

Minutes of the Swim England South West Region Water Polo Technical Committee, held at the Regional Headquarters, Chelston Business Park, 9JQ, Castle Rd, Wellington TA21 9JE on Monday, 8th October, 2018.

1. Apologies

- 1.1. Apologies received from Phil Garrad (Finance Officer for Water Polo), Anthony Stevenson (Cornwall Representative), Andy Hicks (Wiltshire Representative). No deputisation for these two counties were present.
- 1.2. Attendees were Andy Fuller, the National Development Manager from Swim England; Yvonne Stead, regional club development office; Stuart Noyce, chairman; Stacey Millett, regional development officer; Simon Tomlinson, female head coach and Somerset County representative; Martyn Thomas, specialist; Chris Elliot, Board Representative; Roger Downing, vice chairman of the board; Brian Steer, Devon County representative; John Spicer, Male Head Coach; Colin Hunt, water polo administrator for regional academy and Gloucestershire County representative; Sarah Tomlinson, Bristol & West Water Polo League representative; Chris Pryke, Dorset County representative; Mike Coles, secretary and president-elect for the region.

2. Question and Answer Session to Andy Fuller, the newly-appointed Swim England National Development Manager.

- 2.1. The first question put by Colin Hunt and regarded the funding landscape, following the various reports that had appeared over the last few weeks as regarding the withdrawal of funding to various teams, etc.
- 2.2. Andy replied that with the withdrawal of Sport England funding was not in his remit at the moment, he was responsible for grassroot funding linked to performance funding. He had to admit that he was still finding his feet with all the various aspects of this, but he would be investigating various funding avenues over the coming months.
- 2.3. Colin's second question was in regards to the amount of funding that was expected by parents, also the issue of reports regarding the senior women's programme, etc
- 2.4. Andy replied that the senior women's programme had not been cancelled, as alleged. Swim England were now looking at all competitions and deciding on the direction that the programme should take. He would be setting up a business plan via an audit, and would be looking at the best way to spend the few resources that were continuing, going forward.
They would be looking at aspirational leadership for all players as regards recognizing talent.
Maybe going back to the membership and asking what they expect for the future.
There would be fair and frank discussion over the coming months with various bodies regarding the future.
- 2.5. Colin pressed home the point that player's progress was being stifled due to financial restraints. He said: "Are we going down the route of university water polo, rather than club water polo?"
- 2.6. Chairman Stuart intervened, and asked if there were any questions from anyone else, and he added one of his own, asking who did Norman Leighton now answer to. Sometimes regions wondered what he achieved. It seems that he only duplicated the work that the region had taken over.
- 2.7. Andy replied that Norman now answers direct to him, and had such now had to achieve targets set, as was the case for all members of the Swim England team.

- 2.8. What is the accountability of the people employed by Swim England was the next question asked.
- 2.9. There will be goals and targets. These had to be achieved and reported on to the Swim England management board.
Plans have to be audited internally for development and then reported back. "I came in post in September, 2018, and is due to report back at the end of October 2018."
- 2.10. Mike Coles asked the question: "Why does funding go to universities rather than to grassroots clubs". This followed on from the £500 reported given to all universities which played water polo throughout the country.
- 2.11. Andy answered it was because of links to higher education, as opposed to links to community and clubs.
- 2.12. Martyn Thomas asked why training was not given to education trainers in the sport of water polo, after he and others had been recommending this be done over a number of years.
- 2.13. Andy took the point and he would progress this further.
- 2.14. Time ran out on any further questions, and it was proposed by the chairman that if anyone else had further questions for Andy Fuller, they send them through to Mike Coles, the secretary, and he would forward them on for an answer.

3. Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting, which also included the supplementary item on allowances

- 3.1. Brian Steer proposed that they were a true record, and John Spicer seconded.

4. Matters arising from those minutes

- 4.1. Colin Hunt asked on whether a card reader would be purchased for payments?
- 4.2. The secretary reported that this had been rejected because of the percentage cost per transaction and the question as to whether this cost would be met by the region or the water polo finances.
- 4.3. Secretary reported that the equipment order had gone in, but that the order for electronic equipment had not, and that this item needed to be included in the budget for next year.
- 4.4. The matter was raised on the cost per player for representing the region. This money was to offset the cost of hotel accommodation and food for the participants.
- 4.5. It was proposed for the forthcoming competitions in December that £70 be charged to the participants. This was proposed by John Spicer and seconded by Sarah Tomlinson. This was agreed by all.
- 4.6. The question was asked if future inter regional competitions would be run by the British Water Polo League, but Andy Fuller answered that there was no formal agreement at the present time between Swim England and the BWPL.
- 4.7. With this in mind there were also no future dates for future competitions at this present time, therefore it was agreed for the time being that coaches would look at the historical dates for the competitions to give a "rule of thumb" idea of future dates.
- 4.8. Simon Tomlinson asked the question of if we could get confirmation from Norman Leighton, Swim England Talent ID, whether National Squad members should be going to regional academies? The secretary said that he would email Mr Leighton for confirmation.

