

Minutes of the Swimming Committee held on 22nd January 2025 at 19.00 via Zoom

Present:

B. Caslake	(BC)	Cornwall Representative
C. Robinson	(CR)	Regional Chair
N. Vause	(NV)	Officials Representative
M. Walters	(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
S. Williams	(SW)	Regional Office Manager
G. Pearce	(GP)	Regional Finance Officer

Apologies:

N Edwards	(NE)	Coaches Representative
A. Smart	(AS)	Dorset Representative
K. Podbury	(KP)	Somerset Representative

SC/2025

1. Welcome

- 1.1 CR welcomed everyone to the meeting

2. Declaration of Interests

- 2.1 Nobody had anything to declare

3. Minutes of 11th September 2024

- 3.1 Accepted as a true record. Proposed by SY and seconded by AO after an amendment to the officials report 20.2 as all officials are given details of competitions personally via a newsletter. Agreed unanimously by those who attended after the amendment.

4. Matters arising from above minutes

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

5. Officials Report

- 5.1 Appendix A

5.2 NV produced some stats from Swim Meet that Millfield and West Dorset provided the most officials across all of the sessions at the Winter Regionals with MK third but having said that even these were still poor with only 3 or 4 each in total.

6. Masters Report

6.1 No meeting

7. County Reports

7.1 Cornwall:

Cornwall Report

We start 2025 with good news. We are excited to report that GLL are now in a position to install a new timing system at Bodmin pool, hopefully in time for the first weekend of our main County Champs. The club that uses Bodmin now have their new blocks installed which we are able to use for our Rising Stars gala in December.

We kicked off our County Champs with our 800m on 18th January. Despite a few setbacks and a delay starting, all our volunteers stepped up and worked hard to make the first day of racing a success. We are using the Swim England accreditation system, poolside passes are free of charge and we have received some lovely feedback back from clubs about our medals.

Our Junior Interclub is planned for 26th January with 4 teams entered.

As yet, we do not have a date for our County Masters Meet.

Pool hire is currently being explored for our Teams Relays for the beginning of July

We are looking at splitting our Rising Stars gala into complimentary Summer and Winter galas.

We started our County Development Programme on 12th January

7.2 Devon:

Devon Report for Regional Swimming Committee

Early this month we were sadly informed of the passing of Jane Easton - past President of Devon and one of our stalwart officials. Jane will be greatly missed especially at the junior end where she encouraged younger swimmers to start their competitive swimming journey by organising numerous Ribbon Galas.

County dates needed changing due to urgent maintenance required on the booms in the Life Centre. Hoping to be able to run LC when complete if not we will run all events as SC for 2025.

Clubs were informed before Christmas and we wait information from the Life Centre to confirm the maintenance was completed successfully and we are able to run LC. All clubs were supportive.

The Life Centre is beginning to show its age with some investment required in new blocks and lane ropes.

County Interclub incorporating the Championships 100IM and County Relays were run on the 11th of January and despite clubs saying they want more

Relay / Interclub galas entries were quite low with 8 clubs from Devon entering the Interclub and 7 entering the Relays.

The County have 640 swimmers entered swimming over 3400 individual events down 7% on 2024 entries.

Licence calendar is filling up quickly within the county and the number of first come L3 meets within the Region is causing some issues with swimmers looking for Regional QT. For example the Two Counties meet in March was full before 0700 in the morning of the 2nd January when entries opened at midnight.

The County is looking at introducing a meet calendar to ensure meets are available at the correct level in the correct window for swimmers but the ongoing delay and possible changes to Competition structures by Swim England is hindering this as we wish to make changes all at the same time. Do Swim England realise we need to know about changes if any for 2026 now not in October 2025.

Officials sign up for events is slow with recent County events not licence compliant until 72 hours before the event start.

We are still waiting for the outcome of the Plymouth College application to become affiliated to the Region.

7.3 Dorset:

DORSET COUNTY ASA

Dorset County Championships will start on 2 February with long-distance events and relays, the latter not being licensed. Our Championships were traditionally held in February until 2020 when coaches requested an earlier slot in the competition window but the gradual erosion of available hours at Littledown has resulted in a later and later finish to our days. Currently we can't start at Littledown until 11.30am. The move back into February will allow us to benefit from the last weekend of Spring half-term when there is no lesson programme, and when we are able to start at 10.00am. Entry numbers are on par with 2024, and we look forward to a great Championships. The cost of pool hire at Littledown has gone up by 2.5% - a relief it wasn't more - but the cost for a gala at the same venue was increased by 5% and is a significant sum for a 3-hour booking.

There have also been several recent successes for Dorset swimming.

