

## Minutes of the Swimming Committee held on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2024 at 19.00 via Zoom

### Present:

P. Robbins	(PR)	Regional Vice Chair
B. Caslake	(BC)	Cornwall Representative
K. Podbury	(KP)	Somerset Representative (joined meeting at 7.30)
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

### Apologies:

G. Pearce	(GP)	Regional Finance Officer
C. Vickery	(CV)	Admin & Events Co-Ordinator
L. Leffers	(LL)	Swimming Licencing Officer
N Edwards	(NE)	Coaches Representative (not invited)
C. Robinson	(CR)	Swimming manager - temporary

### SC/2024

#### 1. Welcome

- 1.1 PR welcomed everyone to the meeting.

#### 2. Declaration of Interests

- 2.1 Nothing declared

#### 3. Minutes of 6<sup>th</sup> March 2024

- 3.1 Accepted as a true record. Proposed by AS and seconded by DA.  
Agreed unanimously by those who attended.

#### 4. Matters arising from above minutes

- 4.1 No matters arising that are not already included on the agenda, apart from minute 9.2 PR reported that meetings had been held on future competition structure and feedback sent to SE.

#### 5. Officials Report

5.1 Appendix A

5.2 To confirm an amendment to report for last meeting which was the omission of congratulations to Jill Beard for winning the award for Technical Official of the year at the 2023 Swim England National Awards

## **6. Masters Report**

6.1 Minute of 21<sup>st</sup> February 2024 circulated.

6.2 A Masters rep to take a lead for the committee is still required especially if they wish any competitions to take place in 2024.

## **7. County Reports**

### **7.1 Cornwall:**

There were 17 New Masters SC records achieved at our County Masters competition in March. Caradon won the Clemett trophy.

Due to clashes with other events our Teams Relays and Junior Interclub planned for June have been postponed.

Preparations for 2025 County Champs – We are considering a LC championships at the Plymouth Life Centre. The financial viability is being investigated to be presented at the next swimming committee meeting when a final decision will be made.

Unlikely to continue the CCDP if no one volunteers to take on lead role

Plan to enter a Team into the Inter Counties later this year

Our development gala, Rising Star is planned for December.

### **7.2 Devon:**

We have just finished two weekends of our developments, numbers slightly down on last year, this was due mainly to the more relaxed entry times into the 50's at the regionals. Big problem again trying to recruit officials for the events, had to run 6 lanes on a couple of sessions. Club open meets, especially for the smaller clubs does not seem to be a problem with officials, it just seems to be the bigger clubs and county meets.

We are having a feasibility study to determine whether to resurrect our county open water event or follow the route by many others and support the regional event.

The Life Centre has been booked for our counties in January and February 2025 and provisional dates for 2026.

Inter-county arrangements are in place, with hotel and coach booked, we have full backing from all Devon clubs for selection of their swimmers.

Devon Masters is again an open event taking place in Plymouth on 15<sup>th</sup> September.

### **7.3 Dorset:**

Nothing to raise other than could they chase SE Swimming for what's happening with competition programme for 2025. If it's to be changed, we need to know by early Sept - even then any radical changes might not be possible. We've already pools and pool time booked, and it will be virtually impossible to make any significant changes to dates. Changes to programme not so much a problem.

Probably worth noting that the current Champs window works well for us in Dorset. A significant move in the window (ie pre-Christmas) could mean we couldn't run Champs. Our main pool has lucrative annual events at that time which would preclude us using that venue at that time.

Also to note details of the CDP have been confirmed by SE for 2024/25 so thanks to be recorded for receiving this info in good time this year. To be noted that the current format (based on 200IM rankings) was a struggle last year in terms of selection due to the few swimmers with a ranked time in that event, but this year's rankings are showing a significant improvement.

Dorset Development Comp will be held 6/7 July at Littledown - first introduced 2007 and always well supported.

Two of our para swimmers will be presented with Certificates of Achievement at the Dev Comp. Zak Sturgess (BCS) for new British Swimming Records (both LC and SC) for 1500m Free in the S10 Category. Isabella Haynes (Swim Bournemouth) for First International Selection at Junior Level by English Schools - competed in Rio Aug 2023 and was also awarded Top Para Athlete by ESSA.

Dorset has also promoted the SWR Para Taster Day in July to our clubs and will provide funding to assist in travel costs to any of our swimmers attending.

In addition to the report above AS raised concerns with timings of Inter County Competition being altered resulting in issues with coaches and times arriving home.