5. Notice of items for AOB

- 5.1. Yvonne Stead said that she would like to add the Youth Games added to AOB

6. Swim England Inter-Region Championships

- 6.1. Under14s Boys and Girls in December 2018. Simon Tomlinson and John Spicer reported that everything was in hand for the forthcoming tournaments.
- 6.2. Simon further reported: The south west girls academy was well attended by those existing players who have been involved in the set up for some time. Could clubs please send their 2006/7 and good 2008's to the next session as only two new ones attended the trial.
- 6.3. The next competition for the South West Girls is 1/2nd Dec in Walsall for the U14's

- 6.4. Under 18s boys and girls for January/February 2019. No firm dates had been released for this event to date.
- 6.5. Under-16s Boys and Girls for June/July 2019. No firm dates had been released of this event to date.
- 6.6. Discussion took place over the eligibility for representation took place, and the secretary confirmed that he had been in touch with Joanne Mountfield, as regards to the rules which control this. Her answer was: "We get exactly the same enquiry every year from various parents, coaches and Regional Representatives. As you are aware, under ASA Law a player can choose which Club they play for. This is a Regional competition, not a Club competition. The Regions are defined in ASA Law 2 in the Swim England Handbook (page 26-27). The Home Nations are included by invitation only. The objective is to provide a comprehensive programme of competition with the intended outcome of supporting the development of players, coaches and team managers in the Regional Academy programmes, as well as Regional officials, with a suitable competitive programme. We trust this explains the reason for this rule clearly, so that you can inform all parties."
- 6.7. Therefore, there would be no movement in the Postcode ruling which controlled which region a player could play for.
- 6.8. Following on from this definitive answer, the secretary was asked to contact the parents of Nyxon Rockliffe-Fidler, who had been recommended to attend the South West Water Polo Regional Academy by her club, City of Bristol, but because of her Welsh postcode, she was not eligible to play for the South West Region in the inter-regional competition, and it was therefore felt unfair that she would get an insight into tactics of the SW Region. The recommendation was that she should attend the Welsh Regional Academy.

7. Swim England South West Region Water Polo Inter-County Championships for 2018

- 7.1. The date for these was the Saturday and Sunday, 24th and 25th November, at Millfield School Swimming Pool.
- 7.2. All entries were in from Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Gloucestershire, Somerset and Wiltshire.
- 7.3. The entries were as follows:

Comp	Cwall	Devon	Dorset	Glos	Somerset	Wilts	Total	Format	No Games	Total Games
12/U Mixed		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	5 (6)	Round Robin	4	10
14/U Mixed	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Tes	6 (6)	2 leagues	2 Leagues + 1 p = 3	9
16/U Girls	Yes	Yes		Yes			3 (3)	Round Robin	2	3
16/U Boys	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes			4 (4)	Round Robin	3	6
18/U Boys		Yes		Yes			2 (2)	Round Robin	1	1
Snr Ladies		Yes		Yes			2 (3)	Round Robin	1	1
Snr Men	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		5 (6)	Round Robin	4	10

7.4.

Possible competitions and days:
 Saturday 24th November
 14/U Mixed – 9 mini games
 Ladies – 1 full game
 18/U Boys – 1 full games
 Men 10 mini games

Sunday 25th November
12/Under Mixed – 10 mini games
16/U Girls – 3 full games
16/U Boys 6 mini games

- 7.5. Medals and trophies were all sorted. The trophies had all been collected in, including the missing Lighthouse Trophy, and were available at the Regional Office for collection by Sue Dors, who was also arranging the medals for the event.
- 7.6. Mike Coles, the Officials Coordinator confirmed that he would contact Paula Manning of City of Bristol, to see if she would be available to take charge of the table officials. He would also contact all referees to see who was available to officiate at the event. He would then oversee those referees.
- 7.7. The admission for entry into the Inter-County event being held on the weekend of 24th and 25th November, should be £1 for spectators and £1 for a programme.
- 7.8. Registration of players would be requested from the counties seven days prior to the competition to give a chance to check through the registration details and eligibility of those players to represent their counties.