Dorset Para-Swimmers Leo McCrea (Bournemouth Collegiate) and Harry Stewart (West Dorset) were selected for the 2024 Paralympics, Harry representing GB and Leo on this occasion representing Switzerland, which is his mother's nationality. Harry finished fifth in the SB14 100m Breaststroke while Leo took the gold medal in the SB5 100m Breaststroke, much to the delight of his coach James Ryan. Though representing Switzerland, Leo's swim training is all undertaken at BCS while S&C is provided by Bournemouth University. It is understood that Leo hopes to compete as GB next time around.

Another Dorset Para-Swimmer worth noting is Zack Sturgess of Bournemouth Collegiate who has recently broken the British Swimming record for 200m Butterfly (S10) having broken both LC and SC British Swimming records for 1500m Freestyle (S10) in 2024.

Dorset Masters have been equally busy. Wendy Bates of Seagulls SC successfully completed the Channel swim from Dover to Cap Griz Nez in a time of 12 hrs 10 mins in August 2024 while in late 2023, but only recently brought to our attention, Bob Roberts of Weyport Masters and Robert Lloyd-Evans of Poole took part in a six-man Channel relay from Dover to Sangatte completing the distance in 17 hours 5 mins. With an average of 77 years and 105 days on the day of swim, this has earned the team a place in the Guinness Book of Records as the Oldest Male Channel Relay Team. At the time Bob was 76 years old and Robert 81 years old.

Finally, Wendy Bates (Seagulls) and Liz Mills of Poole have just completed a chilling few days in Molveno, Italy having been selected to represent GB in the World Ice Swimming Championships 2025. The water was a chilly 2 deg C and it took two days to remove the ice from the pool prior to the competition. Results so far have been fifth place for Wendy in 500m Freestyle while Liz secured a bronze medal in the Butterfly (distance unconfirmed); results of other events to come. The two train together at Shaftesbury Lido as well as with their home clubs.

7.4 Gloucester:

COUNTY SWIM REPORT JAN '25. GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

We have experienced considerable issues over this years County Championships. We seemed to have hit problems at every turn, this despite being ready (or so we thought) in plenty of time. The note below forms the basis of this report and is from Martyn Neale (County President). We actually delayed our final entry date as late as possible and to include the CoB Christmas Cracker meet the weekend before Christmas. This gave swimmers every opportunity to better their times. Even this caused the County Exec to receive extreme abuse and criticism. The final straw (and again something over which we had no control) was notice from Hengrove that their timing pads were broken and they could not guarantee replacements for the first sessions of the blocks. We therefore held a special meeting of club representatives to decide if we risked running the meet on the proposed and advertised dates and the equipment failing (therefore risking the meet licence) or changing dates. The meeting agreed the later and again we received abuse for the late change. It seems you really cannot win.

Quoted notes from Martyn Neale. "1. County Championships. Swim England badly let Counties down in respect of the 2025 Championships. Taking Gloucester County for example, when applying for the Meet Licence (originally) in October (2 months prior to the Championships were due to start) we were refused for three reasons. a) We could not have 17+ Age Groups. This had to be 16+ b) We could not have Championship Finals for 50m and 100m events – only Age Group Finals. c) If we had Entry times, everyone had to be accepted.

Everything was altered to meet the Swim England requirements only to be told we could revert to a 17+ Age Group, but for 1 year only, and revert again to a 16+ age group in 2026. This we felt was a nonsense and kept a 16+ age group.

There were numerous unpleasant emails to the County, Region and Swim England about the late changes. The County was transparent and open at every point.

We were told there will be changes for 2026 but they will not be known until at least the summer of 2025. THIS IS UNACCEPTABLE.

Gloucester County has a “wash up” meeting each year following the completion of the County Championships where Club Coaches and Officials discuss what went well and not so well and what alterations, if any, need to be made for the following year.

We therefore need the following answers by the end of Quarter 1 at the latest. This will enable pools to be booked for the following year.

Age Groups Events Qualifying times if Swim England decide there should be a minimum standard Facilities – whether long course or short course Dates of any Qualifying window Whether Level 4 Meets will still be eligible for County entry.”

The County Exec made a conscious decision in 2024 to try to increase numbers as we felt there were still issues in certain age groups post COVID. We advertised at that time that going forwards we would look at numbers in each age group and event and times. If conditions needed to be changed in order to produce a Championships of a higher standard and quality whilst still populating the meet and supporting the requisite finals, changes would be made. Our system of QT’s and CT’s has done exactly that. That is no different from what happens with Regional entries, and indeed National entries.

A note for AOB: Several coaches have questioned why the Club Coach qualification has been downgraded to the Level 2 Coach equivalent. What is the criteria behind this? We have a couple of qualified Club Coaches who previously applied for the UKCC Level 3 Coaching only to be told it was not necessary as they are equivalent qualifications.

