

Minutes of the Swimming Committee held on 01.11. 2022 at 19.00 via  
Zoom

**Present:**

P. Robbins (PR) Regional Vice Chair  
C. Elliott (CE) Cornwall Representative  
C. Robinson (CR) Regional Chairman  
N. Vause (NV) Officials Representative  
A. Osborne (AO) Gloucester Representative  
G. Pearce (GP) Regional Finance Officer  
A. Smart (AS) Dorset Representative  
S. Haigh (SH) Masters Representative  
K. Podbury (KP) Somerset Representative

**Apologies:**

C. Vickery (CV) Admin & Events Co-Ordinator  
D. Avery (DA) Devon Representative  
L. Leffers (LL) Swimming Licencing Officer

Post meeting apologies:

S. Yeoman (SY) Wiltshire Representative  
G. King-Limb (GKL) Coaches Representative

**34. Welcome**

34.1 CR welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**35 Declaration of Interests**

35.1 Nothing declared

**36. Minutes of 29<sup>th</sup> June 2022**

36.1 Accepted as a true record by AO and seconded by CE

**37. Matters arising from above minutes**

37.1 33.4 Problems were resolved but there have been new problems with the timing pads but we have been assured they have now been serviced.

## **38. Officials report**

38.1 Please see Appendix 1

38.2 SW SOG 6<sup>th</sup> October also circulated post meeting

38.3 Officials Uniform – the relaxation of ‘uniform for Level 4 meets was explained and the amendments that meet promoters can make to uniform for other levels was also explained.

CR suggested that in trying to be inclusive for all officials that the Region change their uniform to black trousers / skirts from 2023. This was rejected after discussion because of cost to officials but it was agreed that officials could wear black trousers / skirts if they wished to without having to get permission from the referee..

## **39. Masters Report**

29.1 A letter of resignation from the position of Masters rep was received from Sue Haigh with effect from 13<sup>th</sup> November. AS thanked Sue for the work she has done with the committee.

29.2 Masters report Appendix 2.

29.3 A discussion took place about the report and it was decided that a review of the Master competition would take place but the masters themselves would need to also work on encouraging officials, recorders and announcers.

29.4 The lane draw was made for the Inter County Competition on 13<sup>th</sup> November:

Lane 2	Dorset
Lane 3	Gloucester
Lane 4	Devon
Lane 5	Wiltshire
Lane 6	Cornwall
Lane 7	Somerset

Entry disks will be circulated to Counties on Wednesday or Thursday.

## **40. County Reports**

40.1 Cornwall:

At our county swimming committee meeting on Tuesday night last most club were saying that new swimmers were joining the clubs. And most saying they were almost back to Pre Covid levels.

The main issue was the lack of water time. This is not help with the fact most centre now close at 15.00pm on Saturdays and Sunday. This has not been helped due to the number of staffing levels reduce during covid. So, they are now short of teachers, lifeguards and centre staff and cannot see this changing soon.

County Event dates for 2023 have been agreed including the qualifying times. We have had an issue with our Rising Stars gala on 7<sup>th</sup> Jan the weekend before qualifying for county times. There have been discussions with Lesley Leffers over this event which Dan Corbett is in discussion with Lesley now with regards to issuing a license.

Did have discussions about volunteers going forward one suggestion was clubs should take up some of these on rotation basis such as President Elect and President amongst other this will be discussed at the next management meeting. Must report that Penzance SC have stopped doing Water Polo now. Its to be seen if this will start up again.

Launceston Pool is to close in Jan 2023 with little chance of it remaining open either by GLL keeping it open or another provider. Launceston SC say it looks like all there training once the pool is closed will be in Devon.

Chris Elliott

#### 40.2 Devon:

First of all, must apologise for not being able to make it to the meeting next week, we are still in temporary accommodation and still have no internet connection.

Entries for our rearranged development meet this weekend is quite lower than what we expected and at the moment the officials count is quite low.

It has been decided to keep the registration fee at the same level.

We have confirmed bookings for the Counties with the Life Centre with a couple of the days that are all day bookings.