8. Swim England South West Region Water Polo Inter County Championships in 2019

- 8.1. Chairman Stuart Noyce confirmed that he had made the booking with Millfield for the same time of the year for 2019.

9. Regional Academy Update

- 9.1. The dates for the Regional Academies at Millfield were as follows:
- 9.2. Sat 27th Oct - Oct - 1300 to 1700
- 9.3. Sat 17th Nov - Times 1700 -2100
- 9.4. Sat 19th Jan – Times 1700-2100
- 9.5. Sat 2nd March - 1700-2100
- 9.6. Sat 4th May - 1700-2100
- 9.7. July 2019 - Timings TBC, however as per this year we propose to hold a Boys and Girls training session with a social event following (similar to this years event held at the LIDO Cheltenham).
- 9.8. The coaches, Simon Tomlinson and John Spicer reported t3hat the boys session was full, and in fact had to turn away a few, but they had been asked to come back to the next session. Those with a birth date of 2007 were to be invited to the January 2019.
- 9.9. There was plenty of room at the girl's younger levels of 2007 and 2008.
- 9.10. County representatives were asked to go back to their counties and clubs and ask if they could support the Under-14 girls and boys.
- 9.11. Simon Tomlinson reported his frustration when taking his junior team around the region to find girls playing water polo who he had not seen at regional academies.
- 9.12. It was agreed that there would be a separation of administrators for the girls and boys. Colin Hunt would continue to administer the boys. However, Mandy Jones of Weymouth in Dorset and who is a member of the Taunton Deane Club, would administer the girls.
- 9.13. The regional website now had a separate area specifically for water polo was now in operation.
- 9.14. It was agreed to investigate the possibility of a barbecue for the girls be incorporated within the boys which was held in July 2019 at Sandford Lido.

10. Finance Report

- 10.1. The Finance Officer, Phil Garrad had sent a spreadsheet (Appendix 1), showing income and expenditure for the Technical Committee.
- 10.2. It was recommended that expenditure for new timing equipment for the South West be put into the budget being prepared at this time. The total cost of this equipment is £2,700, but it would enable the South West Region to put on national events.
- 10.3. It was suggested that £500 be put into the budget to help with travel assistance to Level 1 and 2 courses coming up in 2019. The Level 1 Coaches course was in the

planning stage for Newton Abbot, and the Level 2 was hoped to be held in Plymouth through Devonport.

- 10.4. It was further suggested that an extra £4,000 be put in to cover the cost of officials courses. Dorset were hoping to hold a course in January 2019, but were still awaiting confirmation from Swim England.
- 10.5. It was agreed that the key officers allowances would be the same as this year for 2019. They were:

Water Polo Committee Secretary	30%
Water Polo Finance Officer	15%
Water Polo Officials Coordinator	10%
Water Polo Development Coordinator	15%
Boys Academy Administrator	10%
Girls Academy Administrator	10%
Female's Chief Coach	5%
Males Chief Coach	5%

- 10.6. The Secretary reported that he had placed an order for the following with Water Polo Market:
- 10.6.1. Set of Water Polo Hats (home and away) with the new branding for Swim England South West Region. The design in this matches the present Swim England South West Region costumes.
- 10.6.2. 12 Size 4 water polo balls
- 10.6.3. 6 Size 5 water polo balls
- 10.6.4. Two sets of pool cone markers
- 10.6.5. One large equipment bag
- 10.6.6. Two sets of water polo flags for the officials
- 10.6.7. Two ball bags
- 10.6.8. Two hat rings
- 10.6.9. The invoice for this will be sent to me and forwarded on to the financial officer for payment.

11. Training Courses

- 11.1. The Development Coordinator, Mike Coles, reported that he had been in talks with Dorset, who wished to hold a water polo referees' course in January 2019, and that he had applied to Swim England to hold this. As yet he had heard that approval had been given to hold it, but no tutor had been appointed to his knowledge.
- 11.2. Two coaches' courses were planned, as previously discussed in the Financial Report. He had been working closely with the Club Development Office for the Region, Yvonne Stead, on this, but was disappointed to hear that she would be moving on in December. The rest of the committee agreed that this indeed was sad news, but wished her well.