AO expanded on the problems that began with licencing issues and then the problems with the timing equipment at Hengrove as well as the lack of volunteers including officials. There is a lack of continuity (longevity) with volunteering currently. SY agreed with this as there is a lack of people at each level – club, county, region and no one to follow through.

AO also stated that a junior coach had verbally abused the executive committee over the championship problems even though these were beyond the control of the committee.

He did also say that the County had not had any help from the Region or Nationally but CR corrected him on this as JH had investigated the complaints made to the Region and SE and advised the County on the responses that they should give.

7.5 Somerset:

Somerset A.S.A. report

As I write this, I am sat outside at Millfield on day one of our county championships, which thankfully has started this year with no hitch. All coaches and team managers have been asked to produce an accreditation using the Swimming England accreditation opportunities. This whole thing seems to have worked okay, although there are a few who think the rules do not apply to them.

We are already starting to plan for 2026 and it would be really good if we could have some guidance from Swim England by the end of March as to what they are planning with regards to any changes.

Somerset are planning to relaunch our young Volunteer program which we were running before Covid, I have emailed Jackie Hilleard and I am waiting to hear back with regards to streamlining with the Southwest regional volunteer program

I understand that Swim England are also updating the young volunteer or volunteer program and that they expect to publish something for September 2025

I wondered if the region would consider workshops for announcers and recorders with regards to sharing best practice across the region. I'm happy to be involved in putting together a call to talk to best practice. I was thinking about doing it for Somerset but it would also be good to share best practice across the region.

Also, I wondered if we could discuss changing the time of these meetings with regards to the date. I am not sure if the meetings are set at a particular time, but it would be worth changing them to fit in with the end of the counties window, so that we could have an opportunity to give a full update Once the counties are over

Kelly Podbury

Somerset ASA swimming & Competition Secretary

7.6 Wiltshire:

Wiltshire Report

Hi All.

As we are at the start of the New Year not too much to report.

Mid December we were contacted by the Link Centre Staff, reporting that they were shutting the pool until the end of January for renovation work. Not the best message to receive as our entries were just in. We did manage to shuffle events round and hopefully will get by. They assure us they will finish by the 31st January with our first event there on the 1st Feb. Could be fun!!! We have run the first weekend of the 10/13yrs Age Groups which were successful.

Our other big change this year is to move the 14yrs and over Age Groups which also incorporate our Champions to the 50m pool at Bath Uni. We are all excited about this move. Bath staff have been very helpful. We have a 2 day weekend on the 89th Feb for all events except the 100m and Distance Freestyle which are other days.

Sandra

8. Licensing Report:

8.1 See Appendix 2.

- 8.2 AP Races have applied to licence another meet in the Region. It has been agreed, under advisement, and with additional conditions. Clarification has also been sought on some aspects of their conditions.
- 8.3 Also an issue in Gloucester with clubs wishing to run a LL4 on the same weekend as a well established L3 – albeit at opposite ends of the County. It has been agreed with conditions.
- 8.4 Levelling of licenses needs to be looked at. First come first served meets seem to be the most popular currently but cause a problem for monitoring and fill too fast. LL proposed to look at wording to limit these type of meets for 2026. Agreed unanimously by the committee.

9. Coaches Report:

- 9.1 See minutes dated 19/11/2024

10. Regional Swimming Manager

- 10.1 At the recent Board meeting it was requested that the Swimming Committee get themselves in order and engage a Regional Swimming Manager.
- 10.2 CR displayed a possible role description for the position which will be circulated following the meeting for feedback.

11. Competition:

- 11.1 Clubs are needed as facilitators for the upcoming Summer Championships. CR will contact previously supportive clubs and request that this is included in the next regional newsletter.

12. Development:

- 12.1 CR introduced the new Swim England strategy 'One Swimming'. When a number of attendees stated they had not heard of it SW was invited to give a brief overview the meeting. This was not really covered as it continued the discussion about volunteering with SW offering his support.

13. Swimming Leadership Minutes:

- 13.1 Nothing on the website currently

14 Equality, Diversity and Inclusion and Safeguarding

- 14.1 The Region is looking for a new lead on EDI for the Board due to the resignation of Paul Robbins from the role..
- 14.2 Next EDI Forum is on 19th February at 19.00

15. AOB

- 15.1 The joint South East/ South West Para development meet will be in Reading on 13th September 2025

15.2 Joint Regional Open Water Championships will be held at Lake 86 on 22nd June 2025.

15.3 GP said that the 2024 accounts are being closed at the moment but it was good to see that our membership numbers are continuing to increase.

The Board will be starting to look at 2026 budgets shortly and all disciplines should be aiming to be cost neutral.

