

**ASA SOUTH WEST REGION
PRESIDENT: SUE DORS
SYNCHRONISED SWIMMING STANDING COMMITTEE**

Minutes of meeting held on Saturday 8 April 2017 at ASA South West Region Office

PRESENT:	Ian Stuart	Chairperson
	Christine Merrifield	Cornwall
	Mary Hooper	Devon
	Alyson Bashford	Somerset
	Jean Pitfield	Wiltshire
	Lou Collings	Skill Assessment Co-ordinator
	Georgie Coombs	Team Bath
	Roger Downing	SW Board Liaison Officer for Synchro
	Viv Ebbs	Competition Secretary

- Action**
- 17.16 **Apologies for Absence**
Apologies were received from Marina Davis, Chris Seall, Sarah Pullan, Paula Brand, Keren Element and Janice Baker.
- 17.17 **Matters Arising not covered by the Agenda**
17.17.1 **Combo Cup**
Mary reported that the Combo comp will be held on either 16 or 17 September in Manchester or London
- 17.18 **Notes from Meeting with Maria Ramos held on Saturday 25 February**
The meeting thanked Christine for producing notes from the meeting

Janice Baker to be included in the attendance list. **VE**
- 17.19 **Grades**
Mary reported that London Region ran the first grade day under the new system, for lower level swimmers only. The Leadership Team were in attendance to observe the procedure.

Lou reported that the first South West Region Grade testing day will be held on 24 June. She has had all the new forms and Sarah has agreed to be Chief Judge for the day. Lou is waiting to see how many judges are available. It was agreed that, being the first one, it would only be a figure grading day.

Lou stressed that clubs must send judges if they have swimmers taking a grade. If there are not enough judges grade days will not take place. Lou to email all clubs about grade days and judges required. **LC**

Grade days will be run on the lines of a competition but this is only to ascertain a certain standard. Qualified scorers are not required to enter the marks on the spreadsheet at Grade days as calculations are built into the spreadsheet. Appeals must be made within 30 minutes of the results. If a swimmer does the wrong figure they can be told and will not be penalised.

It was decided that acetates would not be used to judge splits because judges are judging and need to know their levels. There was a discussion about the difference between judging and assessing.

To note certificates are not yet available for grade days

- 17.20 **Competition Licensing**
 There was a discussion about the absence of duets for lower level swimmers under the new system. Georgie stressed that as a Region we need to contest this and discuss it with Maria for next year. Duets are fundamental to teaching swimmers to swim together and learn routine skills. Also, we want to encourage male swimmers into the sport.
- Mary queried whether the Leadership Team had jurisdiction over the Region, and whether Walsall Trophy could be run as previously. The Rules state that it is to support new officials and lower level swimmers
- Roger noted that Maria's Competition Objectives are to "Cater for all abilities, all ages, all genders" and to bring the synchro community together. He referred to the: Licensing Guidelines and suggested that we run a Development Day where the swimmers would be presented with certificates on their achievements, rather than run a licensed competition.
- It was agreed that Alyson would book Cheltenham Pool for next year's Walsall Trophy competition on 19 May 2018. **AB**
- Mary to email all Regions to get their views on duets for the lower level swimmers and discuss the findings with Maria. **MH**
- 17.21 **Courses**
Judges Courses: Mary reported that there is a Grade 2 Judges exam on 20 May and a Grade 1 Judges exam on 21 May at Wellington. Candidates to be informed that the course includes an open book written examination. Georgie will run another Judges course in September.
- Clubs to email Mary with names of candidates for the Judges training days in May. **All**
- Scorers Courses:** There is no change to Scoring so a Scorers course is not required at present.
- 17.22 **Competitions**
 The dates for 2017, 2018 & 2019 competitions were clarified as follows:
 Walsall Trophy 2017:..... 13 May (booked Cheltenham)
 Walsall Trophy 2018: 19 May (Cheltenham)
 Walsall Trophy 2019: 18 May (Cheltenham)
 Novice Competition 2017: 30 September (booked GL1)
 Novice Competition 2018: 29 September (booked Plymouth)
 Novice Competition 2019: 28 September (GL1)
 Multi Regional Age Groups 2017:..13/14 October (booked K2 Crawley)
- It was agreed that the Novice Competition is a Level 2 competition and Multi Regionals is Level 3.
- 17.22.1 **Walsall Trophy**
 Alyson reported that the competition will take place on 13 May 2017. Three clubs have sent in their entry forms but no music has been received to date. Six clubs are expected. The closing date for entries and music is Thursday 13 April 2017.
- Sarah is the Referee and Ian is the Music Controller. Team Bath are entering an 18 & over duet and their combo team will be giving a display,