12. County Officer Reports

- 12.1. Cornwall
 Anthony Stevenson sent his report via email. He reported: "Nothing changed much in terms of teams in Cornwall. We still have a number of players representing Devonport in Plymouth, and Exeter sides.
 "We have a number who have registered for the regional academy, and with the sessions now being held at Millfield School, it has made these far more accessible. Thanks, for reverting back to a place more central in the region.
 "Finally, we are sending four teams to the inter-county tournament in November, and we are holding trials in Penzance for the junior sides in the coming weeks. The senior men will pick itself on availability.
- 12.2. Devon
 Brian Steer reported that Devon were coming to the end of the Devon League season, but were finding that there were a number of fixtures that remained unplayed, and the

committee were looking at ways to overcome this in the coming months.

12.3. Dorset

Chris Pryke reported: Dorset water polo remains in a positive state with active juniors' sections based at Weymouth, Dorchester, Bournemouth, Christchurch, Bridport & more recently Sherborne.

Senior men's teams are based at Bridport, Bournemouth & Weymouth/ Portland. Fred Fowler, who has previously chaired the SW Technical Water Polo Committee has recently taken over as the Dorset County water polo secretary. The Dorset League has had a successful year and the men's teams continue to participate in the Hampshire league. Successful tournaments were held during the summer in both Lyme Regis harbour and Westbay harbour. Dorset has entered four teams into the forthcoming South West inter county tournament to be held at Millfield school in late November - 12 & under mixed, 14 & under mixed, 16 & under mixed and the senior men. Dorset juniors continue to participate in the Regional Academy but this issue will be promoted further to increase involvement. We have successfully applied to host a grade D referee course in early 2019. We hope to base this course at Dorchester and await an instructor to be identified.

12.4. Gloucestershire

John Spicer reported: We have entered seven teams into the Swim England South West Region Inter-County event

Cheltenham held taster sessions at the Lido on Sunday mornings during the summer holidays and was well attended.

A Level 1 coaching course was held at Cheltenham in June, and seven Cheltenham coaches attended. A Level 2 course also held in Cheltenham in August.

Cheltenham have entered boys and girls teams in the Under-15 National Age Group Competition, and City of Bristol a boys team in the same competition.

12.5. Somerset

Simon Tomlinson reported: The Somerset Junior water polo set up is in a state of flux, with Weston-super-Mare, Frome and Yeovil all trying to re-build or start there junior set ups.

Therefore, Somerset are only entering 12&U and 14&U teams into the inter-county competition this year. This is purely for match experience and development of young players. Excepting that the Somerset Team is predominantly the Taunton Deane team. Somerset Men will be playing in the Second Men's county tournament on 27th Oct at Millfield and the team will be selected from this tournament to defend their inter-county title from last year.

12.6. Wiltshire

No report received from Wiltshire, but entries for the Inter-County Competition had been received from Helen Martin-Hicks.

13. Reports from the following Officers

13.1. Management Board Representative

13.1.1. Roger Downing firstly congratulated the Secretary, Mike Coles, on his appointment to President-Elect for the coming year at the annual Council Meeting held in September.

13.1.2. He further commented on the leaving of Yvonne Stead, the Swim England South West Region Club Development Officer, and how much she will be missed.

13.1.3. He stressed that because of the turnaround of the Water Polo Technical Committee over the last year, they were now in a position of power.

13.1.4. He asked that all support the excellent Newsletter produced by Stacey Millet, and provide items of interest for her to put in it.

13.1.5. Due to the stepping down of David Flack and himself, there would be a vacancy for a Board Chairman and Vice-Chairman, and adverts for these positions are in the process of being put together, and anyone interested should apply.

- 13.1.6. He thought it a good idea is the South West Region Newsletter be advertised on the programme of the forthcoming inter-county event in November.
- 13.2. Development Officer
Mike Coles, the Development Officer said that he had covered most of his previously, and did not have anything to add.
- 13.3. Masters Representative
No representative for Masters, so no report.
- 13.4. Officials Co-Ordinator
Mike Coles reported the need for more referees to officiate the game. Water Polo was going from strength to strength, and there were more games than ever which needed qualified officials. He advocated that a second course be arranged for later in the year in the Bristol or Devon area to try and gain more, so there was less work for the few.

14. Information from Swim England

- 14.1. Roger Downing said that Club Matters gave information on incorporation, for those wanting more information on the matter.

15. Performance Reporting

- 15.1. Andy Fuller said that he would require a report from all clubs and counties on their numbers and results. Also information on coaches per club and their membership growth. This information would put him in a position of strength when negotiating on water polo's behalf.
- 15.2. Mike Coles asked if we could get more information published as reports to international recognition.