16. Dates of Future meetings:

16.1 02/04/2025 via Zoom at 19.00

Meeting closed at 21.00

Appendix A

2024 Draft minutes SW Swimming Officials Group

Zoom meeting 3 October 2024 at 7:30pm

Welcome

24.11 Attendees: Paul Robbins (Chair / Wilts), Jill Beard (SESW Regional Officials Training and Development Coordinator), Neil Harper (Gloucestershire), Nick Jenkins (Cornwall), Tracey Roberts (Dorset), Esther Rookes (Devon), Nicky Vause (SW Officials Secretary).

24.12 Apologies: Neil Harper (Gloucestershire).

24.13 Matters arising:

24.07.01 – agenda item.

24.10.01 – complete.

24.14 Draft minutes – 11 April 2024 proposed JB, seconded TR.

24.15 National SOG – JB circulated her informal minutes prior to the meeting 1/10/24. No questions.

Report from National Swim Officials Group Meeting held by ZOOM on Wednesday 25th September

1. Presentation was given by Clare Coleman on the vision being explored for Officials Training.

There was robust and comprehensive discussion with multiple areas put forward for consideration and inclusion.

Some of the detailed points mentioned were –

J1 training will continue as now as the content is up to date with 2023 rules and there was a review in 2023. A further review will happen once J2/J2S/Referee training and development has been addressed. The need for timely information about candidate progress was reiterated by the SOG members.

J2 training is set to have a new centralised registration process so there is one easily accessible national picture re new candidates and their journey to completion as J2.

The need to accommodate those Regions and Counties who pay for J2 training being able to do so without candidates needing to pay and claim back has been acknowledged and some form of pre-payment will be accommodated although it is not clear yet how this will work. [In the interim all Regions must confirm with Swim England when each new candidate has enrolled and undertaken (or is about to undertake) the first group workshop AND THE CANDIDATE'S course has been paid for.

For our region this means I have triggered the new logbooks for our August and September courses as soon as the Region confirmed the candidates fee had been paid. For October the process will shift to closing registration 6 working days before the course delivery date so on 14 th October payment will be requested from the Region and then look books requested from Swim England so each candidate should have their new logbook by the course date on 23rd October. This adaptation will be applied to November and, if the new process hasn't gone live, for December].

Once the new registration process is live there will be automatic and immediate alert to the Region

that a new candidate has registered. How the 20 hours eligibility will be confirmed is not yet clear. The post registration training will remain unaltered with a prescribed presentation for the initial theory [e.g. regular diarised sessions accessible to all once a month so no one must wait a long time] followed by on deck mentoring and 2 further “workshops” [1-2-1 or group] to complete the process delivered by each County. The final conferring of J2 status will mirror the process for J1 with the candidate uploading their fully signed off single sheet competency page which has been amended to include the final Referee acknowledgement of completion.

(NOTE: Helen Akers confirmed there will be a short test phase before the new registration process for J2 goes live. It is hoped the revised and rebranded training materials that must be used for J2 training will be shared by this point so sharing the initial course delivery amongst approved trainers is practical.)

J2S theory is no longer covered in the new J2 logbooks (old books to be used for now). A new process is being considered and there is likely to be a pilot one-day theory and initial practical session held centrally and delivered by a World Aquatics Starter. Expenses will be paid for travel to the event and for the club pool time needed for the practical element. How the remaining streamlined practice and final assessment will be undertaken is not yet decided. The intention is to make the process shorter without losing the imperative of rigour and suitability for the role. The registration and logbook dispatch will also move to an online system and there may well be a fee at this point. Referee training and support will also be reviewed but the process for this was not outlined. CPD will be redeveloped to support amongst other things the importance of mentoring.

2. There is to be a reinstatement of an approved Tutor & Mentor list so that support for Tutor/mentor personal development and the delivery of common standards can be assured.

3. All resource materials from British Swimming (J1 and J2 logbooks and more) have been rebranded and new candidates will receive an updated “blue book” World Aquatics (Aqua) Rules. No new officials training logbooks will be held locally, and distribution will be managed centrally.

4. All dispatch of materials post J1 completion and for new licences is reported by Swim England as working well.

5. ALL Referees TO BE REMINDED that taping for glucose monitoring devices SHOULD ALWAYS BE ALLOWED. Swimmers can be encouraged to get a “certificate of exception” BUT THIS IS NOT NECESSARY – taping should always be allowed. Guidance on how to approach other taping which is at the discretion of the Referee is to be updated. Common sense is always encouraged, and the welfare of the swimmer remains paramount.