### **7.4 Gloucester:**

Gloucester Counties ran very successfully and produced a healthy profit. (Like others) Gloucester have asked if we could run the event without Age-Group finals in 2025 but that request has been denied. (Like others) All coaches wanted change. The 2025 programme will therefore mirror 2024. We are aware that there is a need to run a 100IM and as we run all our blocks Long Course, this provides a problem. We are looking at running the event in with our Relay event (which we run short course) but are awaiting confirmation of the date for that event from GL1. Any potential Licencing issues will need to

be discussed (meeting planned for June 28<sup>th</sup>).

All County dates are booked with Hengrove in Jan/Feb 2025.

The Phase 1 development days are now completed. Craig Skinner led, and reports are very positive this year.

All arrangements for Inter Counties are confirmed with a training day prior to the event itself. Glos County would like to update its kit, and this has been budgeted for. (Agenda item 28<sup>th</sup> June).

Discussions are ongoing with SE and GL1 about the possibility of the County investing in GL1 in order to try and protect some of the equipment there. As everyone knows, the timing equipment has seen better days. (Ongoing).

Much work has been done in terms of trying to produce transparent selection criteria and Job Descriptions etc.

## **7.5 Somerset:**

Following this year's closure of Millfield and having to not run finals, we asked that we were given permission not to run finals in 2025.

Swim England have rejected this, despite many of our coaches being very keen to not have finals as the flow the counties were far better without them. so, we will run our 2025 county championships as we did in 2023 with finals for 50s and 100 only and he declared winners for 200m plus Events. I will county championships will be held over 2 1/2 weekends in January and February 2025.

We have a development meet booked for the fifth and sixth of October at Millfield, conditions and license have been published to clubs of Somerset.

We have a relay day and 100m IM day booked for the 20th of October. Meet conditions and license have been published.

We've also introduced a new event this year called The John Bolton; this is a long distance development meet being held on the 16th and 23rd of November. The 16th will be held at Hutton Moor and the 23rd will be held at Millfield. Not only is it to help develop our swimmers in Somerset for long distances, but it is also to commemorate our good friend John Bolton.

Conditions and license have been published.

Somerset are also organising a long distance national qualifying event in March 2025.

Arrangements are being finalised for the national counties at Sheffield on the fifth and sixth of October. Prices have been obtained from hotels and coaches and will be booked in the next week. Head Coach and Team managers have been selected and we will aim to have Team selection completed as normal in August?

As a county, we fund a license for all Somerset clubs to be able to use the Swim meet Volunteer and official signup. We have really good feedback from volunteers and officials that this is an easy way to sign up to Meets.

I can't think of anything else that I need to report on, apologies for not supplying a report last time around, if anyone has any questions, I'd be happy to take them.

KP also stated if the take up for their long distance meets were not good Somerset would open up any available spaces to other SW Counties

## **7.6 Wiltshire:**

Frustrating period concerning pool booking. After having Hengrove withdrawn after a booking had been accepted for our League Finals in June, we then lost Salisbury pool, again having had the booking concerned for our Development Meet in September. We have now reorganised the league finals for Bath Uni in September and for this year have cancelled the development meet. Frustrating when they were both planned in 2023.

We have , last weekend had the first day of our Talent camp.

We have also just finalised everything needed for the Championships and Age Groups for next Jan/Feb. Again, beset with pool issues but think we are there now. For the first time we have booked a 2 day event at Bath Uni for the 14+yrs age groups. We are pleased that for 2024 we are able to re-insert the 17+ age group. We were the only SW County last year to abide by the 16+yrs as the top age group and then had many parents' complaints that our swimmers were not having the same opportunities as the rest of the region. Frustrating when we were only following recommendations.

I am quite concerned about the talk about wholesale changes which are expected for 2026. I just hope that when they are eventually released that we have adequate time to make all the changes.

## **8. Licensing Report:**

8.1 See Appendix 2.

8.2 NV commented that to make life easier for RLO to check officials can counties please request that their officials make their qualifications visible on their membership records

## **9. Coaches Report:**

9.1 No report ~ unfortunately due to a clerical error NE was not invited to this meeting.

9.2 Noted the disappointing attendance at the last coaches meeting on 13.6.24

## **10. Competition:**

10.1 PR reported that the walking on and announcement of swimmers prior to their final worked well at age groups but proved unsuccessful at

youth championships, swimmers ignored marshals , weren't interested etc.

10.2 PR commented on the number of competitions taking place on same weekends and could clubs fully staff these meets with both volunteers and officials

10.2 More discussions followed on the problems with venues across the Region and the issues with pool providers and relevance of regional and county championships to some clubs.

## **11. Development:**

11.1 No report presented to meeting to follow when available.

## **12. Swimming Leadership Minutes:**

12.1 None available to follow when available

## **13 Equality, Diversity and Inclusion and Safeguarding**

13.1 PR reported that in line with Regional DIAP areas / rooms were made available for both coaches and athletes of all disciplines at regional championships. NV enquired if these had need supervised, PR replied that we cannot supervise these rooms, it is down to the athlete and their coach, helper etc . NV also asked what other requirements we SE going to impose on the Regions PR replied that EDI is the responsibility of the Region, and it was SESWR decision what procedures we put in place.

