

# Water Polo Leadership Group

Minutes of the meeting held at 6pm on 01.2.21 via Zoom

**Draft minutes subject to approval by all members of Water Polo Leadership Group.**

**Present:** Toby King – Chair  
 Ben McDonald - Volunteer Lead  
 Chris Stephens – Officials Lead  
 Fiona Pearson – Communications Lead  
 Ian Mackenzie – SOC Representative

**Staff:** Rachel Bayley – Head of Performance Operations  
 Claire Coleman – Head of Development  
 Ekaterina Boyd – Head of Events  
 Norman Leighton – Talent Development Officer

**Guest:** David Meli – Consultant  
 Lindsay Trimmings (Swim England Coach Development Manager)

*(Members are identified by initials)*

## Apologies

Mike Hesketh, Competition lead; Adam Older, Officials Lead

Min No:	
<b>1</b>	<b>Welcome &amp; Apologies</b>
1.1	TK apologised for late delivery of meeting papers. He has addressed this with CC and RB and not expecting the same problem next time. Apologies noted.
<b>2</b>	<b>Review of Previous minutes (07.12.20) and action log</b>
2.1	Minutes of 07.12.20 reviewed and agreed. TK advised new protocol minutes to be published 14 days after meeting. Action log updated.
<b>3</b>	<b>Water Polo Club Awards</b>
3.1	Why have them and what do they do for us.  NL advised that Sarah Dunsbee, Jim Caulfield, Julie Allsop, Andy McGinty and Martin Thomas reviewed awards in 2017. The scheme consisted of 3 awards which were then produced in 2019, with stocks held at warehouse: as yet no sales as little promotion given to these.
3.2	LT confirmed that the club awards are resources aimed at club environment but upon review of existing swimming awards gaps in content and associated resources were identified. A project has been started to look at developing the swimming club awards with intention these be more relevant, including technical, skill based and information pertinent to competitive swimming. From this work LT is approaching all the disciplines to ascertain how/if versions of these awards would work for them. Diving and Artistic have awards in place but expressed interest in outcomes from the proposed swimming study for comprehensive review of their respective existing awards. Group discussed and would also welcome learnings from the swimming review to look at how this would help advice how Water Polo could benefit and how and what these Awards would look like and how these interface with Mini Polo and the Water Polo pathway.

3.3	<p>LT will share project findings across disciplines during and after and learnings and will keep channels open.</p> <p>LT happy to attend WPLG meetings as and when requested.</p> <p><i>LT left the meeting.</i></p>
<b>4</b>	<b>Competition Review Update</b>
	<p>EB proposes a WPLG Competition Lead works with EB and Swim England to ensure a full comprehensive review is undertaken having consulted with clubs and the community about what a competition structure should ideally look like for Water Polo to best suit the needs of all the stakeholders</p> <p>EB outlined proposed timescale: review and insight to be gathered quarter 2, ideally proposal to WPLG for sign off by August; to be included in the regional agreement by September; full launch would be September 2022.</p> <p>Group agreed on the idea of a sub group with as diverse a range of views as possible. Suggestions: Nick Buller, Edi Brkovic, Joanne Mountfield and Jon Lane; sense checking by group members MH and BMcD. NL to be part of sub group. DM agreed to be involved as possible sub-group chair.</p> <p>EB to work up group parameters to be forwarded to TK.</p>
<b>5</b>	<b>Level X update</b>
	<p>EB thanked everyone for feedback with appropriate suggestions being incorporated into Water Polo Level X concept. EB outlined 'leaderboard' concept. After discussion, EB agreed to take on board suggestions on how and when it is published. EB advised aim is to go live end March but engagement resource workshops would need to be held prior to Level X going live. It is proposed the education/resource workshop would be proposed for end February.</p> <p>EB advised group that Swimming, Diving and Artistic Swimming will be going live with Level X dry land skills based concepts, would Water Polo like to consider this concept. EB will forward further information to TK.</p> <p>DM suggested a link up with handball, two small similarly based concept sports.</p>
<b>6</b>	<b>Annual Review</b>
	<p>TK thanked FP, CS, RB, CC for input. This will be finalized and updated with key points from this meeting. Final document to be forwarded to CC/RB for Swim England Branding prior to publication.</p>
<b>7</b>	<b>Strategic Theme – Widening Participation</b>
7.1	<p>Group reviewed key points under this strategic point: Group feel that actions being undertaken with producing videos works towards improving communication. Group discussion felt there were opportunities at Swimming meets for activity around promoting WP from simple presence with a stall with water polo information to games/sessions during down time at competitions.</p>
7.2	<p>Work ongoing to break down barriers to move from swimming to Water Polo as outlined in action log.</p>
7.3	<p>Using Best practice examples: BMcD has kindly agreed to start looking at this – further work to put together case studies on mini polo festival best practices.</p>

7.4	Improving engagement with school and university: good relationships with ESSA, NL chair of sports advisory group to BUCS and will pick this up outside the meeting with TK
7.5	Look at development of WP CPD: Jon Glenn Swim England contact to discuss development for offers for swim schools. TK will contact.
8	<b>Whats Next</b>
8.1	Group has agreed a 45 minute in-between meeting catch up – Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March and Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> April – Swim England representation at these meetings insofar as needed to update on progress that is due. Swim England attendance will be reviewed outside this meeting.
8.2	Regional forums: TK & JW to formalize outside this meeting.
8.3	TK queried implementation plan; asked what/how this works. RB felt this was perhaps a George Wood question and will take forward to SDD meeting next Monday.
9	<b>AOB</b>
9.1	<b>World University Games</b> No confirmation that Games will go ahead but have requested BUCS enter both men's and women's GB team. Deposit of £5000 has been requested which British Swimming are to facilitate, players have made payment to BS. RB added that update received and deposit payment can be pushed back to 18 <sup>th</sup> March, RB advised TMs of situation. Provisional entry applied – confirmation upon payment. Selection policies being completed and will need sign off from Home Nations Leadership Group (TK and RB are members.)
9.2	<b>Commonwealth Tournament</b> There is a proposal for a Commonwealth WP tournament in parallel with Commonwealth Games. NL updated group that there has been interest from a number of countries, notably Canada, Australia, and New Zealand to participate. Need permission from Commonwealth Games, NL has this document for completion. Tournament would have to take place outside 3 month window of Commonwealth Games dates, taking into account BWPL - April would therefore be proposed date. Venue consideration: Birmingham would not be in a position to host – they have declined. CS asked about Coventry as they have new 50m pool. Manchester is the most likely other venue. Could be benefit to National squad training should tournament be held at Manchester through partnership working. Could be creative with holding camps around other pools. CS can help with pools. RB asked that Governance has correct sign off - NL to check with RB and EB
9.3	<b>UK Sport Funding</b> Unsuccessful with original bid. UK Sport advised that an additional pot would be available and bid could be considered for this but DM advised no other information has been received as yet on timescales/conditions.
9.4	<b>Vacant Group Coaching Lead role</b> TK has spoken to Craig Figes, group agreed further conversation be held; should there be any other suggestions please forward direct to TK.
9.5	FP asked for update for guidance for Social Media from Swim England. TK to speak to CC for contact information.

*Date of next full WPLG meeting Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> May - zoom details to follow. Proposed 6-8pm – Regional Managers will probably be invited, but may choose to have separate RM forum.*

*Interim meeting dates: Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 6-7pm and Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> April 6-7pm – zoom invites to follow via email.*