6. The future of the national Referee and Starter Programme is to be reviewed.

7. DONM November 28th, 2024

24.15.01 JB requested that the names of possible poolside referee mentors, (not limited to referees that have already signed up to the SWR WhatsApp Group). JB stressed the importance for all referees to sign up to our WhatsApp Group. This is by far the easiest way to disseminate information quickly within the region as the need arises.

Action – County Coordinators to email names to JB.

Likewise encourage all officials, especially new TK/J1T to ensure their permissions on Swim England membership options are set so they may receive communications from Helen Akers and the Region and their details are visible for meet licensing purposes.

JB advised the next Integra list of officials is imminent.

24.15.02 PR enquired if it was possible to use a TK for a following session after TK competency was signed off. It may not be possible to upload the certificate at the event. JB confirmed to ensure officials licensing requirements were met as long as the certificate was uploaded as soon as possible, and IF POSSIBLE membership options should be opened up to allow this to be seen

24.15.03 ER reported an issue with the issue of licenses.

Action - JB to investigate.

Post meeting email to County Coordinators

Once important details like the postal address on a members record when information was uploaded, or photo uploaded at the same time as competency have been checked.... because Swim England only look once for all information, so address and photo are often reasons for non-receipt of licences and wrong address for non-receipt of logbook.

Then assuming upload of evidence has been confirmed candidates should enquire (personally they should do this), to the relevant email giving as much background as possible including their name and membership number. If the correct information was not originally on a person's record but now has been updated an apologetic note about this when asking about lack of receipt goes a long way to a speedy resolution.

officialslicensing@swimming.org – for queries relating to officials licensing

renewals@swimming.org – for general membership queries

swimmingofficials@swimming.org – for queries relating to certificates, logbooks and general training admin

24.16 SWR Officials Training and Development Officers Report - JB emailed 1/10/24, no questions.

5-month Review of Officials Training in SESW Region 01/04/2024 to 30/09/24

Referee Training - The candidate in the November 2023 theory exam has undertaken their practical and his pass has been recommended to Aquatics GB. One candidate sat and passed in May 2024 having postponed from November 2023. One candidate withdrew from the process, without sitting an exam. The May candidate has their practical during October facilitated by Hampshire. Eight candidates will hopefully sit for the first time in November 2024.

Starter Training - Delivered by each County with 11 commencing since April 2024 and 9 starters have completed their training in the past five months.

J2 Training – since post Pandemic training recommenced in October 2021, 162 new candidates have started training by the monthly Zoom Sessions and only 22 candidates who commenced before April 2024 have not yet completed their practical. 119 J2 candidates have completed in the past three years

J1 Training – FOR SW VOUCHERS, in the past five months from April 2024: 83 have enrolled in the online training – 56 for the full course and 27 for the course for those already timekeepers; 8 of those are yet to redeem their vouchers and commence their online training; 24 are in progress on the online course (plus another 12 who commenced before April 2024); 51 SW voucher holders in the past five months have commenced their practical poolside phase (plus 24 self-funders).

Including those who started before April 2024 there have been 33 full J1 completions in the past five months from across all candidates.

24.17 2024 / 2025 SWR Technical Director / Assistant appointments – PR

Winter Championships - TR / JB

2025 Summer Championships

Millfield 26-27 April - NH / JB

Plymouth 3-5 May - PR / TR

Hengrove 10-11 May - TR / CM

24.18 SWR Technical Director amended job description – PR

The committee discussed the proposal which focused on the TD allocating officials duties and being the central point of contact for all event communication with the SWR and officials.

NV advised that the use of three venues is not unique. Duties have previously been allocated following the underlying principal that we will endeavour to allocate duties based on the highest level of qualification and attendance commitment at each location. With the majority of the officials being overqualified for a significant majority of the available roles this is not always possible. For continuity duties remain the same for the two heats session, (the exception of referees), and changed for the finals session when qualification appropriate duties are assigned where possible.

The committee agreed to trail the allocation of duties by the TD at the upcoming Winter Championships within the overall premise of a fair distribution of duties to all who apply. NV to continue liaising with the SWR and officials prior to the final week whereby the TD takes over complete control.

Action - NV to allocate TR SwimMeet administrators role.

CM left the meeting.

24.19 Equality, Diversity and Inclusion – PR

SE SWR Summer Championships - quite rooms were facilitated at Hengrove and Plymouth. PR reported positive feedback was received and the provision was appreciated by the users. Announcements and policy updates are expected shortly from Swim England.

24.20 County Coordinator's reports circulated prior to the meeting, no questions.

Cornwall Officials

Recruitment of officials remains a challenge and the ratio of officials to swimmers remains very variable. There are 6 clubs around the average or exceeding the average for the County. However, of the 5 with below average numbers there are two with no officials or officials in training, it should be noted that both clubs are amongst the smallest in the County.