The licencing officer is looking at all requests for a license that they are meeting the requirements for the swimmers needs.

At recent events we have had a lot of of trainees attending and hopefully we can get them signed off soon.

#### 40.3 Dorset:

General feeling was that the National County Team Championship was good to be back in he calendar, despite Swim England leaving everything to the last minute.

All county events are well into planning, but like many the entry times are having to be reviewed as technically we have, due to Covid lost 2 years of entry data.

Masters, Dorset still intend to enter but will have limited entries as county master do not seem keen to represent.

Development 2022-23. Running a face to face camp in half term and in spring half term with online education days planned for Jan-Apr.

#### 40.4 Gloucester:

County business has been much more normal than at any time since pre-Covid. Clubs are busy, back competing and the demand for meets is high. Club membership numbers vary from club to club but in the main are only slightly down on pre-Covid numbers.

Results from British Nationals and the English Summer meet were ok. The County won the Three Counties meet (against Worcs, Staffs and Glos) for the

first time in 15+ years and results from the Inter County team meet were encouraging, although still leaving much to do, finishing 9<sup>th</sup> in Division 2. The County exec has done much work in re-vamping the County Championship programme. Having made the decision to run totally L/C championships, and having a number restriction placed on meets by Hengrove, the programme has been altered to try to maximise numbers (as few rejections as possible). The decision has also been made to prioritise the importance of Championship finals, and lessen the importance of age-group finals. With the restriction on numbers too, the Championships have been able to revert to 5 competitive days which will help with the high costs of Hengrove. We are aware of the late application for licence but this has been down to the amount of work done.

The Championships will therefore now run over 5 days with the 6<sup>th</sup> day being allocated to Team events, which will be short course, with the priority being Hutton Moor. Obviously, the relay day will not be part of the championships and will be unlicensed.

The Phase 1 camp will run on Saturday October 29<sup>th</sup> with Craig Skinner (Gloucester assistant head coach) being lead coach. The County are using Cheltenham College for the event, a venue they've not used previously.

### 30.5 Somerset:

The County ran a successful Development meet in the first weekend of October, held at Millfield.

There were no issues with the venue or the equipment, which I was prepared for but happily didn't materialise. We welcomed Wyvern Swimwear as our swim shop after SwimPath were not available.

The same weekend our Somerset team joined others at Ponds Forge at the NCTC competition. I watched the live streamed event and it looked like a lot of fun, the swimmers certainly enjoyed it and it was good to see the competition return.

Our County Pathway has begun with a day at Millfield.

Our General Meeting of Clubs is scheduled for 30<sup>th</sup> November, virtually at 7pm, when we will present the development budget to the County amongst other information.

County Championships 2023 is planned with the same format as last year, opening with a Relay/Team day SC at Millfield and the 100m IM. The remainder will be LC and will run over 6 days. Conditions are currently being finalised with a view to submitting for licensing by the end of this week.

Kelly Podbury

### 30.6 Wiltshire:

We are well on with the planning for 2023. Our main problem has been the reduced staff at GLL which has caused them to be very selective in the availability of dates and also hours. Luckily this the year which we use Salisbury for one weekend.

We have decided to follow SE policy and removed the 4 x 100 IM Finals.

At the development end we are helping with pool hire for clubs who are arranging their own friendly programmes. We have arranged a mini event like the Inter County at Hengrove in May for Wiltshire clubs. We are hoping to reinstate a League Programme for 2023 and have a Development Event planned for September!

Does not seem a lot when put on the page but has been timeconsuming!

#### **41. Licensing Report**

41.1 There is no report as LL is not well.

#### **42. Coaches Report**

42.1 The coaches have a new representative to this committee – Greg King-Limb. Jo John is no longer Chief Coach at Exeter as she has this week started a new role at Swim England.

42.2 Minutes of their recent meeting have been circulated.

#### **43. Competitions**

43.1 The revised programme of events had previously been circulated to the committee. It was accepted unanimously with only one question as to whether the coaches had been consulted on it. This was assured and also stated in their meeting minutes.

