

Minutes of the Swimming Committee held on 11th September 2024 at 19.00 via Zoom

Present:

P. Robbins	(PR)	Regional Vice Chair
B. Caslake	(BC)	Cornwall Representative
C. Robinson	(CR)	Regional Chair
N. Vause	(NV)	Officials Representative
A. Smart	(AS)	Dorset Representative
D. Avery	(DA)	Devon Representative
A. Osborne	(AO)	Gloucester Representative
C. Vickery	(CV)	Admin & Events Co-Ordinator
L. Leffers	(LL)	Swimming Licencing Officer
S. Yeoman	(SY)	Wiltshire Representative
K. Podbury	(KP)	Somerset Representative
S. Williams	(SW)	Regional Office Manager

Apologies:

G. Pearce	(GP)	Regional Finance Officer
N Edwards	(NE)	Coaches Representative

SC/2024

16. Welcome

16.1 CR welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Steve Williams to the attendees.

17. Declaration of Interests

17.1 Nobody had anything to declare

18. Minutes of 19th June 2024

18.1 Accepted as a true record. Proposed by AS and seconded by AO.
Agreed unanimously by those who attended.

19. Matters arising from above minutes

19.1 No matters arising that are not already included on the agenda.

20. Officials Report

20.1 Appendix A

20.2 It was suggested by SY that maybe a more personal touch ie emails to officials with the sign in link would be beneficial rather than relying on social media to advertise events.

20.3 We need to know who technical directors / lead referees are much earlier than we currently do.

20.4 NV also requested that stroke exceptions are included on the start sheet for the para development meet.

21. Masters Report

21.1 No meeting since February or a rep from the committee but there are fewer County representatives listed.

22. County Reports

22.1 Cornwall:

Cornwall Report for Swimming Committee Meeting 11th September 2024

Our County Champs for 2025 will be held in Cornwall at usual venues. A working group to be set up to look at using Plymouth Life Centre for a LC champs for 2026.

Teams Relays planned for 28th September 2024, Penzance.

Junior Interclub planned for 29th September 2024, Bodmin.

Rising Stars, development gala, planned for 8th and 14th December 2024 (Bodmin and Penzance)

Hopefully we will be able to deliver the CDP – still recruiting a lead and coach to take this on.

We have entered a team into the Swim England Inter County Championships on the 6th October 2024

Meeting comments: There are problems with the timing equipment at Bodmin which may mean plans for 2025 Champs will need to be revised. The equipment is already causing problems for one club with an open meet in October.

22.2 Devon:

Devon report.

Application for new club has been received from Plymouth College now that they have parted from Plymouth Leander, I know the region are well aware of this and we have swimming committee meeting in Devon on Thursday to discuss the implications.

The AP racing meet at Plymouth Life Centre turned into a farce, I expect we will receive a full report from Lesley otherwise I will try and give more information on the night.

On a more positive note we have held a very successful development training at Mount Kelly with swimmers from 12 different clubs attending.

Meeting comments: Plymouth College have applied to the Region to become an affiliated club but this is still in the consultation stage of the affiliation process.

The AP race did not have the correct officials to meet the licencing conditions but still submitted the results to rankings! The Referee was not briefed correctly prior to the event. All results have been removed from rankings and swimmers refunded. AP Races are blaming the South West for all their problems. However on a positive note the swimmers who did take part enjoyed the event and all of the dressing of the stage. Not to mention the medals!

LL requested the dates for their championships.

22.3 Dorset:

Dorset's arrangements for the 2024 National County Team Championships are now complete and also in hand for the 2024 Masters Inter-County Competition.

The first face-to-face camp of the 2024/25 Dorset County Development Programme will take place in Autumn half-term with 24 swimmers from six clubs taking part.

The programme of events for Dorset County Championships 2025 will be published shortly.

Coaches are asking for the closing date of entries for the SWR Youth & Age Groups 2025. We have clubs wanting to plan their competition calendar and/or book pool time to hold their own meets on the basis of that date. We would be grateful if the SWR Swimming Cmt would chase Swim England for confirmation of the qualifying window for Nationals so dates for Regionals can be confirmed.