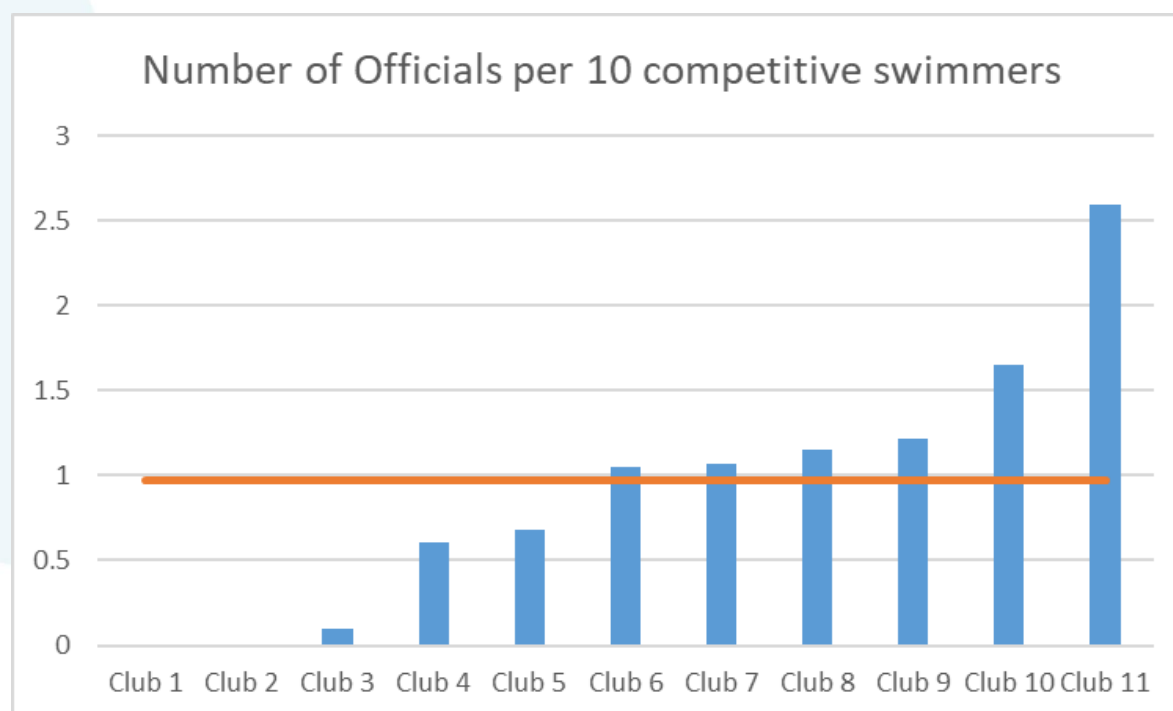
Current trainees:

J1 9 in training with further 3 awaiting Swim England Registration

J2 2

J2s 1

Referee 1 one prospective candidate for November 2025



Facilities

Cornwall has only 2 licenced pools – Bodmin (GLL) and Penzance (Parkwood Leisure) both are 25m. Following the summer break it has transpired that the Omega-ARES system at Bodmin has completely failed. This has the potential to significantly impact swimming in Cornwall. The cost of a replacement system is £30k which includes replacement timing display (the current one has been non-operational for many years which gives rise to complaints from parents at every gala held there). The lead time for a replacement system is 10 weeks which is very tight when looking forward to Counties. The issue is being mitigated by loaned equipment from Marlborough College however this is a very short-term solution and involves couriering it back and forth. The impacted clubs have had meetings with GLL and Swim England. GLL state that without some financial support they will be unable to replace the equipment due to spiralling costs of operating pools. Swim England SW were approached but not forthcoming with any level of contribution (despite benefitting from licence fees from galas). The club that operates from the pool has already undertaken fund raising so that all the blocks can be replaced (this was done prior to the collapse of the timing system). Discussions continue with GLL and the clubs and County are looking at finding funds to contribute to the replacement as without this the future looks bleak for competitive swimming in Cornwall. Finding a solution is fundamental – if anyone knows of any philanthropists, please let me know.
Nick Jenkins

Dorset

We have seen 6 Judge one candidates successfully complete and sign off since June 2024, we currently have 11 at their practical stages, all but one of these have sufficient time to successfully complete, some indeed are recent who had only a few opportunities before the season ended or have started since. One of the earlier candidates unfortunately has now exceeded the allowed 11-month period but with many other club roles which has resulted in little time to focus on Officiating sadly has recently made the decision to withdraw from the J1 process. All J1 trainees have been welcomed back to the new season, details of upcoming opportunities have been sent. These included Dorset Club Open meets, West Dorset having taken place this last weekend with a good uptake on training and the Poole meet to follow shortly. The Winter regional Championships have been promoted also.

