked to attend the regional academies as succession planning for the future.
- 15.1.3. Team Managers would hopefully be held prior to the county championships in November.

#### **16. County Officer Reports (Request these be sent prior to the meeting please).**

- 16.1. **Cornwall** (A Stevenson): Not a lot to report at present.  
The same teams and same numbers playing.  
The Cornwall teams that entered the inter-county tournament really enjoyed the experience, some of our age groups competed well against all counties, some found it tough especially when only Devon and Gloucestershire were the opponents. It would be good to see other counties (especially female age groups) be encouraged

to enter as I am sure that they would be more on a par with Cornwall.  
Apologies that I couldn't get the senior Cornwall men's team to play, many put themselves forward when I entered the side, but dropped out last minute.  
Finally, as mentioned on many occasions, Cornwall sides rarely play matches, so if any clubs fancied a sea water match in the summer, Penzance (mainly junior age groups) are always happy to accommodate travelling teams at our Jubilee pool.  
Newquay is always up for a senior match on the return trip.

16.2. **Devon** (B Steer): The only items to report from the Devon area. February sees the start of our County club fixtures and as such no report. We are again having an U13 mixed league which will be played on a tournament basis at 4 venues. Newton is running a coaching course in February for which there are several players from Clubs in the County taking this.  
Exeter is entering a new ladies team into the British Water Polo League Women's Divisions providing they make it through the qualifiers.

16.3. **Dorset** (C Pryke): Dorset county successfully entered 4 teams in the recent 2018 inter county water polo championships held at Millfield school.

Men's team - winners  
12 & under mixed (4th out of 5)  
14 & under mixed (4th out of 6)  
16 & under boys (4th)

Planning is underway to develop the junior sections further with training & assessment throughout the year and in particular the development of a woman's team to represent Dorset in this year's Championships in November.

The Dorset Water Polo League will continue on a tournament basis this year comprising Bournemouth, Bridport & Weymouth/ Portland.

Improving the qualifications and standards for coaches, assistants, referees & table officials will be a primary focus for this year. A challenging aspect of this has been securing courses within an acceptable budget and within a reasonable distance for the county.

A grade D referees course will be hosted within Dorset this year following assessment of the new rules and training material at national level.

The Lyme Splash water polo tournament is again being held in the harbour at Lyme Regis during the weekend of Saturday 3rd & Sunday 4th August. It follows last years successful event which was won by Frome.

16.4. **Gloucestershire** (J Spicer in the absence of C Hunt): Nothing to report at present.

16.5. **Somerset** (S Tomlinson): In the absence of Simon, Mike Coles reported that the Somerset Senior League tournament would be held at Millfield, prior to the inter-county event.  
The five clubs in the county, Weston-super-Mare, Taunton Deane, Frome, University of Bath and Yeovil Spartans were continuing to work on forming a Network and working more closely, progressing to entering a network team in the British Water Polo League in the future.

16.6. **Wiltshire** (H Martin-Hicks/A Hicks): No report had been received.

## **17. Reports from**

- 17.1. Water Polo Management Board Representative (C Elliott): Chris reported back from the recent Board meeting, including mention of its newest member, president-elect Mike Coles, who was this committee's secretary.
- 17.2. Masters Representative: The secretary proposed that he invite Rhys Tamlyn to cover this position in the future.
- 17.3. Officials Coordinator: Mike reported the desperate need for more officials to cover the resurgence of the sport.
- 17.4. Development Officer: Covered in the meeting.

## **18. Additional Information from Swim England**

- 18.1. No further information following Andy Fuller's presentation.

## **19. Items to communicate & Web Pages**

- 19.1. The secretary and Stacey Millett said that the two and through of information was very good, and would hopefully continue.

## **20. Any other business (as previously notified of)**

- 20.1. The resignation of Mr Hunt had been covered under Minute 11.3.
- 20.2. Stephanie Gadd said that she would look into the situation of the proposed inclusion of water polo into the Youth Games being held in Exeter.