16. Items to communicate and web pages

- 16.1. As previously reported, Colin Hunt was keen to come to the Regional Office to work with Stacey Millet on items for the water polo web pages. Also information would continue to be supplied for inclusion on the pages.

17. Any of Business (as previously declared)

- 17.1. Yvonne Stead wanted to get the inclusion of water polo into the up and coming Youth Games before she left. Stuart Noyce said that she would need to get in touch with the Exeter club as regards organizing this.
- 17.2. She said that she was happy to part-fund the pool hire, and it would involve clubs from Devon and Cornwall.

Meeting closed at 10.15pm

Next Meetings:

Monday, 4th February, 2019

Monday, 8th July, 2019

Monday, 7th October, 2019

Date	Name	Category	Reference	Group	Income	Expenditure	
05-Apr	HUNT COLIN	Boys Regional Competition U16		IR U16	£60.00		
30-Apr	M WILLIS	Boys Regional Competition U16		IR U16	£60.00		
30-Apr	STEVENSON A L	Boys Regional Competition U16		IR U16	£60.00		
30-Apr	DAVIS MRS C	Boys Regional Competition U16		IR U16	£60.00		
30-Apr	WOOLLEY IM & LR	Boys Regional Competition U16		IR U16	£60.00		
30-Apr	COLEMAN R M V98	Boys Regional Competition U16		IR U16	£60.00		
01-May	ALLIX LALGT&LA	Boys Regional Competition U16		IR U16	£60.00		
19-May	West Midland Region	Girls and Boys Under 16 Competitions		IR U16		£700.00	
01-Jul	Sarah Tomlinson	Boys Regional Competition U16	Expenses	IR U16		£522.71	
03-Jun	John Spicer	Boys Regional Competition U16	Expenses	IR U16		£484.50	
20-Jun	Stu Mckie	Boys Regional Competition U16	Expenses	IR U16		£158.60	
20-Jun	Stu Mckie	Regional Competition U16 Kit	Kit	IR U16		£512.50	
05-Jul	Sarah Tomlinson	Boys Regional Competition U16 Kit	Kit	IR U16	£250.00		
08-Jul	Jim Robinson	Girls Regional Competition U16		IR U16		£67.86	
08-Jul	Simon Tomlinson	Girls Regional Competition U16		IR U16		£77.65	
09-Jul	Phil Garrad	Girls Regional Competition U16 Kit	Kit	IR U16	£273.00		
		U16 Regional Competitions			£943.00	£2,523.82	-£1,580.82

14-Apr	Hengrove Park Leisure Centre	Girls Regional Academy	HENG019418	RA		£302.40	
14-Apr	Jim Robinson	Girls Regional Academy		RA		£13.50	
21-Apr	Aspire Sports and Cultural Trust	Boys Regional Academy		RA		£606.00	
27-May	Hengrove Park Leisure Centre	Girls Regional Academy	HENG019663	RA		£151.20	
19-Jun	Simon Tomlinson	Girls Regional Academy	Expenses 14/04/18	RA		£38.70	
19-Jun	Simon Tomlinson	Girls Regional Academy	Expenses 19/06/18	RA		£38.70	
15-Sep	Jim Robinson	Girls regional academy		RA		£33.93	
16-Sep	John Spicer	Boys Regional academy		RA		£49.20	
24-Sep	Daly K L & A L	Regional Academy	WPSWKATYDALY04		£70.00		
24-Sep	C Jones	Regional Academy	SW E.SAUNDERS 2005		£60.00		
26-Sep	Killick RM	Regional Academy	WPSWG-H KILLICK 06		£60.00		
01-Oct	Phil Garrad	Regional Academy		RA	£140.00		
		Regional Academy			£330.00	£1,233.63	-£903.63

25-Sep	DORSET COUNTY AMAT SESWR	County Championships	WP - DORSET		£420.00		
		County Championships			£420.00	£0.00	£420.00

12-Jun	John Spicer	Committee Meeting		Com		£81.00	
09-Jul	Brian Steer	Committee Meeting		Com		£29.25	
24-Jul	Mike Coles	Committee Meeting		Com		£64.44	
		Committee Meeting			£0.00	£174.69	-£174.69
							-£2,239.14

Total Income and Expenditure 2018-2019 **£1,693.00** **£3,932.14** **-£2,239.14**

05-Jun Colin Hunt Unknown £60.00