43.2 Changes to the rules and conditions of withdrawals and refunds – Appendix 3 – was discussed and agreed unanimously.

43.3 Coaches passes – we are now using the Swim England portal for coaches, team managers and chaperones to apply for their passes to events. This ensures all of the correct levels of DBS, qualifications and safeguarding have been met and are all in date.

The coaches apply, pay their money and receive an email confirmation in return. They need to print this and then a lanyard and plastic pouch will be provided by the region to display the pass for the duration of the competition.

All passes are for named individuals and not transferable.

Each competition will need to be applied for individually.

Following discussion the cost in 2023 for a pass to the regional summer champs will be £15 and the regional winter champs will be £7.50. This was agreed by a majority of those present.

#### **44. Development**

44.1 The first face to face regional camp took on 25<sup>th</sup> September. There will be a Zoom meeting in the New Year and the next face to face camp for this group will be in May 2023.

44.2 There will be a camp for distance swimmers in 2023. This will include a pool session, a Zoom session and an open water session.

#### **45. Swimming Leadership Group minutes.**

45.1 These will be circulated to swimming committee in the future

**Date of next meeting 1<sup>st</sup> March 19.00 via Zoom**

Meeting closed at 21.00

## **Appendix 1**

A busy summer / Autumn for SW Technical officials officiating at the following events.

### **Commonwealth Games**

- Nicky Vause (Somerset)

### **British Summer Championships**

- Sarah Huggins
- Paul Robbins
- Beth Laker
- Sue Gabriel
- Dave Avery
- Tracy Roberts
- Adrian D'Chuna
- Chris Elliott
- Grace Mangutha-Ogborn
- Andy Giess

### **Swim England Summer Championships**

- Sue Gabriel
- Grace Mangutha-Ogborn
- Andy Giess
- Stephen meter
- Jeff Cooper

### **Welsh Summer Championships**

- Dave Avery
- Paul Robbins
- Martin Walters

### **Swim England Masters**

- Jill Beard
- Tracey Roberts
- Sue Podger
- Nicky Vause
- Paul Robbins
- Dave Avery
- Fiona Wilkinson
- Gary French

Invitations to officiate at British Swimming / Swim England events are sent by Helen Akers to all officials qualified to J1 and above whom have signed up to receive the Officials News communications.

Officiating at national events is of great benefit to our region and those participating share knowledge gained within the region.

### **SW Winter Short Course Championships 4-6 November**

We are still short of officials for some Sunday sessions and will not currently meet licensing, a final request will be put out on social media.

### **SW Masters Intercounties 13 November**

Corresponding with Sue today, advised that counties need to be reminded that their two nominated officials need to sign up via SwimMeet.

### **SW Swimming Officials Group draft minutes 6/10/22**

Are attached for your information, containing full details of officials training / CPDs and updated requirements for trainees' attendance at meets.

The updated Swim England guidance on officials' uniform is:

### **What uniform is required for technical officials?**

After considering recent queries regarding the specification for swimming officials' uniform, the decision has been made to specify the uniform required at each level.

- At both unlicensed and Level 4 meets, there is no requirement for officials to conform with a dress code, unless specified by the organiser, but all clothing and footwear must be safe in a poolside environment.
- For Level 3 meets, the dress code should reflect the need to present a professional image in support of the athletes however, there can still be a degree of flexibility in what is worn.
- At Level 1, Level 2 and national events a uniform dress code should be in place. An event organiser can specify this dress code but for any deviation from the norm, either the items should be provided by the organiser or volunteers should be given sufficient notice to be able to meet the requirements if it involves the purchase of additional items.



## Appendix 2

### Report for Masters Swimming

The Regional Masters Open Meet took place at Millfield 9th October.

Regional records were broken and we also had two swimmers, Kalon Veale and Helen Gorman, both setting British records.

I would like to put on record that I am very grateful to the officials who turned out to run the meet.

Swimmers were asked to use the backup button to time swimmers competing in the heat before them. Most were happy to do this but it was not received well by some, who commented that they had expected more from a regionally run meet.

Using Hy-tek as an entry system did not work well.

Before the event there was much discussion on social media about the entry system with many choosing to swim in another meet that day.

