



Soundwell Swimming club Committee Meeting Minutes

Location: Zoom
Date: 18th January 2024

Present: Jon Wills, Sarah Taylor, Matt Chubb, Emma Dodd, Marie Trott, Claire Kerslake, Helen Mills, Louise Phillips

Apologies: Sue Long

Agenda Items:

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

Key Discussion Points from 18.1.2024

Ref	Key Discussions
1.	Sarah welcomed the meeting and thanked everyone for attending. <u>National Update:</u> Sarah is due to attend the Swim England Chair's workshop on 19th January, and the National Chair's forum the following Wednesday. There were no other significant updates that aren't being covered elsewhere in the meeting. Swim England have introduced an automated results upload portal which means that host clubs can load results on to Swim England Rankings directly, which means times are on Rankings in a couple of hours, rather than waiting for it to be done manually. Much easier for clubs and takes some pressure off when deadlines for entries into Regionals and Nationals are quite tight. <u>Regional Update:</u> Sarah attended the Regional Chair's forum in December, which was well attended and very useful. A main point of discussion was the cost of poolside passes for coaches and Team Managers, particularly in light of the new supervision rules, with many smaller clubs saying that the costs of these were putting a significant burden on them. All on the call agreed that charging large amounts for these passes was unnecessary, and the Region said they were reducing theirs to £5 in 2024. All clubs attending who hosted

meets agreed to look at their pricing, and as a result we have reduced our passes for £5 for our March meet.

County Update:

Emma attended the County Exec meeting on Monday on behalf of the Club. The County Constitution will be looked at in advance of the next meeting and Exec members will be asked to vote on this. Cheltenham Artistic Swimming Club was welcomed to the County and the Exec.

Funding

This was touched on as questions had been raised why the County opts out of Regional affiliation in this area. It was made clear that they have only opted out of the Bursary funding scheme as it was felt that the county could better support clubs as the bursary available from the Region was for individuals and the funding can only be applied for by volunteers for courses so wasn't seen to benefit clubs with professionally paid coaches. The processing of the bursaries caused too much admin for the County. The County is looking at how their funding is allocated and may look to change some of the criteria to better support clubs.

Clubs can also apply for funding from the Swimming Committee fund and the Ray Clash Memorial Fund which in the past has supported individual swimmers with the cost of courses, it was unsure whether the criteria for this had changed due to being established a long time ago.

County Champs

The relays were a successful weekend but there were 5 teams in the County who didn't enter, and the question remains why? Was it due to the relays taking place at Weston?

The first weekend of the counties went well. Session 4 was tight for time and entries and entry times may need to be looked at for next year to avoid too many entries. Entries were 500 up on last year despite tightening the times at the top of the age bands. The programme ran as well as it could.

There were a couple of issues raised: one being not being able to use the cool down pool and one due to the allocation of age group medals. Everyone was reminded that this was all discussed months in advance and the day of the competition is not the time to raise such complaints and concerns.

All the above relating to County Champs will be discussed at the wash up evaluation meeting and any issues should be raised at this time.

Welfare

The Regional Welfare officer shared details of the recent Regional Welfare Conference which took place on the first weekend in January. The Welfare Officer expressed particular disappointment that not one club welfare rep from the county attended the session. Notes have been shared with all.

Club Update:

Level 3 Meet was very successful. Thanks to all who volunteered over the weekend. Matt can advise on financial side. Will review volunteer numbers for March, with additional Competitor Marshals being put on in light of issues occurring last time around. Entries already coming in for our March meet, from as far afield as Dorset as

