

Swim England Swimming Leadership Group

Minutes of the meeting held 2nd September 2021

Draft minutes subject to approval by email

Present:	Tom Baster	Chairperson
	Barry Saunders	Competitions Lead
	John Hidle	Licensing Lead
	Jeroen Peters	Masters Working Group Chair
	Ian Mackenzie	Specialist Member (League Swimming)
	Mark Davies	Technical Officials Lead
	Grant Robins	Head of Swimming Talent
	Claire Coleman	Head of Development
	Ekaterina Boyd	Head of Events
	Richard Blackshaw	(To be) Interim Head of Swimming Talent
	Helen Akers	Group Administrator

Apologies:	Martin Lees	Para Swimming Manager
	Alex Harrison	SOC Liaison

Min No:
21/1

Introduction

TB welcomed RB, who has been appointed as Interim Head of Swimming Talent following GR's appointment as Team Leader for CWG2022. GR will remain on the group as a specialist member.

21/2

Action Log

The action log was updated. A number of items were agenda items and a number were rolled forward.

21/3

SOC Update

There was no update, the next SOC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 14th September.

21/4

Development

21/4.a

Team Update

CC outlined the purpose of the report that had been circulated in advance of the meeting.

21/4.b

Return to Water

Circulated papers give the headlines from the survey, which will now be closed as it has reached a natural conclusion. The data will be used for planning support for clubs for the next 12/18 months. CC gave additional detail around the selection of the target area of financial sustainability.

- 21/4.c **Club Awards**
Discussion of the circulated paper gave rise to a number of questions in relation to the take up of the current awards, the promotion of them, their intended purpose and their value to the club and coaching communities. There were also a number of suggestions of alternative products to be considered. CC to formulate a response to the paper, for circulation to the group before submission.

21/5 **Competition Planning**

21/5.a **National Events**

- **Winter Short Course Championships 2021**

To be held 3-5 December at Ponds Forge, planning meeting on 6 September. Converted QTs will be accepted. Conditions and the entry pack to be published by the end of September.

- **Summer Meet 2022**

It is proposed that there will be a break after the British Summer Championships to avoid a clash with CWG2022, suggested dates to be 5-9 August at Ponds Forge. Once confirmed, this will need to be publicised because of the move further into the school holiday period. Qualification process is yet to be determined.

21/5.b **Level X**

Series 2 is now complete; the leader board is ready for testing prior to publishing. Medals will be available at £3 each inc p&p.

Following a discussion, it was agreed to not to continue with a Level X option for the time being but to encourage clubs to hold Level 4 events, whilst holding Level X in reserve should future restrictions dictate.

21/5.c **Festival of Swimming**

TB reiterated that this event could be considered a success, due in no small part to the number of events that were held, and expressed his thanks to all those who made the events possible.

21/5.d **Regional Short Course**

Whilst consideration had been given to a festival style event, most Regions have decided to run as close to "normal" as possible. TB to circulate a paper with broad guidance on QT setting, source of entry times, events to include etc., subject to whatever Covid arrangements have to be in place at the time. It was confirmed that Regions can continue to include mixed relays if they wish but they will not be included at National level.

21/6 **Swimming**

21/6.a **Talent Update**

Following circulation of a written report, GR expressed his thanks to everyone for the last 18 months and the hope that things would become easier going forward. Following a question, he clarified that the EARTT locations referenced would be in addition to those previously in place.

21/6.b **Festival of Swimming**

PIG are gathering feedback but the event has to be considered a success purely because of the number of competitors. It did also highlight some coaching issues to be picked up.

- 21/6.c **Commonwealth Games 2022**
10 athletes will be selected as part of Phase 1 after Tokyo, although the names cannot be announced as there is no athlete agreement yet in place. GR outlined his ideas for making use of the planned 2-day test event to incorporate experience for the Pathway athletes. There were a number of suggestions as to other aspects of the event that could be tested as part of the exercise.
- 21/7 Para-Swimming**
- 21/7.a Whilst a written report was submitted, it had not been circulated to the group and it was agreed that it would be carried forward to the next meeting.
- 21/7.b **Secondary Strobes**
Whilst the industry continues to face significant challenges, it was felt inappropriate to try and legislate compulsory provision at this time, but the issue does need to be revisited.
JH advised that the current meet licensing position on secondary strobes continues to be that meet conditions must state whether one will be available or not.
- 21/8 Open Water**
- 21/8.a EB advised that it had not been possible to progress the planned festival in the timescales.
- 21/8.b It was noted that the Scottish OW event planned for the weekend of 4/5 September had been cancelled due to the presence of algae.
- 21/9 Masters**
- 21/9.a **Swim England National Masters Championships**
This will go ahead 29-31 October at Ponds Forge, under the guidance of a small working party (JP, EB plus Tony Ward and Bernie Buck).
Entry conditions have been published with a 2-phased entry system commencing on 8 September. There will be no qualifying times this year and venue capacity numbers are due to be confirmed on 18 September.
- 21/9.b **Masters Inter-Counties**
7 Regions have so far committed to holding the event, which will be across 4 venues.
- 21/9.c **Masters Working Group**
The advert for 5 members is now live on Careers in Aquatics, with a closing date of 23 September.
- 21/10 Leagues**
- 21/10.a A meeting is scheduled for 12 September to decide how to proceed, given the differences in restrictions across operators and locations. As yet there is no firm decision and it may be that there needs to be a virtual element to take account of current of future restrictions.
- 21/10.b The final of the Arena Junior League is taking place on Sunday 19th September in Coventry, with no restrictions currently anticipated.
- 21/10.c GR reinforced the benefits of league competition and offered assistance with any relaunch activity required.

- 21/11 Officials**
- 21/11.a **British Swimming Referee Exam**
MD and HA outlined the current position – candidates’ opinions on various options are currently being canvassed.
- 21/11.b **Swim England Swimming Officials Group**
Meeting to be held 8 September.
- 21/11.c **Judge 1**
The deadlines for completing the qualification have now been reinstated and publicised.
- 21/11.d **Commonwealth Games 2022**
The selection process is underway for the remaining technical officials’ places. There was some discussion about capitalising on the enthusiasm of those not selected, TB and GR to explore opportunities.
- 21/12 Meet Licensing**
- 21/12.a JH gave some background on the current position:
- Some operators have no restrictions in place, others aren’t allowing meets or are restricting capacity
 - As a result, some Regions are seeing close to normal activity on meets whilst other are seeing very little
 - Due to changes in club personnel, there is a relatively large number of new organisers who are consequently needing more guidance
- Overall there seems to be a wish to return to normality.
- 21/12.b CC offered Business Engagement support to work with operators not allowing meets, but they are difficult to identify as the potential meet organisers are not therefore applying for licences.
- 21/12.c JH and BS to discuss an appeal from a NE Region club against the decision to refuse a licence on the basis of a fixture clash.
- 21/12.d BS requested an updated list of technical officials to assist with checking that licensing criteria are being complied with, CC advised that this will hopefully be resolved shortly.
- 21/12.e It was agreed that there was no requirement to protect the Commonwealth Games dates for sports other than swimming from other events.
- 21/13 Any Other Business**
- 21/13.a It was agreed that Counties should be encouraged to plan to run their Championships using the normal programme as far as possible. TB to recirculate previous guidance – it may be that the recipients’ list needs to be more specific.
- 21/14 Date of Next Meeting**
The next meeting will be on 11 November 2021 at 6:30pm