## **21. Dates of the future meetings:**

- 21.1. Monday 8th July 2019
- 21.2. Monday 7th October 2019
- 21.3. Monday 3rd February 2020 (Book Room)

22. Meeting closed at 9.55 pm.

# South West Committee

February 4 2019

# Implementation Plan

Alignment with Regions

Clear Approach to Investment

Investment Areas to Support Whole Sport

Transparency and Accountability

# Student Investment

Work to engage universities; stabilise and grow; service provision

Competition activity

Expand to new markets – collegiate Water Polo

# Community Investment

START Programme

Club Audit – establish current picture

Expand to new areas – geography /  
profile

# Competition Planning

Co-ordinated Calendar

Asset Development

Athlete Pathway

# Workforce Development

Coaching Infrastructure

Officiating Infrastructure

Volunteer Pathway

# Business and Strategic Plans

Performance – Technical and Culture

Geographic – capacity-build

Communication – needs to be stronger

# Appendix 2

## SW Polo Dates 2019/20

### January 2019

19<sup>th</sup> RTC 5-9pm

26/27<sup>th</sup> U18 Girls IR

### February 2019

2/3<sup>rd</sup> U18 Boys IR

4<sup>th</sup> Committee meeting

23/24 Prelims NAGs U17 Girls & U19 Boys

### March 2019

2<sup>nd</sup> RTC 5-9pm

2/3 Prelims NAGs U17 Boys

16/17 Qualifiers NAGs U17 Boys

23/24 Qualifiers NAGs U17 Girls

30/31 Qualifiers NAGs U19 Boys & Girls

31<sup>st</sup> Mothers Day

### April 2019

13/14 Finals NAGs U17 & U18

19 -22 Easter

### May 2019

4-6<sup>th</sup> BH weekend

4<sup>th</sup> RTC 5-9pm

25-27<sup>th</sup> BH weekend

### June 2019

29/30 U16 Boys IR

### July 2019

6/7<sup>th</sup> U16 Girls IR

8<sup>th</sup> Committee meeting

13<sup>th</sup> RTC\*12-4pm

### September 2019

21<sup>st</sup> RTC\*

### October 2019

26<sup>th</sup> RTC\*

### November 2019

16<sup>th</sup> RTC\*

23/24<sup>th</sup> SW Intercounty Champs

### December 2019

1/2<sup>nd</sup> U14 Girls IR

8/9<sup>th</sup> U14 Boys IR

## Provisional RTC Dates 2020

4<sup>th</sup> January

15<sup>th</sup> February

7<sup>th</sup> March

2<sup>nd</sup> May

## **South West u18 Boys Int. Regions 2019**

The South West Boys U18 team were drawn in group B of Div 2 with Scotland and East Midlands. The team had to finish in the top two of the group to reach the semi final stage but actually came out on top of the group. In a tight game against East Midlands they won 7-5 and in the second game against Scotland, which was another tight game, winning 8-7.

This meant the team were through to the semi -finals playing North West Ravens. The game was nip and tuck in the first quarter but eventually the South West pulled away as the boys started to gel together and win 13-6.

The final was next and Scotland were the opponents after they beat South East in the other semi. The game became a very tactical affair as both teams knew each other's style of play and had strong players that the other team were trying to mark out of the game. The game was very tight for the first three quarters but in the final quarter Scotland pulled away to win 11-8.

South West Boys Head Coach John Spicer said 'this was a great improvement in play from the last time this team played in the Under 16s Competition and all the players gave one hundred percent in every game. A great bunch of lads who were a pleasure to coach.'

Best goalkeeper award went to Theo Quantic and most valuable player went to Charlie Brogan.

Team

1 Theo Quantic

2 Charlie Brogan

3 Josh Tomlinson

4 Ben Mcnab

5 Joe Ashleworth

6 Will Cook

7 Taylor Walsh

8 Charlie Pitt

9 Joshie Wardle

10 Luke Tubby

11 Henry Davis

12 James Willis

13 Angus Nile

This is another great result from the South West Water Polo teams which have either won or been runners up in all of the last four competitions.

