



Middlesex County Amateur Swimming Association

(www.middlesexswimming.com)

Minutes of the Executive Meeting held on 14 March 2023

Via
Zoom at 7.30pm

Item		Action
	<p>Those in attendance:- Colin Jones (President), Gillian Neal, Phillip Prentice, Pam Crofts, Marc Barrott, Leah Pullen, Ann O'Leary, Frances Prentice, Jeanette Edmiston, Andy Dixon, Alicia Lai, Evelyn Ingleton, Jo Martin, Jacek Reder, Trevor Hyde, Flo Barnes (from 8.15pm), Brian Kapp (from 8.20pm) and Susie Breslin (from 8.20pm)</p> <p>Apologies for absence:- Ralph Shortland, Andy Woska, Ian Woollard, Maria Abrams, Karin Vazirani, Fred Willey, Charlotte Lea</p>	
	The President opened the meeting at 7.32pm	
XC23/014	<p>Minutes of last meeting.</p> <p>Minutes agreed as accurate as they had been circulated.</p>	
XC22/015	<p>Matters Arising</p> <p>Frances Prentice queried whether the Honorary Life Presidents had been told. Gillian Neal said that she was not sure as to exactly what she was supposed to do having never dealt with this before. It was agreed that they should receive a congratulatory letter from the County and then their names are to be put into the Handbook.</p>	GN / FB
XC23/016	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>London Region is holding their ACM on 1 April and requested representation from the County. Unable to represent the County if already representing a club. Colin Jones, Phil Prentice and Frances Prentice will be attending for the County. Several others will be there for their clubs so plenty of coverage for Middlesex.</p>	
XC22/017	<p>County Championships 2023 – Weekend 2 at Hillingdon</p> <p>Colin Jones wanted to set the scene for the CC23. Most of second weekend went as planned. There were a couple of issues. We only seem to be</p>	

Item		Action
	<p>focussing on the negatives, which is a shame. We had a few issues, they had an impact, we found a solution in relation to both 50m events and the parking fiasco. A good thing to come out of it, there has been lots of discussions since regarding venues, formats, programmes etc. It all will help moving forwards.</p> <p>Frances Prentice stated that she hoped we would go through it in more detail. She commented on it being a bit of a disaster financially. Colin Jones agreed but how do we minimise the loss. All of it has been part of the discussion and suggestions. We were faced with extra costs at very short notice.</p> <p>Marc Barrot said that we would not go into full detail now. He just wanted to stress that there is no hope of running a full long course championships at a profit – it will be a loss. Leah Pullen had suggested running as short course to boost profits. Running over 3 weekends we should at least break even. However, the Championships should be run as long course as the window is in long course season. He had 2 questions: how can we minimise the loss – there are some suggestions in the pipeline; how do we make up the loss – via other competitions / other sources of revenue. We now have a new coaching team so this is being looked at.</p> <p>Phil Prentice commented on the finance side – at the LAC we made a profit as we had a bigger in-take of swimmers.</p> <p>Pam Crofts stated that the Swimming Committee made a decision to fulfil the coaches’ request for a more elite competition following the survey.</p> <p>Frances Prentice said that we should prune down the longer distance events.</p> <p>Gillian Neal stated that that was grossly unfair to the distance swimmers who already have to pay more to enter anyway.</p> <p>Colin Jones said that we need to look at the whole even – programme, number of heats, venues etc. All options are currently on the table and we are planning on getting the coaches (via the coaching team) more involved.</p> <p>Marc Barrot confirmed that we had the LAC from early morning until 5pm. However, if we over-ran, then the cost was £1,000 per hour from 5pm – 7pm. We are constrained by time. Given the current club structure, we have 2 very large clubs in the County (Chelsea & Westminster and Camden) with lots of elite swimmers. The more elite we make the Championships, the fewer clubs will be involved. Suggestion has been to bring back consideration times to help the smaller clubs to get swimmers qualifying.</p> <p>Andy Dixon commented that we do not want it to go back to feeling like just another level 3 meet. We can not avoid it being disproportionate.</p> <p>Pam Crofts added that where clubs do not qualify for the Championships, their swimming will have something to strive for to achieve CC QTs. It has</p>	

