

Minutes of the Swimming Committee held on 29th June 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
S. Yeoman	(SY)	Wiltshire Representative
L. Leffers	(LL)	Swimming Licencing Officer
J. John	(JJ)	Coaches Representative
D. Avery	(DA)	Devon Representative
A. Osborne	(AO)	Gloucester Representative
G. Pearce	(GP)	Regional Finance Officer

Apologies:

A. Smart	(AS)	Dorset Representative
C. Vickery	(CV)	Admin & Events Co-Ordinator
S. Haigh	(SH)	Masters Representative
K. Podbury	(KP)	Somerset Representative

22. Welcome

22.1 CR welcomed everyone to the meeting.

23 Declaration of Interests

- 23.1 JJ in Exeter Sprints licensing issues
- 23.2 JJ in Coaching mentor support

24. Minutes of 30th March 2022

24.1 Accepted as a true record by AO seconded by CE and agreed by all those in attendance.

25. Matters arising from above minutes

24.1 No matters raised

26. Minutes of 12th April 2022

26.1 Accepted as a true record by SY seconded by NV and agreed by all those in attendance.

27. Matters arising from above minutes

27.1 No matters arising except to say there were a lot of complaints about the decision but at the event it was apparent why the decision was upheld.

28. Officials report

28.1 The response from officials to sign up for the three weekends of the championships was over whelming, following the Swimming committee's decision to exclude spectators. Meeting the licensing criteria for the distance events is always challenging; however officials volunteered for extra sessions including the visiting Swim England President Ian McKenzie, his Consult Sheila and our SW President Chris Elliott volunteered their services. The championships provided mentoring / shadowing opportunities for trainees at all levels.

28.2 British Swimming Championships (Sheffield)

SW officials Dave Avery (Devon), Jill Beard (Dorset), Sue Gabriel (Cornwall) and Martin Walters (Devon) were appointed for this event.

28.3 British Masters (Aberdeen)

Chris Elliott was appointed for this event.

28.4 Common Wealth Games

Applications were received from over one hundred interested technical officials,(qualified to starter or referee level). Following a review process approximately 30 National Technical Officials were appointed.

28.5 SW licensed officials

The latest list from Swim England indicates the region has 668 licensed officials.

29. Masters Report

29.1 No report

30. County Reports

30.1 Cornwall:

Cornwall are finding things very difficult what with lack of volunteers, officials and reduction in the number of swimmer since Covid19.

St Ives SC have now stopped swimming and we still have issue's with the centres at Wadebridge and Launceston to be resolved.

We still have other issues with GLL which we need to deal with next time we meet James Curry.

We have a meeting next week to discuss next year's county events and qualifying times and at this point in time do not have a licencing officer.

The entries for this year's county's were 400 SWIMS DOWN. But we did run a Rising Stars gala for those swimmers that could not achieve a county time which was well supported.

On a more positive note Cornwall have agreed to go to the Inter County Gala at Sheffield in October.

30.2 Devon:

Devon have had to postpone the development meet in June and have now a revised meet in October, it was due to a lack of officials on the Queens Jubilee Weekend.

As regard to the Plymouth Cities and Tiverton meets, Officials from the Plymouth area are able to cover that meet (Refs are Mel Jeynes, Esther Rookes, Mel Jones and a Ref trainee Adrian D'Cunha) and the Tiverton meet is being covered by officials from East and North Devon (Refs Alison Williams, Terry Fullick, Martin Walters and Colin Trudgeon).

With the Exeter sprint meet I am directly involved as I am the lead ref and also a member of Exeter Swimming club, I completely agree with Leslie re blocking out for regional events, but the Para has never been blocked out before, events in the past have even taken place in the same city, also until this year the para's has always been held in March, Exeter had booked the event very early in the year.

Devon are also looking at Wiltshire scheme of restricting the amount of licenses that clubs can have per year.

30.3 Dorset:

Dorset Development Competition has struggled to find officials this year and the issue has only been resolved by running the event over six lanes instead of eight. The loss in membership is also impacting on competition entries and, as with our County Championships, entries are at an all-time low. We anticipate the event running at a loss. However, our Graded Meet for 9 to 12 year olds, although running with lower entry numbers than usual, was a success.