We have had two successfully complete and sign off on their Judge two training since June, there is one remaining from the initial training in December 2023 who will be encouraged again to sign up for upcoming events. Recent Judge two introductory workshops have seen three new candidates emerge ready to progress on their practical work and I am aware of several others who have shown interest and hopefully will be joining Jill with future Judge two zoom sessions.

I am very pleased to report that two of the J2S Starter candidates completed successfully in July, this leaves two currently outstanding who have had no poolside practical work on this level to my knowledge, steps to progress for these will now need to be considered.

I have had at least one show interest in progressing to J2S so will reach out to see if other J2's are considering this so that something can be arranged for a fresh course to start before the end of the year.

As far as I am aware, the one remaining Referee candidate from 2023 would have seen a final opportunity to sit the exam in November, however, it appears that he has now decided to withdraw from the Referee training program.

It is appreciated that many Officials will have seen the promoting of the Para swimming CPD, a separate communication has also been sent to qualifying Officials to remind them of this opportunity which provides multiple benefits for their development in the hope that they might feel confident to officiate at such competitions going forward and also not forgetting the added advantage of the points acquired, relevant to re-licensing! Again, I am aware of some uptake on this opportunity which is encouraging.

Tracey Roberts

Gloucestershire

Training is ongoing throughout the County at all levels. The three referee candidates are coping well with their studying and we're optimistic of the outcome in November.
Neil Harper

Somerset

No report received; CM will email post meeting.

Wiltshire

Officials training has picked up since my last report, thanks mainly to chasing clubs, the occasional arm twisting and the realization that Club championships need officials. So far this year in the County we have achieved the following passes J1 18, J2 5 & J2S 3. In addition, we have also seen an uptake in those undertaking T/K training with 12 passes.

The training for our 2 referee candidates is progressing and we wish Michele Trevithick well for her practical assessment on 10th October at Southampton, thanks to Hampshire for facilitating this.

Our County Championships will have a slightly different form at next year as we have been fortunate to secure a weekend at Bath University to swim our youth championships long course for the first time.

The final rounds of the Wiltshire leagues were swum at Bath on 15 th September, this acted as a trial run for the championships next year and reports are that all worked well.

Paul Robbins

24.21 AOB

24.21.01 JB announced her intention to stepdown from her role as SWR Officials Training and Development Officer in 18 months time. Her early announcement was prompted by the need for the committee to allow adequate time for succession planning.

24.21.02 SE SWR 2024 Technical Official of the Year - On behalf of the committee NV congratulated ER on winning the regional award. Best wishes were given for the SE National Finals that will take place on 30th November in Birmingham.

24.21.03 Feedback received from the SE Road Show held in Bristol (pm session) – PR reported that a small minority of officials did not feel welcome at regional events. The committee discussed ways to overcome this matter moving forward.

24.21.04 Masters Intercounties - NV requested that the names of the two officials from each county to be emailed when confirmed.

Action – County Coordinators to forward names to NV.

The date of the next meeting T.B.A.

The meeting closed at 21:10.

Appendix 2

RLO – Report 22/01/25

Licensing – There are currently 139 meets in the Licencing Calendar, which is a lot for as early as January.

Some clubs continue to submit very late returns. I seem to be chasing some of the same clubs over and over again. This must not continue, there are too many meets at this time of year for me to have to chase post meet reports & payments. A Reminder please as follows: All Reports must be with me WITHIN 14 days of the meet ending. Reports I must have:- Promoter Report, Referee Report, Technical Officials Report, Snap Shot of Payment to SWR. I do not have access to the SWR Bank so must have proof of payment. Some clubs continue to use very old forms, please make sure you are using the forms that are currently on the SWR website under Licensing. Also a few clubs are also not allowing the 60 days for Licence Applications. This really is a must unless extenuating circumstances apply.

Amending Meets Once Licenced

I am getting far too many Promoters/Clubs requesting changes to their meets. Dates, Venues, Conditions and so on. Could Promoters ensure that meet packs and conditions are checked and double checked before apply for a Licence. Also that Pools and dates are available to the club to run their meet? There will always be circumstances out of our control and Venues and dates have to be changed but some changes in my opinion have been for very trivial reasons. Could I also remind the clubs that once the Licence is issued NO changes should be made to the Meet Pack & Conditions or Licencing Level without the permission of the RLO. If you Licence at L4 that is single club, you cannot simply invite more clubs without upgrading your Licence to Low L4 Invitational Meet. The same applies to Low L4, you cannot decide to add more than eight clubs to the invitation. This is against SE policy and automatically bars 8year olds from entering once you have the extra clubs. It would then have to be L3. I have had three instances of changes being made, that I knew nothing about, and that changed the Level of the meet/Licence. Licences could be & will be withdrawn if clubs do this and times removed from Rankings.

