

Water Polo Leadership Group

Minutes of the meeting held on 04.05.21 via Zoom

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

Present: Toby King – Chair
Ben McDonald - Volunteer Lead (RM-SE)
Chris Stephens – Officials Lead
Adam Older – Officials Lead
Ian Mackenzie – SOC Representative

Ad-Hoc: Elliot McHugh – Athlete Representative

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

Regional Managers: Peggy Etiebet – London/Dean Walker – East/Jon Lane/Fi Conway – East Mids./Nigel Greenwood – West Mids./Michael Dixon – NW/Mike Coles - SW/Dawn Cousins NE

(Members are identified by initials)

Apologies: Fiona Pearson/Craig Figes/Mike Hesketh

Min No:	
1	Welcome & Apologies
1.1	Toby welcomed Elliot McHugh as ad-hoc member to represent Young People.
<i>UPDATE LONDON REGION</i>	<i>Peggy advised group that Otter will host Women's Water Polo Festival 10-11th July @ Crawley. Cheltenham Water Polo Festival taking place 3rd/4th July @ Cheltenham Lido. Should you have any questions please contact Peggy directly (details added to chat)</i>
2	Follow up: Regional Managers Forum 15.04.21
2.1	<u>Pool Finder</u> Ambiguity with listings on pool finder not showing WP Clubs thus limiting new members finding clubs. BMcD leading on this and asked regions to forward information to him as soon as possible. Data on numbers of members at clubs also requested to ensure comprehensive data across the OMS system to make sure baseline can be achieved. Deadline for data 10 th May.
2.2	<u>Webinars</u> RM's had requested refresher referee webinars be available as in first lockdown. CS and AO have been working on new referee course. NL advised that Damian Taylor and NL had worked on webinars on new rules and how to interpret which had been distributed, NL to send link to CS for utilization in webinars. CS advised FINA have channels available on YouTube. Updates will be advised.
2.3	<u>Competition Review (IM)</u> Project very much at information gathering stage. RM's will be contacted as will youth and schools to ensue as broader view as possible.

2.4	<p><u>RM Updates</u> NE returned to pool (Ponds Forge) with 75 attendees, next schedule for Sat. 8th. SW returned had over 100 attendees, next one in May with possible increase in number. London are struggling to return as Crystal Palace closed and awaiting structural reports. East Region consider Regional Academy unnecessary travel, pool time and costs. SE not comfortable starting until June. NW running over different age groups at MAC and Blackpool and hoping to run joint NE NW events.</p>
3	Review Action Log
	Action Log updated
4	Performance/Competition update (inc. NAGS, IR's NA's etc)
	<p>EB advised Level X opened (under 18's) 12th April, as of today two clubs with four teams signed up. Concept is open to CAT. 2 members. Prior to Level X opening to over 18's EB asked group for feedback on appetite for this initiative. Feedback whilst all agree good concept, there is limited access/time for water; currently most members are CAT 1. Clubs are focusing on sessions for BWPL/Water Polo Festivals.</p> <p>NAGS: no concrete information as of yet. Face to face national competition is to be discussed at Senior (Board) level – strategy/key priorities as competition is imperative to all NGB's.</p> <p>Inter-regionals: DW has spoken to Joanne Mounfield who advised that they are hoping to have 08's Nov/Dec but not confirmed. Could be possible clash – EB will contact JM directly.</p> <p>BWPL calendar has next two seasons on website.</p> <p>NL has received 111 replies across 05/06 age group invites for events May/June leading up to National Academy later this year.</p> <p>PE raised clash of BWPL with EU Nations; RB sensed that there was no movement with BWPL more over how do we work with our athlete's to work through this. TK commented that his also affects Coaches. NL/RB to review.</p> <p>PE asked NL if there was scope for any new attendees to regional academy. NL advised open to discussion, contact NL directly.</p> <p>RB updated that successful retention of DiSE cohort athletes (26) as there was a massive increase in sports applying for this funding stream is a great achievement. Work is being undertaken for comprehensive DiSE information on website with selection parameters, programme dates for the next two years. New cohort will be inducted September.</p> <p>CC asked that the Return to Water 2.0 survey is completed where there is a reduction in water time/lack of water, especially where you are part of a multi-disciplinary club. If you have not seen/got the survey contact andrew.jack@swimming.org as he is development lead for this project and can work with Business Engagement Team.</p>
5	Commonwealth Tournament
	<p>Paper going forward to SOC 18th May. Working hard to make this happen Work around underwriting/financial risk and logistics ongoing.</p> <p>TK asked group if they have any connections/ideas as to operator or authority who would be able to work with this to let TK know.</p>
6	Strategic Theme – Participation/Development
	Item adjourned

7	Officials Update
	<p>Two national referee courses undertaken. Based on feedback course has been tweaked and is now ready for national rollout. Table officials course also ready to go. CC advised that Marcus Henson will be lead for Water Polo and CC will link MH with CS. CC also advised MH will also work on certification CS aim is to engage and have Regions working on delivering courses out to their clubs. Monitor number of delivered courses in approx. 6 months' time to plug gaps.</p> <p>NL offered opportunity for officials to attend Millfield. AO agreed this would be a good chance/environment.</p> <p>CS feels that it is important that as restrictions ease courses should be run in person.</p>
8	Coaching Update
	<p>RB is meeting with CF over coming week, she is aware he has reached out to Age Group Coaches.</p>
9	AOB
	<p>TK felt that there were mixed messages with the proposed water polo festivals. Take to Home Nations meeting 5.5.21 to clear up a number of queries.</p> <p>EMcH felt it would be advantageous to present statistics for each competition to increase that competitive edge; i.e. top goal scorer of the month, this could possibly help with engagement of swimmers to polo; raising the profile. BMcD agreed. TK engaging with swimmers is on the radar but we need to understand what the current perception of lapsed and current swimmers is to Water Polo. CC is waiting on confirmation of a Twitter account and this could also be a good outlet for this sort of message to engage a wider audience. CC awaiting confirmation of a 'Comms handbook' which will have SE guidelines across social media parameters, including branding, colours etc.</p> <p>RB keen on emerging voices of athletes on the programme across their journey; role models are generally well received by athletes and would be a good initiative to look at. RB to connect with EMH offline.</p> <p>NL: Nutritional talks have taken place, numbers have declined with return to pool but these are now available to buy on the webshop.</p> <p>EMcH has potentially time coming up and would be willing to look at talks</p>
	<p>Suggested one hour meeting for end of June when further news on restrictions. JW to create doodle poll.</p>