	their local Level 3 meets in March are all already full. Our closing date is the end of the month to ensure Soundwell swimmers get the races they want. We had some problems with the timing system at Hutton Moor which affected both sessions on the Sunday. We were incredibly lucky that, thanks to the support of Swim England and the Regional Licencing Officer, we were able to keep our Level 3 licence, and times swum could be used for Regional qualifying. The timing system has been fixed, but we did receive a rebate on some of our costs for the weekend. Our Level 4 Distance Event went well, with special thanks to our officials for stepping up – particularly for the 800m when we had a large contingent of helpers away at Winter Nationals. Whilst it was good to get the County times, the timing was less than ideal, both in terms of the burden given our Meet and Winter Nationals, and the training programme. Having discussed with Jon, we will look to hold this earlier in the season (probably September time), during the endurance phase of training. Club Kit – Sue Long very kindly stepped in to help Sarah with the final quarter order of Club kit, after the departure from the Club of our previous kit co-ordinator. We managed to source most of the items ordered, and get it to everyone before Christmas. We had a successful couple of days of selling second hand and surplus new kit over the past couple of weeks, with a final sale due to take place this Sunday. As a result we had to order some of the most popular sizes of t-shirts, in the updated 2023 design (white stripe) as the previous design has been discontinued. We will source all new kit from this range. Kate Andrews has offered to pull together the next order, and we are in the process of handing this over. Sue and Louise Phillips have both offered to help with dropping items at the embroiderers. New hats from Swimzi have been delivered as well. We will be simplifying the kit range for the time being to minimise the load on volunteers, but will continue to get the most popular items for swimmers. Lots of interest from new parents, and we expect a rush on t-shirts in the smaller sizes just before our meet.
2.	<u>Treasurer update</u> Squad numbers are climbing slowly and moving towards our target of 90% capacity. Matt provided analysis that demonstrated that, if we were to achieve this, the income generated would be the equivalent of holding a third open meet, which would greatly ease financial pressure. Emma mentioned that she and Ashley were targeting the South Gloucestershire School Gala on Saturday (20th January) to hand out leaflets, which may help fill places at the bottom end. Further squad movements may then help fill gaps in the middle of the club, particularly in Regional Potential squad, which had the most gaps. Matt mentioned that we had received the renewal contract from Kingswood, which will increase pool hire costs by 5% from 1st April. Sarah mentioned that both Bath and Winterbourne had increased hiring costs when we renewed in August 2023, which hadn't been passed on to parents. However, the Club made a loss last year and even holding 2 Open Meets a year could not continue to cover rising pool costs. Sarah recommended that we review options for increasing fees in April 2024, as the Club could not continue to absorb rising costs. Matt agreed to produce a cash forecast for the year, as well as some options for different levels of fee increase. Sarah reminded the committee that there was still some funding that could be accessed in line with our Hardship policy in extreme

	situations. The committee will review the options at its February meeting with a view to communicating the agreed fee increase to parents well in advance of April.
3.	<u>Welfare Update</u> Claire mentioned that she was supporting a couple of swimmers who had requested it. DBSs were up to date apart from one. She re-enforced that volunteers who did not have their Safeguarding Training in place could no longer be supervised poolside. She would have to withdraw anyone who was not compliant from their poolside roles. Only one person was outstanding and Claire would speak to them this week to try to resolve. DBSs are all up to date. The new Swim England policy on banning mobile phones from the Changing Rooms has been communicated to parents, coaches and TMs. No issues experienced at Counties following this policy. Diabetes training – Max and Emma will trial. Unfortunately the link to the training wasn't working. Claire has been back in touch with provider and waiting for reply. If don't get anything back she will ask the parent of the swimmer concerned for support to access it. Claire enforced the need for the Swim England mandated minimum ratios on poolside – 1 L2 coach and 1 Level 1 TM. The SwimMark Personnel Report would be monitored constantly.
4.	<u>Head Coach Update</u> <u>Training</u> The reduced sessions throughout the holidays were well attended. Now back up and running smoothly across all squads. Currently beginning our endurance phase with some pool and land test sets being carried out with the top squads. <u>Competition</u> Soundwell County Qualifier – great meet for all. Lots of valuable experience gained for our younger swimmers and nice for older ones to get an expo swim. Very well ran despite the problems with the timing. Massive thanks to everyone who helped. Arena Round 3 – Strong results from the Bridgewater team placing 1st against some strong competition. We managed to finish 10th overall in the league table. Ironically behind some of the teams we beat in the last gala. The very tough first two rounds took its toll on the points. The BN team also swam well and we received more positive feedback from officials at the meet commenting on their politeness and behaviour. The team finished 15th in Division 1. Winter Nationals – Another successful National meet. We had 8 swimmers qualify for this year's champs with total of 25 events across all disciplines. We managed to total lots of Pbs, 7 junior finals (17yrs & under) and a 3rd place for Harriet in the 100fly (Juniors). We also managed to bag 3 County records for Rhys, Roger & Harriet, beating some set in 2006. County Champs:

	Relays- Great club turn out for the relays. Entering 32 teams across all ages. We represented in 19/20 finals and also medalled in 15/20 finals. The first weekend at Hengrove was also a great success. Loads of medals, age & championship finals, race experience and fun! <u>Misc</u> Contacted Bristol Penguins to see if they were interested in running a joint Level 2 in late Jan early Feb. This was due to the lack of competition at this level in the area and the need to have a valid regional/national qualification meet. Roger D and Jon will be traveling to Lisbon in February as part of a Regional team to gain international experience. Schools gala is taking place this Saturday. Soundwell coaches will be attending and helping promote the club.
5.	<u>LTS update:</u> Assessments were taking place next week. There were a few issues with availability of teachers on a Sunday night which Emma is trying to resolve.
6.	<u>Camp update:</u> Emma will need to book flights towards the end of January once the latest installment payment is received from parents. 22 swimmers attending camp. She will be focussed on Fundraising next, with an Easter Raffle planned to be drawn at our meet over Easter weekend.
7.	Disputes and complaints: None
8.	AOB: None
	OUR NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON THURSDAY 22ND FEBRUARY AT 7.30PM ON ZOOM