Meeting comments: The dates for the South West Summer Championships is 26th / 27th April 2025 at Millfield, 3rd/4th/5th May 2025 at Plymouth and 19th/11th May 2025 at Hengrove. Closing date will be 7th April 2025

22.4 Gloucester:

GLOUCESTERSHIRE SWIM REPORT SEPTEMBER 2024.

Firstly congratulations to the Gloucester personal who took part in the Paris Olympics. Mention to Alex Cohoon (ex Cirencester) who swam in the heats of the Mens 4X100 free relay and to Izzy Thorpe and Kate Shortman (CoB) who won a silver medal in the Artistic Swimming.

It has been a period of finalising arrangements. All is now finalised for the County team for Inter Counties in Sheffield in October. Craig Skinner will lead the team.

Final conditions have been put in place and agreed for the 2025 County Blocks. As I write we have to decide how to include the 100IM as all events this year will be L/C at Hengrove, however we are hoping to include the 100IM at within the relay day. This will however mean we have to arrange the licence. This will be discussed at the County Exec meeting on 9th Sept. New QT's have been set. These were based on the results from the previous year where we tried to increase numbers in the younger age groups (post

Covid) This was successful but we are now starting to tighten these times once again.

The Exec have now produced a more rigid set of Role specifications for the Lead Service Provider (Lead Coach).

The Forest of Dean has historically been the home of two clubs, Cinderford and Lydney. Both of those clubs have recently had their own issues and so they are now joining as one. Craig Skinner will be the Lead Coach covering those clubs and we wish them well.

22.5 Somerset:

Somerset report - 11th September 2024

First and foremost, I would like to congratulate all of the swimmers who competed in the Olympics and the Paralympics. Somerset are proud to have been represented in both.

Somerset have entered a team for the National County team competition on 5th & 6th October, the same weekend we are running our development meet at Millfield. The relay day and 100 m I.M. is booked for the 20th of October. The John Bolton has also been advertised, no entries received as yet but lots of discussion throughout the county, as reported in my previous report if entries are low for this long-distance development meet invitations will be extended to clubs in the Southwest. Swimmers will each receive a commemorative medal for this event.

The Somerset County championships are scheduled for the 19th, 25th and 26th of January and the 8th & 9th of February. As previously reported we will be doing age group finals for 50m and 100m events and heat declared winners for 200m events plus.

Somerset are reporting that we have a new club affiliated, Gordano stingrays, we look forward to receiving the entries for the Somerset events as well as open meets in and around the county.

Somerset are also running the CDP again this year, my understanding is the format is different to other counties, I am yet to fully understand this but will be able to report back at the next meeting once I have met with the current CDP organisation team.

Apologies for the late submission of this report, myself and my family have been away celebrating my foster sons 16th birthday. Amazing memories were made!

Meeting comments: Previously SE was not happy that there was no progressive pathway from County in the development pathway but there will be members of the SE talent team at the County Development day in January when you will be able to speak to them face to face.

22.6 Wiltshire:

Fairly quiet at the moment. Our next event is the Moonraker League Final at Bath Uni next weekend. We have combined both Summer and Winter League since Covid and have an A and B final with 16 clubs taking part.

Our planning for the 2025 Championships are completed. We are again running the 11-13yrs (old Bagcats) in 25m venues and Distance fc, also 25m. Our main change for next year is the 2 day weekend we are running at Bath Uni , so all the 14yrs and over have the opportunity to swim long course.

We are still having number issues at the Link. The restrictions which were being blamed on construction are still ongoing, have now become the norm.

We have to work to a total number of 170 which has to cover competitors, team staff, non technical officials and technical officials. We can just about manage by only letting the officials on to poolside after the first event is in the call room!!!! Life is not easy is it?

