



Soundwell Swimming club Committee Meeting Minutes

Location: Zoom
Date: 22nd February 2024

Present: Jon, Sarah, Paul Head, Simon Gale, Max Adams, Louise Phillips, Claire Kerslake, Marie Trott, Sue Long, Russell Smith, Nicola Proctor, Emma Dodd, Corinne Moore, Gloria Gajdacs, Zsolt Varkonyi, Matt Chubb, Tara Simcock, Helen Mills, Fiona Hartley

Apologies: None

Agenda Items:

1. Welcome, Updates and news – Sarah Taylor
2. Treasurer Update – Matt Chubb
3. Squad Fee increase for 2024 - Matt Chubb
4. Welfare Update – Claire Kerslake
5. Head Coach Update – Jon Wills
6. LTS Update – Emma Dodd
7. Camp Update – Emma Dodd
8. Disputes and Complaints
9. AOB

Key Discussion Points from 22.2.2024

Ref	Key Discussions
1.	Sarah welcomed the meeting and thanked everyone for attending. <u>National Update:</u> Sarah attended the Swim England Chair's workshop, which is designed to brief Chair's on their role and also to provide updates on Swim England policies. Nothing came up we weren't already aware of, but there was again significant discussion on supervision ratios, and Swim England over-regulating clubs, which has an adverse impact on smaller clubs in particular. <u>Regional Update:</u> South West Region released the entry pack for Age Group and Youth regional championships in April and May. Slight change this year, with both Age Group weekends being in April, with the Youth championship being on the early May Bank Holiday as usual. The deadline for entries is 2 days after our Level 3 qualifier. Sarah England will be circulating the link to entries soon, and we will update all entries for times achieved at our Meet before submitting.

	<u>County Update:</u> Soundwell are the host club for volunteers for the final day of Counties this Sunday. Thanks to everyone who is supporting. We have filled the rota. <u>Club Update:</u> Our Level 3 Meet closed nearly 6 weeks early due to significant interest, and it meant some of our usual clubs missed the opportunity to join us. The email for volunteers has come out, and we'll be encouraging as many people as possible to sign up, which is via the Swim-Meet tool, in the same way as officials sign up. Club Champs have been agreed jointly with Bristol North, and is in the Competition Calendar. It will be at Keynsham as before. Only change is introduction of a single age bands at the lower end to encourage younger swimmers. We are working through the programme with Bristol North, which should be final soon, and they will send off for a licence. Club Kit – With some help from Zach Weekes' mum we are updating the kit order form to offer a slightly reduced range of stock and will be sending out the link soon in time for an end of March order date. We have t-shirts due back from the embroiderer soon, which we will offer to swimmers in advance of our Meet. Kate Andrews has kindly agreed to take over kit ordering.
2. & 3.	<u>Treasurer update and Club Fee increase 2024</u> Matt took the meeting through the projected cash flow forecast for 2024. He mentioned that the latest renewal from Kingswood Leisure Centre increased our rental payments by 7.5% due to pressures with energy costs. In 2023 the Club made a loss, and this, combined with the increase in pool costs, means that we need to look at increasing squad fees. Sarah provided some context on the finances, including the loss of the majority of the Club's reserves during COVID, including the cancellation of our Level 3 Meet just before the first lockdown, and reduced meets for some time afterwards, which substantially reduced the Club's ability to raise much needed funds to subsidise pool costs. Whilst the Open Meets are running normally and successful, rising pool costs continue to put pressure on finances. After some discussion, the meeting voted to increase squad fees by 10% from 1st April 2024. Sarah had an action to write to parents providing context for the decision. It was decided that due to the number of new joiners in Learn to Swim in March, and the fact that LTS tends to run to a school year, fees for LTS would be increased from September 2024 onwards. The committee will continue to look at other means of fundraising, including sponsorship and grants. Squad and Learn to Swim numbers are increasing, and the Club continues to target having squads at 90% capacity as a minimum.
4.	<u>Welfare Update</u> Claire mentioned that the Welfare team are supporting parents and swimmers continuously in the background. There were a couple of Safeguarding incidents at Counties which were all dealt with quickly. Claire continues to work on ensuring Team Managers get Diabetes training. Emma Dodd and Max Adams are currently looking at one course which has been identified and will feed back to the Welfare team on how good it is.

	Claire mentioned that, following conflicting information about photography rules, she had sought definitive guidance from the Swim England Welfare Team. They have confirmed that photographs should be highlighting the sport in all aspects, and as a result photographs of children are allowed in their swimwear (without Club t-shirts). However, Claire raised that in her experience we should always think carefully about the purpose of the photos and what we are trying to do.
5.	<u>Head Coach Update</u> <u>Training</u> Training is going well. Jon has introduced pace charts to the top squad as a training aid. They have been put together by the Swim England talent team for podium potential swimmers, and Jon was fortunate enough to get a copy for our swimmers. These will ensure swimmers are training at the correct intensity/pacing within all the sessions. If this is proven to be successful, we will also roll it out to across RA. Jon has also submitted NP swimmers' information for the chareQter survey, which is a reflection tool to see where swimmers are sitting within their OADF characteristics. This tool will be used only for the top squad as there is a considerable amount of time needed to complete each one. <u>Competition</u> County Champs – The second weekend of counties was a hit! Lots of strong swimming across all the age bands. Great experience for all the younger swimmers and a great opportunity to build race craft for our regional/national level swimmers. Lots of early season long course PBs. We are looking forward to this Sunday, which is the last weekend. Lisbon international – Roger D. competed across multiple events and gained invaluable experience racing abroad. <u>Misc</u> Through emails with Bristol Penguins about a joint Level 2 meet later in the year they seem keen to try and get something going. They are hesitant this year to put on a level 2, due to current competition commitments, but would be happy to hold a one-day gala with all 50s and 100IM. A massive thank you to all who have helped cover the sessions whilst Jon was away on Regional and National Development camps. Great feedback and sessions ran well.
6.	<u>LTS update:</u> Due to a local swim school significantly reducing their intake, Emma had received a considerable amount of enquiries about swimming lessons. With thanks to Heather and Alison we have been able to add a second class in each slot on Sunday and Wednesdays from 1st March. This is fantastic news for our LTS programme, and for the Club.
7.	<u>Camp update:</u> Emma told the meeting that direct flights had been booked to Crete. The cost was slightly higher than budgeted, but represented the best solution when journey time and cost of coaches to and from the airport were considered.

	Emma was focussing on camp fundraising next to try to reduce the impact of the additional flight costs. She has arranged some bag packing at Tesco in Yate in March, and an Easter Hamper raffle, which would be drawn on Easter Sunday at our Level 3 Meet. Other fundraising activity for camp would take place in due course.
8.	Disputes and complaints: None
9.	AOB: None
	OUR NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON THURSDAY 28th MARCH AT 7.30PM ON ZOOM