Changes to County Dates & Venues

Due to issues with Pools or internal facilities at venues, Devon, Gloucester & Wiltshire have had to make some changes to their dates or venues of Championships. Fortunately these changes have gone smoothly so far.

Important - I put this request in my report in September 2024 but unfortunately the message does not seem to have got through to the Officials. Please see below.

Officials – Again, I am still struggling with Officials qualifications being visible. Could clubs please remind their Officials to follow the process below? I would appreciate it if they could go into their SE 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. I would also appreciate your patience with me checking qualifications. I am doing this to ensure my lists are continually updated and I do not have to bother you or others about that Official again. My continued thanks to Jill Beard who patiently helps me because the Officials are not making qualifications visible.

County Reps – Helping Licencing Officer

Please remember you must follow how your County approves dates for your Licenced meets. If you fail to follow the correct procedure you may not get a date you want. If you are not sure how your County approves dates, please email your County Rep as below:-

Cornwall Rosie Gordon rosie@philipgordon.org

Devon Martin Walters licencing@devonswimming.org.uk

Dorset Di Gibbs dorsetasa@gmail.com

Gloucester Keith Smith gcasacompliance@gmail.com

Somerset Kelly Podbury somersetasa@gmail.com Wiltshire Sandra Yeoman sandra.yeoman1@btinternet.com

All Clubs must seek approval for meets Low L4 – L1. Single Club L4 do not need to be approved by the County Rep with the exception of Dorset County. Dorset County should check all meets with Di Gibbs prior to coming to me please, including L4 meets.

Clubs must be able to cover ALL Officials from within their own club for L4 Single Club Meets.

Disability – Para Swimming - Disabled swimmers should be accepted into all and any Licensed meet if requested to do so. All Meets should have an applicable Disability condition – Example:

Disability Swimmer entries - All swimmers must have an authorized SE/IPC swimming classification, Certificate of Disability or Certificate of Exception. In addition, details of disability must be provided with entry. Please ensure you present, Certificate of Disability or Certificate of Exception to the Referee prior to each competition session, failure to do so may result in disqualification. Please also see the attached - licensing of swim meets with World Para-Swimming.

Conditions & Meet Packs – Please note some extra details that need to be applied in conditions

1 Coaches & Team Managers:- Please ensure when writing conditions on Coaches & Team Managers passes that you note the following:- All Teams must be accompanied by at least one Level 2 or Swim England Swimming Coach who must have current Safeguarding and DBS passes. Team Managers on poolside must be TM1 Qualified and be DBS Checked.

2 Officials:- Officials must be offered reimbursement for expenses at all meets, including L4 single club meets

3 Poolside Passes:- Please make sure you list what the Poolside passes include. Poolside passes should respect the cost you are charging. I am receiving quite a few complaints about the cost of some passes for little return.

4 Upper & Lower Limit Times:- You must be respectful of the Level of meet you are running when setting your QT's. I understand this is difficult with no advice available from SE on how to do this. However, you can check on rankings to set these at a reasonable level.

5 Joint Club Meets:- I must have a contact for both clubs when you are running joint club meets. This can be either in the meet pack only or in the pack and on the Licence. I have had two instances where a promoter has left a club, and the joint club had absolutely no idea how the meet was being run. This is not acceptable. Please ensure both clubs are involved in the setting up and running of the meets.

6 Disability Swimmers/Entries:- Could Clubs also make it very clear in the meet packs, if medals are being awarded to Disability entries in a separate category to the able bodied swimmers?

7 Requesting Officials from clubs entering meets:- Promoting Clubs can now request Officials from entering clubs as a condition of entering. It is of course up to the discretion of the Promoting club if they choose to enforce the condition if the entering club cannot meet the expectations. However, entering clubs should understand that it is becoming harder and harder to meet the level of officials required at meets and they must try to supply officials at all meets they enter.

8 Mobile Phones:- A condition that mobile phones must not at any time be used in changing rooms or changing spaces.

2025 - 2026 Meets

I am not adding 2026 meets to my calendar just yet. I will start in about April 2025. I have had County dates for Devon & Wiltshire for 2026 which I have saved on a separate tab and will add in April.

I will NOT add any club meets to the Calendar without the County Rep being copied in. Please try and remember to do this.

The following Counties allocated dates are already full for 2025 in the months of:-

March 2025 Somerset Devon

May 2025 Gloucester

July 2025 Somerset

October 2025 Gloucester

Please be aware that no more meets can be pencilled in for those Counties in the above months.