

Notes from Region Artistic Swimming Meeting at 8.30pm on Monday 11 October 2021 via Zoom Platform

Present: Roger Downing (RD), Mary Hooper (MH), Sarah Pullan (SP), Georgina Coombs (GC), Sarah Garett (SG), Viv Ebbs (VE)

1. Welcome, Introduction and Apologies

 Apologies from Mike Coles (MC)

1. Notice of Any Other Business
2. Declaration of Interest
3. Minutes of Previous Meeting
4. 20.2.2021 SE ASL Grp
5. 11.2.2021 SWR ASMC
6. 24.4.2021 SWR ASMC
7. 10.5.2021 SWR ASMC
8. Matters Arising

RD and MH to review all matters arising over the last 12 months and produce a paper for the Management Committee.

1. Regional Manager

a. Regional Virtual Grades

 Discussion about the quality of videos and the difficulty for judges having to look at the videos several times. The process was very time consuming. It was agreed that the South West Region should start to run face-to-face grade days since the South East Region had already held one. MH to contact the SER to see how it was run. **ACTION MH**

 There was a discussion about venues for face-to-face grades, and it was decided that Burnham was no longer suitable. The café was always crowded because there was nowhere else to congregate and there was insufficient room for the swimmers to do a land warm up. There was also no space large enough to hold Land Grades.

 MH reported that she had contacted Marlborough College about using it as a venue for grading and it was agreed that she should speak to them again to arrange possible dates. **ACTION MH**

GC agreed to contact Bath University pool to see what dates they may have available to accommodate a Grade Day or a Development Day. **ACTION GC**

b. Senior Assessors

c. Regional Club Meeting

 MH reported that she is on the Club Development Committee. There is concern that the lack of volunteers is critical. Jackie Hillyard is doing a presentation on volunteers at the meeting. Of the two dates offered, it was agreed that 3.00pm on Saturday 27 November was the best and it would tie in with the Leadership Meeting taking place on 30 October. MC to be invited to the meeting.

 **RD after meeting confirms Jackie H has set up zoom meeting** **ACTION RAD**

1. World Class Programme

The members of the meeting thanked Karen Thorpe for her excellent presentation showing that development is the most important aspect in the World Class Programme. This programme is not for novice swimmers but for athletes who want to develop further. Clubs which have athletes on the World Class Programme should act as a support mechanism for those who want to progress further. It was disappointing that only the South West Region appeared to be represented at the meeting.

1. AS Athlete Pathway

The meeting discussed the Athlete Pathway which is designed to develop the standard of talent across the country and to advance the national structure. It is designed for all age groups. The pathway starts with the 11 & under athletes, followed by the 11-14 athletes, preparing them for the National Youth Squad.

GC suggested that there should be a coaching pathway running alongside the training programme for athletes. Swimmers leave at 16 and 17 and they should be encouraged to become young volunteers and take their coaching and judging qualifications to support the younger swimmers. MH is able to obtain funding for courses from next year’s budget

Other ideas put forward were that a National Coach could be invited to run a one-day clinic and some funding may be available from the Region.

GC suggested that the format for the Regional Games was a good model to follow for a Regional competition, giving it more of a focus.

MH to email clubs to ask them to send, prior to the meeting, any questions, suggestions etc. they would like to be brought up at the meeting with clubs. **ACTION MH**

RD reported that, because the Region is so extensive, there had been thoughts about putting counties together, i.e. Cornwall/Somerset, Gloucester/Wiltshire/Dorset. Agreed that this item is included on the Agenda for the meeting with clubs. **ACTION MH**

1. Finance Manager
	1. Income and Expenditure

 MH noted that the income in 2021 for Grades was £880.

* 1. Budget 2022

The meeting thanked MH for the budget which included funding for Development, Competitions and Administration. She had not heard whether it had been approved.

GC pointed out that 2 Squad Development days was insufficient for the Region, and that it needed to be increased to 4 days

8. Competition

 a. Calendar 2021

 To note the following virtual national events taking place in 2021:

* National Age Groups: 23-24 October: GC reported that she had been contacted to judge at NAGS on Saturday and Sunday.

* Swim England Masters Competition: 27-28 November
* Combo Cup: 18-19 December
1. Calendar 2022

It was agreed that grading would take place from 1.00-5.00pm with a maximum cap on numbers.

Face to face Grading Dates were agreed for 2022 as follows:

* 15 January: Routine and Figure grades at Marlborough College **ACTION SG**
* 19 March
* 14 May
* 15 October

It was agreed that Development days would take place in September and December. Dates to be arranged nearer the time. **ACTION MH**

9. Coaching and Workforce

 a. Officials Training and Development

GC noted that there was an urgent need to hold an officials’ training course. Hannah Secher had developed a virtual officials programme and GC agreed to run a virtual programme for Level 1 Judges. Date to be agreed as a matter of urgency so that it can be announced at the Regional Club meeting on 27 November 2021. **ACTION GC**

10. SE SW Region Update

 a. Report from RMB

 The Regional Management Committee minutes are online but there is very little to report in addition to the minutes in the current situation.

 Some Regions took part in the “Festival of Swimming” where many swimmers had the chance to race again. From a swimmers’ point of view, it was very exciting, but many Regions lost thousands of pounds.

11. Date of Next Meetings

 a. Management Group – to be arranged after the Regional Club Meeting on 27 November.

1. Officials – GC to arrange **ACTION GC**
2. Competition Committee – SP to arrange **ACTION SP**
3. Workforce Committee – GC to arrange **ACTION GC**
4. Club Representatives Meeting arranged on zoom by JH. RAD to send invites to all **ACTION RD**

12 Any Other Business

 a. MH reported that there is a new Artistic Swimming Club at Plymouth University run by Jenny Chandler.

1. Bristol University Artistic Swimming Club has now reformed and was looking into becoming affiliated.
2. RD reported that the gift for Lou Collings was agreed by GG and has been delivered. LC sent a nice acknowledgement and thank you back to RD.

Circulation: Roger Downing, Mary Hooper, Sarah Pullan, Georgina Coombs, Sarah Garrett, Mike Coles, Viv Ebbs