Item		Action
	<p>to be accepted that the fastest swimmers get in and, if necessary, swim faster!</p> <p>Phil Prentice queried what the quality of swimmers were last year. Leah Pullen confirmed that they were faster this year and this had been a conscious decision as the coaches wanted it more elite.</p> <p>Frances Prentice stated that as she had been a statistician, she was going to look at it and report back.</p> <p>Jeanette Edmiston said that we need to look at the format. If that is not correct then the bigger clubs will not send their best swimmers. Gillian Neal stated that if the swimmers do not attend a County meet, then they cannot be selected for Inter-Counties. Marc Barrot said that the swimmers do not seem to care about that. Gillian Neal said that was sad to hear – it was an honour to be selected to represent the County when she swam. Marc Barrot said he had asked their top swimmers if they knew about the Inter-Counties and they said not really, only really interested in Nationals.</p> <p>Pam Crofts said that Adam Taylor (CSCSC head coach and new County Coach) seems to understand the Inter-Counties and will, hopefully, have more favourable news on that.</p> <p>Jeanette Edmiston wanted to make a comment, on behalf of Andy Woska, as feedback from the coaches regarding the catering. They were not happy with the food at Hillingdon. Apparently, there was not much and they were being charged £15 per head. Leah Pullen stated that it was not because the food was not good but that it ran out. Too many J1Ts turned up who were not in the figures. Jeanette Edmiston commented that Claudine's standard was better. Pam Crofts commented that we charged the same at both LAC and Hillingdon but food cost £27p/h at LAC.</p> <p>Frances Prentice stated that we need Swimming Committee minutes on the website. Where are they? Marc Barrot to sort out.</p>	<p>MB</p>
<p>XC22/018</p>	<p>Role of Counties</p> <p>Colin Jones said that there was due to be a session on 26 March with London Region. However, that has been cancelled due to low response. Colin is waiting to hear what alternative arrangements might be put in place.</p> <p>Frances Prentice commented that we are the only full County within London Region so the other Counties will be less likely to attend.</p>	
<p>XC22/019</p>	<p>Treasurer's Report</p> <p>Phil Prentice's report had been sent out prior to the meeting.</p> <p>The main area of discussion was the refund for 50m swims at Hillingdon. So far – just under £700 has been claimed so far and is waiting to be paid. Pam Crofts thought that an Officers' Decision had been made to make the refunds. Phil Prentice said he did not recall that. Gillian Neal confirmed that the refunds had been agreed to be made but that we asked him to hold off</p>	

Item		Action
	<p>paying Hillingdon as we wanted to try and get the cost of the refunds deducted from the hire costs.</p> <p>Brian Kapp confirmed that when he went to try the backstroke ledges at Hillingdon, the wiring for the pads at the turn end was defunct. Marc Barrot asked if the wiring was going to be repaired. Pam Crofts confirmed it would not as it was built into the structure of the pool, same as at Southbury Road.</p> <p>Jeanette Edmiston also queried the loss of earnings that was being charged by the pool and stated that it has never been properly quantified / scheduled. Colin Jones confirmed that he is in touch with Chris Parker and he will have a proper look into the fees for loss of earnings for the swim lessons etc.</p>	
XC22/020	<p>Committee Reports</p> <p>No reports received.</p> <p>Frances Prentice questioned why we are not getting any other reports. Leah Pullen said it was because none were being sent in. Frances Prentice then asked why we were not getting a report from the trophy secretary and commented that she thought that Leah had pushed Jo into the role. Leah Pullen stated quite vehemently that she did not push Jo into it and that she found Frances' comment very rude.</p> <p>Jo Martin stated that she was neither pushed nor coerced into the role and she was happy to do it. She did not, however, realise that she had to produce a report. Gillian Neal queried exactly what she was supposed to be reporting on bearing in mind the trophies were only awarded at the County Championships once a year.</p>	
XC22/021	<p>Storage Facility</p> <p>Colin Jones confirmed that we had outgrown the current storage unit and Leah Pullen confirmed that it had a lot of stuff in it. Frances Prentice stated that the trophies were taking up the room. Leah Pullen confirmed that the Swimming Committee had agreed to go for the bigger unit. Frances Prentice stated that the storage unit was not secure enough for the trophies.</p> <p>Pam Crofts reminded Frances Prentice that the Exec had agreed to not present the trophies and to giving plaques to each swimmer instead. Brian Kapp confirmed that the swimmers do not want the trophies and they all seemed really happy with the glass plaques they received which they get to keep.</p> <p>Frances Prentice said that it had not been brought to the Exec and Pam Crofts again confirmed that it had been agreed at the Exec.</p> <p>Phil Prentice stated that the plaques were expensive – about £15 each. Gillian Neal stated that we paid for engraving anyway which was about the same price. Frances Prentice stated that the County engraver only charged £10 per trophy and he had commented as to why he had not received any work from us.</p>	

