

Minutes of Region Artistic Swimming Meeting at 8.30pm on Monday 28 October 2024 via Zoom Platform

Present:

Roger Downing (Chair)
Mary Hooper (AS Manager)
Georgie Coombs (Workforce Co-ordinator)
Sarah Garrett (Grades Co-ordinator)
Paul Davis (Chief Recorder)
Chrissie Robinson (Regional Chair)
Steve Williams (Regional Manager)
Mike Coles (Board Liaison)
Christine Merrifield (Cornwall County Rep)
Chris Seall (Dorset County Rep)
Stacey Jones (Gloucester County Rep)
Clair Murphy (Wiltshire County Rep)
Adelle Rahn (Calne Alpha)
Viv Ebbs (Minutes)

ACTION

1. a) Welcome, Introduction and Apologies
Roger welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the Regional Manager Steve Williams.

Apologies were received from Geoff Pearce (Regional Finance Officer), Sarah Pullan (Competition Co-ordinator) and Paula Brand (Regional Squad Coach)
 - 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.
 - d) Congratulations to Izzy and Katie on their Silver Medal
The meeting congratulated Issy Thorpe and Katie Shortman on winning a Silver Medal at the Paris Olympics. Roger reported that the Board has agreed that a special memento would be presented to the athletes, possibly at a Regional Artistic Swimming event. Sue Dors is investigating to see what is available as a memento.
2. Minutes of Previous Meetings
 - a) Region AS Committee 15.04.2024
Minutes were agreed as a true record of the meeting.
 - b) ASLG Minutes June 3rd 2024
The meeting accepted the Leadership Group minutes
 - c) Regional Competitions and Events
Mary reported that the Competitions and events for 2025 had all been agreed by Swim England.

Following a query from Georgie, it was agreed that the Regional Masters Combos would be technical routines and follow the national guidelines as applied for the Combo Cup. Georgia to discuss with Sarah P.
 - d) Regional Programme Offers
Noted

GC/SP

- e) Regional Programme Plan
Noted
3. Matters Arising
a) Item 7: Regional Squad
The meeting thanked Paula, Christine and Stacey for training the Regional Squad for the Regional Games in 2024
4. a) Regional Manager Report
Roger thanked Mary for her report. He reported that he had liaised with Geoff who was pleased that Artistic Swimming had kept very close to the Budget.
- b) Regional Development Plan
Mary reported that the Regional Development Plan had been submitted and Chrissie reported that it had been approved in principle.
- c) Regional Calendar
The Artistic Swimming Calendar for 2025 was approved by the committee.
5. Regional Competitions
a) Plymouth Duets Competition 16.11.24
Mary reported that there were many issues with the entries for the competition, making a lot of extra work for Sarah P. On Swim England Membership some Grades were not available, some dates of birth were missing, and some SE membership numbers were incorrect.
- Poolside Accreditation was not available because Swim England had entered the competition for 2025. This has now been corrected but any problems should be referred to Mary.
- Sarah will liaise with Paul and Geoff about the entries.
- Roger thanked Paul who is working on a document doing an analysis of base marks and the effect on the final score.
- b) Regional Competitions 2025
Plymouth Life Centre is booked for the 2025 Figures and Combos competition on 7 June 2025.
6. Regional Grade Days 2025
Sarah G noted the following Grade days for 2025:
- 11 January at Hengrove
1 March at Hengrove (hosted by Cheltenham)
5 April at Marlborough
12 July at Hengrove
4 October at Marlborough
6 December at Hengrove
- Sarah reported that there were issues with Swim England not entering the Grade results for May, July and October on the online Management System. Sarah always sends the results to Sarah Clarke within the 7-day deadline, but Swim England reported that it was due to a change of staff.
- Sarah is now checking everything for accuracy to ensure that all results have been entered on the system. If it is not correct in January Sarah to contact Roger who will follow it up.
- There was a discussion about the amount of personal information on the website, available to anyone.

All Clubs

SP

SG

If there are further problems Sarah to contact Chrissie who will discuss the issues with the Sports Development Director direct and also Clare Coleman who sits on the Leadership Groups. **SG**

Mary reported that she has had a request for an extra Grade Day in December before the changes come into force in January, although the changes are not available yet. This would only be possible if there were at least 26 swimmers entered and 3 clubs attending. Sarah G to investigate if there is any pool time available in early December. **SG**

7. Regional Squad 2024/25

Stacey was pleased to report that there had been interest from Cheltenham this year. The squad would be more of a development squad with much younger swimmers. Paula will run a taster session one weekend, with the Trial the following weekend.

8. Officials training

Mary thanked Georgie for her Duet presentation which was very good and well attended.

Georgie will hold a Regional Judges update to run through the figures in preparation for Regionals. This will take place on Zoom on 4 January 2025 **GC**

She noted that she needs to arrange dates for officials training and will check with Hannah Secher when the best time would be for a Level 1 Judges course. For Level 2 Judges, she agreed to put some dates forward for a Level 2 Introduction by Zoom And will contact clubs to see how many would be interested. **GC**

Chris and Christine have signed up for 2 coaches update online webinars.

Roger was concerned that when people sign up for courses such as Safeguarding and Team Manager, that they contact the Region if they are unable to attend.

9. Update on the new scorers' courses

Paul reported that he is working on the content of the courses. There is a need for an Assistant Scorers' Course because within the Rules it is too much for the Chief Recorder to do. Excel knowledge is not required, but preferred

10. a) Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

Roger reported that there is a course taking place this week.

He reminded the meeting of the necessity to have a quiet room at events. Also, a link to Google Maps should be included in the event information to assist with finding the venue.

There are two face to face meetings, one for Welfare Officers and the other for County Reps, taking place in January at Taunton. Roger encouraged people to attend these meetings which are highly informative.

b) Workshops

Roger discussed the Workshops which had taken place during the year, providing support and guidance to clubs.

11. Swim England latest Updates

a) Online Management System

Roger reported that it is important to keep everything up to date on OMS by sending volunteers on training courses, especially Safeguarding Courses.

If members are not listed on the Workforce, despite their qualifications and a DBS, they are not insured.

Club affiliation is not changing because the elements of club affiliation are the same as Swim Mark.

12. Any Other Business

a) Regional Office

Chrissie reported that two new members of staff have joined the Regional team. Libby is the Welfare and Governance Officer and Steve is the Regional Manager. Together with Jackie they are there to help with any problems

Mary reported that Stacey has returned to the Regional office following Maternity leave.

b) Facebook

Any information for Facebook please send to Mike

13 Date of next meeting

13 January 2025 by Zoom at 8.30pm

Circulation: Roger Downing, Mary Hooper, Georgie Coombs, Sarah Pullan, Sarah Garrett, Paul Davis, Paula Brand, Geoff Pearce, Chrissie Robinson, Steve Williams, Mike Coles, Christine Merrifield, Chris Seall, Stacey Jones, Clair Murphy, Viv Ebbs

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