- 17.22.2 **Novice Competition**
 Mary reported that Sarah has been working on the format of this competition.
- It was agreed that 8 years and under swimmers would not be included this year, that the 12 & under age groups would be split and swim as 9/10 and 11/12
- It was also agreed that this year there would be no age grouping for the Over 18 swimmers. They would swim Free Solos and Free Duets with no exclusions.
- Sarah to produce guidelines and Viv to produce Conditions for ratification. **SP/VE**
- 17.22.3 **Multi Regional Age Groups 2017**
 Paper circulated. The competition is being hosted by the South East Region at K2 Leisure Centre in Crawley. To note that the Conditions cannot be finalised until the new FINA figures are ratified in July.
- There was concern that there would be no food for officials on Friday night. Mary agreed that the SW Region would pay for food on the journey down for anyone judging on Friday night.
- Viv to email Di Hughes to see whether the South East Region will pay travel expenses. If not, the South West will cover petrol expenses. **VE**
- 17.23 **Jenny Gray Weekend**
 Viv reported that the Jenny Gray Day at Honiton had been very successful.
- Mary noted that a further weekend, planned for the autumn, could not be finalised until she had heard from all the clubs with their available dates.
- Clubs to let Mary know dates they are available **All**
- 17.24 **Team Bath Synchro**
 Mary noted the advertisement for a Team Bath training day which mentioned South West Region synchro. Mary pointed out that the South West Region cannot support a training day without knowing all the coaches. Funding from the Region is for workforce development. This funding is available for coaches to go on Level 1 or 2 teachers' courses.
- Georgie said that she was keen to be involved in South West training camps again and had thought they could be held at Bath University where there are training facilities and accommodation. She enquired whether there was any South West development funding for South West synchro swimmers to attend a training course. Mary pointed out that the money paid by the swimmers was used to pay for coaches and specialists for dance, flexibility, etc and development funding was used to make up the shortfall. Georgie to send Mary all the details for the course planned for August. **GC**
- To note Paula is running a Level 1 teachers course at the training camp in August. Mary stated that when candidates have passed they can send their certificates to Mary to apply for funding.

- 17.25 **Update on Chippenham Club**
 Lou reported that Chippenham have secured water time for training but have not notified the swimmers. The older swimmers have joined Calne Alpha and the 12 & unders are hoping to keep going to Chippenham. Most of the swimmers have had emails inviting them to trial for Team Bath in June.
- Mary to email Janice and the Chippenham Secretary, Mrs L Chappell, for an update. **MH**
- Lou to check her emails from the Chippenham Membership Secretary. **LC**
- 17.26 **2017 Calendar**
 The meeting thanked Mary for producing the updated Calendar for the year. To note that the red text highlighted yellow indicates South West Region Synchro events. Mary noted that the major difference in the updated calendar is that the National Masters is now on 4 November at Rugby.
- 17.27 **Times to be Reviewed for all Meetings**
 It was agreed that in future meetings would take place at 2.00pm except for the December meeting which would be held at 11.00am
- 17.28 **Any Other Business**
- 17.28.1 **Artistic Swimming**
 Mary reported that at the FINA Congress in July they are voting on a proposal to call synchro Artistic Swimming.
- 17.28.2 **Update for Synchro Website**
 Mary noted concern that links on the ASA website to Hannah Secher are still going to Julie Thompson who has left. All the Skill information has not been deleted and there is an urgent need to delete the out-of-date information. Georgie reported that Hannah is waiting for Helen Akers to update the website.
- 17.28.3 **Judges List**
 Mary reported that she emailed Sarah Spears about the judges list which hasn't been updated.
- There was a discussion about South West Region Judges and Mary noted those who need to update. In order to keep their qualification Judges must assess at least two Level 1 competitions per year.
- Lou agreed to monitor the judges' attendances at competitions and Grade days **LC**
- 17.28.4 **Grade Booklet**
 Lou reported that the Grade booklet doesn't print out as a booklet. Lou to email Sarah Clarke and copy everything to Maria to request that this is amended immediately. **LC**
- 17.28.5 **Grade Dates for 2018**
 It was agreed that there would be three Grade days next year following the same pattern of dates as in previous years. **LC**
- 17.28.6 **Development Days**
 Georgie reported that there is a development day planned at Bath University during the Easter holidays.

17.28.7 **Parade Music**
Alyson requested that the parade music at competitions is changed to reflect that the sport is for all genders. Ian to organise a change of parade music. **IS**

It was agreed that the music would have 4 seconds silence at the beginning of each track for Walsall Trophy

To note that timing of the music starts when the music begins and not at the whistle.

7.28.8 **Swim England**
Roger reported that Swim England is our new brand name. ASA remains our constitutional name and will be used when laws and rules etc apply.

7.28.9 **Club Newsletter**
Roger showed the meeting the South West Region Club newsletter which gives access to courses and other important information. It is circulated to club secretaries. Roger to send the newsletter to Mary who will distribute it to South West Synchro clubs. **RD/MH**

17.28.10 **Safeguarding**
Roger reported that there have been lots of issues in changing rooms. Christine pointed out that at St Austell the changing rooms have been split so that male and female areas are now separate.

Georgie noted that discussions had taken place to say that over 18s should be DBS

17.29 **Date of next meeting**
The next meeting will take place on 16 September 2017 at 2.00pm

There being no further business the meeting closed at 1.15pm

Agreed by Chairperson and agreed to be a true and accurate record: 2 June 2017

Signed Date

Chairperson

Circulation: Ian Stuart, Christine Merrifield, Mary Hooper, Alyson Bashford, Jean Pitfield, Lou Collings, Georgie Coombs, Roger Downing, Christine Seall, Di Gibbs, Marina Davis, Sarah Pullan, SW Region Office, Viv Ebbs