

Diving Leadership Group

18th November 2025

12:15 – 13:30

Attendees:

Lottie Thompson	Chair (LT)
Sam Buck	Coaching Lead (SB)
Alex Harrison	Sport Operations Committee (SOC) Leadership Group Liaison (AH)
Sally Freeman	Competition Planning Lead (SF)
Richard Blackshaw	Head of Performance (RB)
Claire Coleman	Swim England Head of Development (CC)
Gareth Picken	Swim England Sport Development Administrator (GP)
Joel Trenchard	Volunteering Lead (JT)
Sarah Barrow	Technical Officials Lead (SBw)

Apologies:

Sophie Bolton	Competition Planning Support (SBn)
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MINUTES
Welcome and Action Log
LT welcomed everyone to the meeting. The actions were reviewed by the group, and all are ongoing.
SOC Update
AH updated the group that there is an ongoing internal staff restructure withing Swim England and whilst roles are still being confirmed, the structure has been finalised. A Governance group and Steering group have been created to support with the Governance Review. Increases in membership fees have now been agreed upon by board and have recently been circulated to the regional teams and then to member clubs. The next SOC meeting will take place on the 9 th December.
Development Update
The development report was circulated to the group ahead of the meeting. 8 diving clubs have completed the Club Health Tracker. CC asked the group what other ways the project can reach clubs as the completion rate represents a low percentage of the member diving clubs.

Additionally, the National Development Day will be taking place tomorrow where there will be a focus to align work with the regional teams alongside the new strategic philosophy for working with clubs. CC will be providing more details about how this work will look for diving over the course of 2026.

LT suggested sharing the CHT through the TDC chat to promote the CHT.

CC raised that the main issue for clubs is the loss of their individual login details. CC suggested that clubs should contact the Club Development inbox as GP is managing the reissuing of login details.

CF raised that she had pushed the CHT with club coaches through some targeted communication.

SF joined at 12:34.

Events Update

This was postponed to the next meeting.

Competitions Lead

SF raised with the group that the national skills test has been updated and through reaching out to programmes, the qualifying standards have been tested.

Entry packs are ready to be circulated to clubs with updated competition conditions.

CC raised the potential for a review of the Diving Handbook if the focus is for it to be accessible for everyone to understand the sport.

The group was happy to review the handbook to establish any areas that require updating to make the document more accessible for parents and those external to the discipline.

Action – CC to work with SBw regarding the Diving Handbook refresh.

Coaching Lead Update

SB raised with the group that the Rigging CPD has been reinstated with the first course taking place in Luton in November.

A regional development day took place in London last week with positive feedback from coaches received but they would like a form of CPD delivered as part of the day so that there could be a qualification achieved as part of attending the day.

CC mentioned that this could be looked into by Craig McCulloch (Head of Coaching) as he is reviewing the offer to coaches as part of the wider Coaching Strategy.

Action – CC and SB to speak with Craig McCulloch regarding the CPD courses which can be offered to the coaching community and what can be offered during regional development days.

Volunteer Lead Update

- Recorders course

JT updated the group that Laura Tathium has been in touch regarding building role profiles within the discipline for Aquatics GB. JT is working with SBw to ensure that every role has a profile.

JT and LT will be working together on a handbook for announcers given the critical part they play in the running and safety of competitions. JT has also reached out to Josh Devine for support with the development of the handbook.

This year one Recorders course was held during the Armada Cup in Plymouth. JT would like to hold another course next year, ideally in the South/South East at their regional championships.

AH left the meeting at 13:03.

Technical Lead Update

SBw has reached out for J1 course presenters for potential courses in 2026.

SBw and LT had a conversation about potentially holding a J2 course at a regional development day as there would be a number of divers taking part with the potential to create a competition scenario for the J2 practical assessment.

LT raised that 8 people passed the J2 course which has recently taken place.

Talent Lead

Talent Games have recently taken place. CF thanked everyone for attending and hopes to hold the event again.

Youth squads have been selected for the upcoming season.

Performance development centre days in Sandwell, Plymouth and London have taken place and a further two separate days will be taking place in Leeds next week and Newcastle the week after.

AOB

LT raised the J pads, which are used for inputting scores at competitions, may need replacing in the coming years. LT to coordinate a meeting with those who hold the sets to establish the condition of all sets, and coordinate replacements to potentially lower the overall cost of replacing.

Action – LT to organise a meeting with J pad holders to establish the condition of J pads across the county. LT to reach out to the regional managers through GP.

LT further mentioned that Malcolm Taylor, is no longer going to be involved with Dive Recorder from the end of the year and a team led by Andy Hewat will be taking over Dive Recorder and its ongoing maintenance.

Date of Next Meeting

Subject to approval from the group, the next meeting is scheduled for the 20th January.