## **14. A.O.B**

14.1 KP asked if anyone had attended the SE Roadshows AO,BC & PR did attend, and discussions then followed on content both AO & PR commented that in their opinion Se went away having learnt more from us that we had from them.

## **15. Next meeting**

15.11<sup>th</sup> September 2024, 7.00 p.m. via zoom

**Meeting closed at 19.51**

## Appendix A

**SESW list of licenced officials - for renewals up to June 24** - The latest list shows there are 736 officials across all levels in SWR, (previously reported 681 up to 1/1/24).

**SESW Swim Officials Newsletter** – The latest copy was circulated in May and is attached for the committee’s information. This has proved to be a valuable asset for the officiating community to ensure a consistent approach to the information delivered on all topics.

**2024 SESW Events** - All the remaining regional events are live on Swim Meet, please promote these events within your clubs and counties.

- SESW & SE Para Meet (Hengrove) 22 September
- SESW Masters Open Meet (Millfield) 13 October
- SESW Winter Championships (Millfield) 1-3 November
- SESW Masters Intercounties (Millfield) 10 November

**SWR Summer Championships Youths and Age Groups** - Despite the event going live on SwimMeet in early February, followed by an initial flurry of sign-ups these tailed off. Whilst it is accepted that parents wait until acknowledgement of their swimmers’ entries are received, it was necessary to make numerous requests post confirmation to ensure licensing was met across all venues. This prompted officials to sign up which was great but for organisational purposes late sign ups in the days before an event are not ideal, impacting on allocation of duties, catering arrangements etc. Going forward this matter is something that needs to be discussed.

Number of officials: Hengrove – 53 / Millfield – 58 / Plymouth - 78

**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 Olympic and Paralympic Trials (LAC) - Adrian D’Chuna (Devon), Steve Meter (Dorset), Nicky Vause (Somerset).

British Masters (Swansea) – Dave Avery (Devon), Gary French (Wilts), Sam Mullender (Devon), Nicky Vause (Somerset), Carol Veale (Devon), Martin Walters (Devon).

National Junior Para Championships (Coventry) – Nicky Vause (Somerset).

**Training and development (World Para Swimming)** - Following a successful application, I was invited to attend a course held prior to the WPS World Series event in Lignano Sabbiadoro Italy. I embraced the opportunity to join international officials to further our knowledge of the WPS rules and regulations. Despite the intensity of the course followed by assessment during the event I was delighted to be awarded WPS International Technical Official status.

## Appendix B

### RLO – Report 18/06/2024

Licensing is going okay – Regional Summer Competitions all finished and post reports received in a very timely manner.

#### **Officials – I am still struggling with Officials qualifications being visible**

Officials Licencing at Swim England is very behind in updating and reporting new and current Officials Licence cards. Please could all Lead Referees ensure they check the officials Licence cards are current and have not run out. It is causing me a lot of work tracking down the information. It would be helpful if any discrepancies could be noted at the bottom of the Ref’s report.

Also, many Officials are not allowing people to see their qualifications on their profile on OMS. It is really easy to do, and I would appreciate it if they could go into their profile and do the following:-

## Show Qualifications & Certificates

Please go to

<https://www.swimmingresults.org/membershipcheck/>

search your membership using your member ID

Click on - Member Options

Login in using your Member ID and Password

Click on - Online Membership System

Click on - Login in as Member

Click on - Edit Details

Click on - Data Protection Choices

Click **yes** in all boxes except the last four. If Disability does not apply say **no**. You do not want any personal info such as address and email/telephone numbers showing so say **no**.

Click Save

This would save me an awful lot of time in chasing up qualification and Card dates.

**County Reps** – Helping Licencing Officer – This is going well on the whole. Cornwall Rep has changed to Rosie Gordon. All clubs advised.

Cornwall – **Rosie Gordon** (New Rep)      Devon – Martin Walters      Dorset – Di Gibbs

Gloucester – Lorna Farbowski      Somerset – Kelly Podbury      Wiltshire – Sandra Yeoman

## Pool Depths & Height of Blocks

I am still trying to build a spreadsheet of all of the pool depths both start end and turn end and the height of the top of the blocks to the water. If County Reps could help me complete this, I would be very grateful. This detail is now required on the Licence application. Where I am as below:-

**Post Meet Returns** – I have updated the forms as of 140524 & Jill Beard has very kindly had these updated in the meet management system the Ref's use so all very easy. Also, the South West Region – Licence Meet Policies & Guidelines – 140524 have been updated. All forms are loaded onto the SWR website.