Item		Action
	<p>Brian Kapp confirmed that he was checking to see which trophies were hallmarked as silver.</p> <p>Proposal to move to bigger unit by Trevor Hyde, seconded by Brian Kapp. 17 for 1 against. Motion carried.</p> <p>Brian Kapp confirmed that he will ensure that all silver trophies are photographed and noted. Frances Prentice stated that she wanted her trophy returned to her as it is solid silver. Brian Kapp confirmed he will arrange.</p> <p>Alicia Lai questioned that if no-one wants the trophies (i.e. the swimmers), then what is the point of keeping them? Pam Crofts stated that a lot of them have history. Brian Kapp also commented that some of them are “memorial” trophies. He suggested that a sub-committee is formed to vet the trophies, report back to the Exec and then decide what to do with them. This was agreed as a good idea.</p>	BK
XC22/022	<p>London Board</p> <p>Flo Barnes apologised for being late but the London Board meeting had only just ended. She said there was nothing specific to report but she may know more after the AGM.</p> <p>Jeanette Edmiston also confirmed that the last call was cancelled and the next meeting is next week. Everything for the Summer Championships is on the website.</p>	
XC22/023	<p>Welfare</p> <p>No report received.</p>	
XC22/024	<p>Training Camp / Development Days / Overseas Trip</p> <p>Leah Pullen confirmed that the next training day is in May.</p> <p>Jeanette Edmiston stated that the Swimming Committee had decided to put the away trip on the back burner for now. It will be considered again for 2024.</p>	
XC22/013	<p>AOB</p> <p>(i) Gillian Neal confirmed that Fred Willey had sent an e-mail confirming that the request for money for Water Polo was not required at the moment. There was some uncertainty as to what London Region wanted to do so Claudio was putting his plans on hold for the moment so that there would be no issues between the County and the Region.</p> <p>(ii) Brian Kapp queried whether, as he appeared to be the main mode of transportation for County equipment, could he put his mileage into one form rather than having to claim for every journey. Phil Prentice</p>	

Item		Action
	<p>agreed that, for Brian, he would be happy to accept a spreadsheet with the mileage on it.</p> <p>(iii) Jeanette Edmiston said that Marc Barrot had done a lot of work in setting up club co-ordinators for volunteers (tech and non-tech) and that that appeared to be working well. Well done Marc. Marc Barrot said that we should be making sure that all clubs were able to staff and run their own competitions. He was worried that there would not be enough people to run the May meets. He said he has to ask people rather than waiting for people to come forward and volunteer. Trevor Hyde commented that he got a better response when he used to telephone people than sending a letter. Pam Crofts agreed but stated that GDPR made it very difficult to do now.</p> <p>(iii) Brian Kapp commented that the new County high-viz tabards were working very well and it made it obvious how many people were needed to make the meets run.</p> <p>(iv) Alicia Lai said that we seemed to need to run a PR exercise to get officials. A lot of parents do not realise that we are all volunteers.</p> <p>(v) Phil Prentice queried who is the new County Coaching team. Jeanette Edmiston confirmed that we have 3 people: Adam Taylor (CSCSC); Chris Pullen (ESC); and Nathan Muhamad (Haringey Aquatics). A list of what we need them to look at has been sent to them and the coaches will report back to us. They are talking about setting up a coaches forum too.</p> <p>(vi) Flo Barnes confirmed that hard copies of the Handbook are available.</p>	
	<p>Meeting closed at 9.30pm</p> <p>Next meeting is Wednesday, 14 May 2023 at 7.30pm. To be confirmed whether via Zoom or in person.</p>	

Signed..... Date.....