Even some swimmers from our region decided not to support our event but to swim elsewhere.

I received complaints on the day about this as well and some emails after the event.

One email received is copied at the end of this report.

Our regional masters committee had agreed to give commemorative medals to all competitors, along with medals for the first three in each event; the three medal winners to be decided by the highest number of points scored using age adjusted Fina points.

However, on the day the recorder told us that it was not possible to do this type of points conversion on the Hy-Tek programme, so we were unable to award these medals.

I believe Stacey has finally been sent a list of the times converted into age adjusted Fina points by a contact in the national office and is in the process of posting the winners medals to the recipients.

At the end of the event the Kalon Veale was awarded the Ernest Clement Trophy having amassed the highest number of points (6211) in the Masters Decathlon competition.

This number of points put Kalon second in the national competition with his father, Simon (6032) coming fourth.

The regional round of the Inter County masters championship is due to take place at Millfield on 13th November. The pool is booked from 12 midday.

I have yet to hear if all six counties will be taking part.

I'm pretty confident that Gloucester, Somerset, Devon and Cornwall will compete but I'm unsure about Wiltshire and Dorset.

Sue Haigh OLY

Devon and Regional Masters representative

**Hi Sue**

***Just a few comments regarding the SW Region masters event at Millfield,***

- 1. Hytek entry was not suitable for many masters swimmers as they are members of a mainstream club but the club doesn't do entries for them - in all of the masters events I've ever entered over the last 25yrs I've always entered them myself***
- 2. I entered a be paper copy which they forgot to process ; the initial programme had my entry missing so I then had to spend time chasing this up in order to be added despite entering in the middle of august and paying via bank transfer -- frustrating !***
- 3. No timekeepers !!!!! Again, never have I seen this at any masters meet in the last 25yrs in any region***

4. **Commemorative medal - no it was a cheap medal saving costs**
5. **FINA age adjusted point great idea - but not when they weren't able to calculate on the day !!!!**

***It's my first SW Region masters meet and I would rate it a poor experience , done on the cheap as if they had to do it rather than they wanted to provide appropriate competition for the fee paying masters in the SW region***

***I will seriously look for an alternative meet next year unless I feel confident changes are made***

**NUALA**

***Nuala Muir -Cochrane  
Swimming Consultant  
Solo English Channel***

### **Appendix 3**

## **Changes to withdrawals**

### **Currently:**

#### **Withdrawal Refunds:**

1. If the withdrawal is before the programme is printed a full refund will be given.
2. When withdrawal from all events is made by 4.00pm on the day before the event then 75% will be refunded.
3. No refund for withdrawal from single event.
4. Withdrawals from all events need to be made by 4.00pm on the day before the event is to be swam on the normal withdrawal form or by email to [swentries@swimming.org](mailto:swentries@swimming.org) to prevent fines being incurred.
5. Any swimmer that then does not compete and has not withdrawn as above will be fined £10.00 for each heat swim that is missed.
6. All refunds are given as credits to clubs and fines are payable by the club on behalf of the swimmer.
7. All withdrawals from Finals or fastest heat events taking place in the Finals session, by Finalists and Reserves have to be made within 15 minutes of the last event with heats in all sessions or 75 minutes before the advertised start time of the final's sessions. Failure to do so will result in a £25.00 fine.

### **Proposed wording:**

#### **Withdrawal Refunds:**

8. If the withdrawal is before the programme is published (seven days prior to the start of the event) a full refund will be given.
9. When withdrawal from all events is made by 4.00pm on the day before the event because of injury or sickness a refund of 50% will be made.
10. All withdrawals must be by email to [swentries@swimming.org](mailto:swentries@swimming.org)
11. All withdrawals from Finals in the Finals session, by Finalists and Reserves have to be made within 15 minutes of the last event with heats in all sessions or 75 minutes before the advertised start time of the final's sessions. Failure to do so will result in a £25.00 fine. These withdrawals must be made on the recognised form available from the recorder at the meet.
12. All refunds are given as credit notes to clubs and fines are payable by the club on behalf of the swimmer.