Dorset County Executive has also voted to follow Wiltshire's example and will limit clubs to three meet applications per year for events to be licensed for L3 to L1 meets with the proviso that a fourth application may be considered if deemed to be in the interests of the County as a whole.

30.4 Gloucester:

The majority of clubs are in a strong position. Membership numbers in some clubs are slightly down on pre-covid numbers and some clubs numbers are actually now increased. Water time in the main is good. Swimmers are back competing in the many competitions and open meets that are running. Cheltenham is down two school pools (Dean Close and Ribston) which is hindering available training time to both Cheltenham clubs. Congratulations to swimmers who have achieved success at recent qualifying meets (for National competitions) and for IAPS competitions where swimmers compete for their schools, but whose training is predominantly done with their clubs. Bristol Penguins are hosting Open Water sessions open to all Gloucester County swimmers. Gloucester County AGM was held recently. Gloucestershire will be hosting the 3 Counties event this year and organisation is in place for Inter Counties in October. Gloucester City will be running a para taster/inclusion and development day in July, backed by SE and a Commonwealth Games initiative. Gloucester are continuing to look at holding Pathway events for the swimmers.- CR & JJ reiterated how important it was for Counties to provide these both for swimmer and coach development in the future.

30.5 Somerset:

We are running our Development Meet 1st & 2nd Oct at Millfield as usual. County Champs are booked for Millfield on 22/1, 28/29 Jan, 4/5, 11/12 Feb currently planning with Spectators.

Somerset Development Pathway camp planning continues looking at Sept 22.

Somerset are entering NCTC.

All else is ok

30.6 Wiltshire:

Wiltshire have just completed all the planning for 2023 Championships and Age Groups. It has been challenging as GLL are restricting how often we can book a double day weekend and we are 4 hours down on pool availability each weekend. They do not make life easy. However I think we are done now including QTimes which were finalised this morning at a meeting. We are still working on restricted spectators at the Link centre for 2023 but with no problems at Salisbury. Again we will not be holding presentations due to lack of time.

We have completed the Talent Camp which went well and was much enjoyed by all the participants.

31. Licensing Report

- 31.1 Report from the Licensing Officer attached as Appendix 1.
- 31.2 Blocking of County / Regional licensed competition dates. This is already agreed by this committee and will be upheld. A policy document will be produced by LL & CR in conjunction and presented to the Board for approval before adding to the website along side all licensing documentation. A link to the page will also be put into the newsletter, and circulated to all club Chairs and Secretaries to reinforce the procedures.
- 31.3 Exeter Sprints appeal re the above and also Devons appeal re Tiverton meet not agreed as they both come within the discussion of blocking dates and limiting open meets per County discussion.
- 31.4 Spectator policies when restrictions are needed – Promoters need to be reminded that these details must be included in meet conditions as these need to cover all eventualities that may arise.

32. Coaches Report

- 32.1 All included in the minutes of the coaches meeting
- 32.2 Coach mentor support – it was agreed by the few who replied to the email circulated. SE have been advised.

33. Competitions

- 33.1 Summer Champs 2023 – Coaches are looking at the event programming.
800 / 1500 need to continue to be included for males and females
- 33.2 Dates for 2023:
 - 22.04.2023 – 23.04.2023 Age groups - Millfield
 - 29.04.2023 – 01.05.2023 Youth - Plymouth
 - 06.05.2023 – 07.05.2023 Age groups – Hengrove

 - 03.11.2023 - 05.11.2023 Winter Regionals Millfield
- 33.3 Dates for 2024:
 - 20.04.2024 – 21.04.2024 Hengrove
 - 27.04.2024 – 28.04.2024 Millfield
 - 04.05.2024 – 06.05.2024 Plymouth

 - 01.11.2024 – 03.11.2024 Millfield
- 33.4 Problems with pool at Millfield and equipment. Following the recent Team Bath meet that is currently having its results suspended by SE because of the problems encountered which were no fault of the promoter, it was decided unanimously that the Winter Regionals should be moved to either Plymouth or Hengrove for 2022. JJ to find out on 6th July at the Coaches meeting which pool was the preference. This will then be confirmed with the pool selected and Millfield cancelled. JJ will also check that Poole are still happy to facilitate at the new venue.

33.5 Para Conditions – AO asked about the conditions. He does not wish to pursue this evening, he will investigate further and bring to the next meeting.

No one had anything further to raise.

Meeting closed at 21.10