

Swim England Water Polo Leadership Group

Minutes of the meeting held 24/3/2022

Present:

Toby King – Chair
Ben McDonald - Volunteer Lead
Chris Stephens – Officials Lead
Ian Mackenzie – SOC Representative
Craig Figes – Coaching Lead

Rachel Bayley – Head of Performance Operations
Claire Coleman – Head of Development
Liz McMasters - Club Growth & Programme Manager
Ekaterina Boyd – Head of Events
Gareth Picken – Administrator

(Members are identified by initials)

Apologies

Elliot McHugh – Youth Representative
Adam Older – Technical Officials Lead

Min No:	
1.	Chair's Welcome and Apologies
1.1	Apologies from EM & AO
2.	Matters Arising from the Action Log
2.1	Social media – apologies from the marketing and communication team for the delay in progress to due to a vacancy in the team. CC is addressing within SE.
2.2	CC and LM developing the growth pathway
2.3	Actions from the 7 th December completed
2.4	Implementation plan is almost complete, more work on growth required.
2.5	Swimming Trust video aims to encourage former swimmers into Water Polo in progress. Funds will be reviewed for a video encouraging junior swimmers.
2.6	Tutor training – TK has met with Sarah Green from Educator Training. The NW has been identified as a priority for recruitment of tutors. All other regions now catered for, but it is important that the Regional Managers feed their coach education requirements into their Regional Officers, and thus to SE
2.7	ACTION – GP and TK to meet to discuss one WPLG face-to-face meeting around an event.

3.	Competition Update (sub-group)
3.1	EB updated the group – under 17's and under 19s NAGs entries have closed. 46 teams entered, equal to pre covid levels. Competition to take place over three weekend – 9 th & 10 th April (round 1), 16 th & 17 th April (round 2), 23 rd & 24 th April (finals)
3.2	Inter regionals will run under 14s, under 16s & under 18s.
4.	National Events Calendar and 2022 Competitions
4.1	Under 15's NAGs at Ponds Forge in December. Details to be announced nearer the time.
5.	Implementation plan for 2022
5.1	CC – development team plan – CC and LM to meet with CF and IM around the implementation of the plan. Lapsing Swimmer will be a place-based development initiative, rather than nationwide. The digital resources will be available across the nation.
5.2	New head of coaching (a multidiscipline role) will soon be advertised. The role will manage the current coaching positions, working with the IoS and the directorate for all disciplines. The appointed person will work under George Wood.
5.3	Coach engagement officer – responsible for the teaching & coaching register and associated safeguarding and DBS work. The position is currently vacant and recruitment is underway.
5.4	It has been noted that that the request for coaching courses has been low. As a result, in partnership with the IoS, the development team will host a National Training Need Analysis (TNA). The outcomes of the TNA will be shared with the regions and the leadership group. This will be used to develop the coaching calendar going forward. ACTION - GP to circulate the link on regional emailer.
5.5	The Host Venue survey to identify PAC (practical assessment centers) will be released soon. This is to support the delivery of courses. The IoS are trying to identify PACs. This survey will also be released to the community. ACTION - GP to circulate on regional emailer.
5.6	The group were keen that the community engaged in both surveys and felt that connecting with England Water Polo would support raising the profile of the surveys. ACTION - CC to discuss with the communications team about engaging with England WP.
6.	Development Team Update
6.1	No additional comments
7.	How to Assess Progress vs our Strategy?

7.1	CC – Membership has increased on last year but not yet met pre covid levels. There has been an increase in new members.
7.2	Learn to Swim demand has increased.
7.3	Swimming teacher demand has increased due to the demand for Learn to Swim.
7.4	ACTION - TK to look at KPIs and update them for post covid. ACTION - CC to update membership data for 2022.
8.	Communications Planning
8.1	WPLG Comms Officer is currently vacant.
8.2	ACTION - TK to speak informally about potential partnerships and report back to the group.
8.3	CC shared the Leadership Group comms schedule during the meeting.
8.4	ACTION – WPLG members to add relevant content to the comms schedule. Action – GP to circulate comms link to the group.
8.5	ACTION – CC, TK & GP to review role description for the Comms Lead.
9.	Commonwealth Tournament Update
9.1	Not yet finalised a host city. The main interest in the decision-making process was around the legacy. Hoping for a positive response from proposed venue within 4-6 weeks.
9.2	Webinar will take place to understand how each country plans to attend the event.
9.3	By the end of April, a city will be locked in for event planning.
9.4	Event to take place between the 25 th November and the 6 th December
9.5	Thanks, given to Ian Elliot for his work around the event.
9.6	CF left the meeting
10.	Performance operations
10.1	RB – Out to advert for a head coach for senior men’s side.
10.2	Ian Elliot has been appointed to Senior Men’s Team Manager following recruitment process.
10.3	CF to join the performance operation team in July to focus on athlete development and talent pathway. This role is due to start on the 11 th July, however it may be brought forward. CF to stay on in the WPLG, until July but will review what happens subsequently (conflict of interest?).
10.4	NL to begin work on pathway development under CF.
11.	Recruitment to the group.
11.1	ACTIONS -TK to work with RB and CF around CF’s new role and his capacity to continue in the group.
11.2	ACTION - CC to find T of R for the coaching rep.
12.	Media and Comms
12.1	No additional comments

13.	AOB
13.1	No additional comments
14.	DONM
14.1	22 nd June 2022 6pm – hopefully next meeting will be face-to-face if a suitable event can be found. Meetings for the rest of the year – Monday 29 th September 2022, 6pm – Location TBC Thursday 15 th December 2022 6pm – Location TBC Meeting closed at 7:35pm