23. Licensing Report:

23.1 See separate document.

23.2 AS asked if the licencing for Arena League was now working. LL stated that there were some problems with the level of licence required and also because some competitions took place in Wales – different licencing rules. PR is helping with mediating.

23.3 LL also told the meeting that she had seen a document which was circulated by a coach which seems to be proposed amendments to County Champs for 2026. Nothing has been confirmed as yet. AO stated that if SE wanted changes implemented in 2026 Counties needed to be advised by January 2025 to allow time to book pools etc.

24. Coaches Report:

24.1 No report as no meeting has taken place.

25. Competition:

25.1 Need to advertise for facilitator of Winter Championships and also next summers events. Social media will be used as well as email to past facilitators.

25.2 Transportation of gala equipment – in the future CR has stated that she will not be able to assist with this as it is not known currently if she will ever be able to drive again but will definitely not be able to lift and carry therefore PR cannot be responsible for this. We need ideas of how the equipment goes from the office to the venue and then gets back to the office. This includes laptop, printer, paper, toner, documentation, safety bibs, bells, water urn etc.etc.

One idea was man and a van. All ideas will need to be costed and entry fees will need to be adjusted to cover this.

Please forward all ideas to CR for collation and discussion at the next meeting.

25.3 Para Development meet – NV will be lead ref. PR – promoter. SW will be attending. Adam Clarkson is transporting the necessary equipment.

25.4 Masters open meet – CV talking to Brian Armstrong re arrangements.

26. Development:

- 26.1 RDP – 60 participants – pool dates 29/09/2024 & 18/05/2025 online session 01/03/2025. Lead coach, Glenn Currie
- 26.2 RDDP – 48 participants – pool date 17/11/2024, online session 15/03/2025 and lake swim 31/05/2025. Lead coach Cassie Patten

27. Swimming Leadership Minutes:

- 27.1 no new minutes

28. Equality, Diversity and Inclusion and Safeguarding

- 28.1 The Regional Diversity and inclusion Action Plan is now due to be looked at and refreshed. If anyone has anything they would like included please contact PR with suggestions.
- 28.2 Next EDI Forum is on 30th October
- 28.3 Complaint that people booking onto SE Welfare Officers workshops not receiving login details. There is also confusion around the difference between the compulsory Welfare Officers workshops and Welfare Officers Forums which are optional but worth attending as very informative.

14. Dates of Future meetings:

- 14.1 22/01/2025 via Zoom at 19.00

Meeting closed at 20.30

Meeting dates for 2025

22/01/2025

02/04/2025

25/06/2025

10/09/2025

Appendix A

September 2024 Officials Secretary's report

2024 SESW Events – SwimMeet sign up for officials was updated with the remaining regional events in June. The numbers signing up to date are disappointing despite efforts to promote the links via the event conditions, social media and regional newsletters.

Current numbers of officials are shown below -

SESW & SE Para Meet (Hengrove) 22 September - 9

SESW Masters Open Meet (Millfield) 13 October – 6

SESW Winter Championships (Millfield) 1-3 November - 6

SESW Masters Intercounties (Millfield) 10 November – 5

National Events - Officials from the SW region continue to be appointed; this provides them with the opportunity to officiate at the highest level and share current good practises upon their return.

GB Aquatics Summer Championships – Dave Avery (Devon), Adrian D'Chuna (Devon), Sue Gabriel (Cornwall) and Paul Robbins (Wilts).

Swim England Summer Championships – Helen Chamberlian (Devon), Jeff Cooper (Somerset), Neil Edwards (Devon), Sue Gabriel (Cornwall), Nicky Slee (Somerset), Michele Trevithick (Wilts), James Wonacott (Cornwall), Zahid Mahmood (Wilts).

Welsh Summer Championships - Dave Avery (Devon), Tracey Roberts (Dorset), Paul Robins (Wilts) and Martin Walters (Devon).

School Games Loughborough – Dave Avery, Tracey Roberts, Nicky Vause (Somerset) and Jill Wildish (Wilts).

(Apologies if I have omitted anyone, officials are asked to email me if they are appointed at national events).