

Minutes of SW Para/Disability Meeting 6th August 2020 via Zoom

1. Present: Graham Cockill (GC) (Chair); Chrissie Robinson (CR) (SW Region Chair); Dave Hill (DH) (Coach); Martin Lees (ML) (Swim England); Kerry O'Reilly (Gloucestershire), Chris Elliott (Cornwall); Maria Harris (Devon); Richard Smith (Wiltshire); Steve Johns (Dorset); Mike Coles (SW Region President).
2. Apologies: Kay Willcox (Somerset)
3. Minutes of meeting held on 14th May 2020: Agreed as an accurate record.
4. Matters arising from minutes of 14th May meeting:
Reece Dunn, SW Swimmer of the Year 2019, has not yet been presented with his award because of the Coronavirus restrictions. GC will contact Sue Dors to find out where the trophy is being held currently, and will then discuss with committee members how we might present the award to Reece.
5. SW Para-Swimming Development Plan
 - a) Swim England 'Zoom' CPD for Para Swimmers, Coaches, Teachers, Parents/Guardians.
Thanks were expressed to Dave Hill for arranging the following 4 Para CPD sessions with Tom McManus (Swim England Para Talent officer) for the South West:
 1. Introduction to Classification and Para Pathway (for all coaches) – 6th August
 2. Introduction to Physical Literacy (classified athletes and parents/guardians) – 6th Aug
 3. Developing Physical Literacy in Para-Swimmers (assistant/level 1 coaches) – 1st Sept
 4. Identifying Suitable Practices for the Development of Para-Swimmers (coach/level 2 coaches) – 8th Sept.

Unfortunately, the two sessions scheduled for 6th August attracted only 2 participants, and so were postponed pending consideration of delivering the content in a revised form. ML explained how the first two CPD sessions would be redesigned and delivered nationally to all regions together on one day via Zoom, providing opportunities for coaches, teachers, swimmers (both talent programme and non-talent programme athletes) and parents to participate together with a much wider audience from all other regions. This is likely to take place on a Saturday or Sunday at the end of October or early in November. ML will publish the date and content details in the near future, which SW Para Committee members agreed to ask their respective County Secretaries to circulate to all clubs.

The committee also discussed whether the September CPD sessions (1st and 8th) should be postponed and rearranged into a national Zoom opportunity. DH has confirmed that the SW sessions have recruited only 3 coaches so far. ML will decide whether the days should go ahead, or whether their content can be included within the full national presentation outlined above. If the September sessions do go ahead, committee members agreed to advertise them to all clubs within their counties via their County Secretaries.

b) Training and Development Days.

It was agreed that the training and development days scheduled to take place in Plymouth on 20th September, and Pewsey on 31st October/1st November should be cancelled. GC to ask Chris Vickery/Stacey Millet to cancel the bookings.

Depending on the proposed content of the national Para CPD day, DH will decide whether he can offer any virtual CPD to SW swimmers to replace what might have been covered on these training and development days, first checking that there is no clash with the SW Zoom calendar.

c) SW Para Swimming Championships, Horfield Pool, 13th March 2021

Horfield Pool is due to reopen on 20th August. It was agreed to hold this booking so that we can make a decision at a later date as to whether the championships should go ahead.

d) Return to Swimming

CR reported that only 20% of pools nationally have reopened so far, and committee members reported a mixed but limited picture of pool availability across the South West.

Swim England's 'Return to Competition' guidelines will be published towards the end of September

6. Waterproof Hearing Aids

The committee discussed the range and type of waterproof hearing aids which can be worn by swimmers to enable coaches to communicate with them in the water. ML offered to pass information of different types to committee members. The links to two products are below:
From Rich Smith : https://www.alibaba.com/product-detail/Bone-Conduction-Earphone-Swimming-Coach-Training_60126741096.html

From David Hill : <https://myjukes.com/>

Recruiting Signers for Swimmers.

Members were unable to suggest how signers might be found.

7. Para-Swimming Secretary

GC asked for any committee member who would be willing to become the secretary to the committee to contact him.

8. AOB – none

9. Date of next meeting: Thursday 12th November 2020, 7pm, via Zoom