

Minutes of Region Artistic Swimming Meeting at 8.30pm on Monday 17 June 2024 via Zoom Platform

Present:

Roger Downing (Chair)
Mary Hooper (AS Manager)
Georgie Coombs (Workforce)
Sarah Garrett (Grades)
Sarah Pullan (Competitions)
Paul Davis (Chief Recorder)
Paula Brand (Regional Squad Coach)
Chrissie Robinson (Regional Chair)
Christine Merrifield (Cornwall)
Chris Seall (Dorset).
Adelle Rahn (Wiltshire)
Viv Ebbs (Minutes)

ACTION

1. Welcome, Introduction and Apologies
Roger welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Paula Brand Regional Squad Coach, Chrissie Robinson Regional Chair and Adelle Rahn from Wiltshire.

Apologies were received from Mike Coles and Clair Murphy.

Roger thanked Christine for volunteering to take the minutes at the previous meeting.
- b) Notice of Any Other Business not covered below:
No Items of other business were received.
- c) Declarations of Interest:
No declarations of interest were raised.
2. Minutes of Previous Meetings
 - a) Region AS Committee 15.04.2024
Minutes were agreed as a true record of the meeting.
 - b) AS Leadership Group 08.04.2024
Item 3.1: Grades: Roger noted there is a guidance document for clubs for neurodivergent athletes during grading

Item 3.2: Coaching Programme: Roger reported that there is concern within swim England at the lack of candidates coming forward for the Coaching Programme. Maria Ramos had suggested that Regions may be able to help with travelling and accommodation costs, but it appears that this may not be possible.
3. Matters Arising
On behalf of the meeting Roger thanked Kernow Artistic Swimming Club for accepting Mary into their club.
4. Regional Manager Report
 - a) Regional Website
Mary reported that the Regional website has been updated. All Competition and Grading results are now on the website.

- b) Taunton Artistic Swimming Club
Taunton has tried to set up a new club but has been unsuccessful. Jackie Hilleard is trying to help with the new club, but volunteers are not coming forward to fill the positions.

5. Regional Competitions

- a) Novice Competition Cheltenham 8.4.2024
Sarah reported on the Figures and Combo Competition which had run smoothly. She thanked Paula the Referee and Yan the Chief Recorder who had both taken on their roles for the first time.
- b) The Way Forward
Sarah presented her report on the current competition structure and her proposals for the way forward. New rules have come into force for the sport requiring deeper pools for Acros. The rules can be found on the Swim England website.

She noted that the current competition structure fits well with the national competition calendar. Because of the depth required for difficult Acros it was decided that next year the Figures and Combo competition would take place at Plymouth and the Novice Figures and Duets would move to Cheltenham.

Because of the low number of entries in each age group section for the Combo competition, Sarah suggested having just three age groups next year, 12/ u, 15/u and 19/u, with the Masters age groups combining to become a single age group.

Some clubs had difficulties providing the number of Officials, Team Managers and Coaches required to accompany their teams. Roger pointed out that clubs can link together provided numbers are within the set boundaries for supervision and a Risk Assessment is in place. There is a procedure to go through and Team Managers supervising swimmers from clubs other than their own, should be aware of any issues. Supervision ratios are available in Wavepower (p72).

Roger thanked Sarah for her presentation.

Clubs to discuss the points above and send their suggestions and any recommendations to Sarah as a matter of urgency

All Clubs

6. Regional Grade Days

Sarah G reported that the Entry Form has been amended to include the names of Coaches and Team Managers, and payment has been made easier using a new system.

Mary reminded everyone that all clubs must now provide a Team Manager and Coach for their swimmers, as well as the appropriate number of judges. A parent can accompany their child in the role of Chaperone if no club officials are available but will not be allowed on poolside and a Risk Assessment must be provided.

The dates for grading for the remainder of the year are:

- 13.7.2024 at Bristol
- 5.10.2024 at Marlborough

7. Regional I Squad 2024

The meeting congratulated Paula and her assistant coaches on the success of the Regional Squad in winning the Regional Games. Paula recommended that next year more time is allocated for landwork and filming. Georgie suggested that Paula contacts Karen to discuss.

PB

Mary thanked Paula and her staff. Paula agreed to take on the role of Regional Squad Coach next year. Proposed by Sarah P and seconded by Georgie. Carried

8. Workforce Report

- a) Officials Training
Georgie presented her report. She noted that she had run two Level 1 Judges courses and one Level 2 course.

With the new judging system now in place Georgie has planned that she would run a half day Zoom course to keep judges updated. This could include the Level 2 judging criteria for Free Routines, Acros etc. She has discussed this with Hannah Secher who will produce an online presentation to be taken before attending a Level 1 Judges course. It was suggested that a presentation for coaches and parents would be helpful to keep them informed.

It was agreed that a Regional annual meeting (4-5hours) for all coaches and judges to discuss judging from Novice to National level would be arranged, face to face, to take place in January each year, to boost confidence and encourage Level 1 judges to attend the Level 2 course and exam.

Duet Competition

- b) Georgie outlined her proposals for the Regional Duet Competition to take into account the new judging system, to improve the technical side of the routines, and incorporate the Duet competition to run alongside current improvements and changes in the sport for the athletes and coaches. (see attached presentation)

Georgie would like to implement the additional requirements for the Duet competition in November. Agreed Georgie will book a meeting for her to meet with Sarah and Paula prior to a briefing meeting with all the clubs. Georgie will then send out the information, with a follow up in September, to ensure clubs are working on the correct elements.

Mary will organise the meeting for all South West Region AS clubs to be briefed on the new requirements for the Duet competition. This is planned for a Sunday morning.

Roger thanked Georgie for her presentation and congratulated her on being selected to Judge at the European Youth Championships in Greece earlier in the year.

9. Any Other Business

a) Competitions

Roger reminded the meeting of the following:

- A quiet room must be provided at all competitions
- Mobile phones are not allowed in the changing rooms.
- There is a video on the Swim England website regarding safeguarding recommendations at competitions.
- Clubs are reminded to contact SE Frazer Nicholson if they have any contact from the press. Frazer and the team will deal with any issues.

10. Next meeting

The next meeting will take place on Zoom on Monday 28 October at 8.30pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.05pm

Circulation:

Roger Downing, Mary Hooper, Georgie Coombs, Sarah Garrett, Sarah Pullan, Paul Davis, Paula Brand, Chrissie Robinson, Christine Merrifield, Chris Seall, Adelle Rahn, Clair Murphy, Mike Coles, Viv Ebbs

GC

MH