



Soundwell Swimming Club Committee Meeting Minutes

Location: Zoom
Date: 28th March 2024

Present: Jon Wills, Sarah Taylor, Nicola Proctor, Matt Chubb, Russell Smith

Apologies: Claire Kerslake, Emma Dodd, Sue Long

Agenda Items:

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

Key Discussion Points from 28.3.2024

Ref	Key Discussions
1.	Sarah opened by thanking everyone who attended <u>National:</u> Sarah highlighted the re-branding of British Swimming to Aquatics GB! More information is available online. She mentioned there was a new Swim England CEO to replace Jane Nickerson – Andy Salmon. Andy was looking to address the conclusions of the Listening Report. <u>Regional:</u> Sarah attended the Regional Chair's Forum and Regional AGM. The Region made a loss for the 2nd year in a row (alleviated by £2k in bank interest). They are looking at sponsorship, but also at costs of licencing etc. The cost of holding events is increasing, but there are less events happening. The budget will allow for continued subsidy of courses, including safeguarding. There was an increase in membership in the Region by 722. There was a reduction in Club train, but an increase 555 in Club Compete. There was an increase in Support of 270 and a loss of 2 Clubs during 2023. Money going into clubs has decreased but costs of running the region increased as a % of overall spend. Need a clearly financial vision, and a quarterly review on every area rather than annual view. The Regional Treasurers forum hasn't been meeting – needing a revamp.

	Concern expressed by some clubs over lack of Swim England engagement as some aging pools need investment, leading to the loss of Diving Clubs and swimming clubs. The Region are looking at this. Soundwell are going to be the organising Club for the Regional Championships weekend at Hengrove. This just involves co-ordinating the volunteers rota, like we did for the last day of Counties. The Region will make a financial contribution to the club for us doing this. We are going to use SwimMeet to organise this. <u>County</u> We had a County Exec Meeting this month plus County Blocks wash-up. Agreed dates for Counties next year, which will be put in the competition calendar, with dates closer together following coach feedback and finishing earlier in February. Most days will be LC at Hengrove, with the final day being relays and 100IM hopefully at GL1. More work to do on the programme, but following coach input there will be a swim-down pool available at Hengrove. Waiting for feedback from Swim England on their work around the competition pathway from Counties to Nationals as this may impact event programmes. <u>Club</u> Parent briefing to new squad parents recently with Claire Kerslake went well. Sarah was meeting with a couple of parents around sponsorship opportunities, which is looking really positive. We also have 2 parents working together to produce professional photos and a video for our Club website, and improve our sponsorship material. Many thanks to everyone who has responded to help the Club in this area – exciting times ahead. We are ready to go for our Open Meet, with the volunteers and officials rotas all filled. Thanks to everyone who has offered to help – much appreciated. Looking forward to a successful weekend.
2. & 3.	<u>Treasurer update</u> Matt updated the meeting on the actual money received over the past month, compared with the cashflow forecast. He noted that we had hit the 90% target of squad membership, which was great news, and had increased the fees received compared with our forecast. Learn to Swim was looking very healthy now that additional classes had bedded in. Sarah raised the issue race fee arrears, and the time taken to have to chase them by our Competition Secretary and Treasurer. She suggested moving collection of race fees to Unify, and substituting the £2 per day chaperone charge for an administration charge to cover Team Unify costs and poolside passes. She mentioned that other clubs do this, and she was happy to find out more information from them about how this works. The meeting was supportive of this approach, but as the meeting had such a light attendance, Sarah agreed to bring more information to the next meeting and add it to the agenda for a fuller discussion.
4.	<u>Welfare Update</u> Claire had sent her apologies, but had said there were no welfare issues to report to the committee.

5.	<u>Head Coach Update</u> <u>Training</u> Training is going well across all squads and the numbers are looking healthy. Pace charts are working well but we will keep it to NP only. The calling of splits is very time consuming on poolside and leaves little time for stroke correction etc. We have expanded the offer of network training out at Bath on Sundays to some Bristol Penguins swimmers. We have also agreed to a joint level 2 meet in September. This will be an early season sprint event aimed for regional/national qualification. Perfect for filling the gap that arose at the start of this season. Discussions are ongoing with GCASA to agree a date in the County Calendar and secure a venue. The Junior Arena League will be run as a series of galas this year run by Penguins. 5 teams will be competing across the 3 rounds to be held at Easton and Keynsham in May, June and July. More emphasis will be put on each gala to build atmosphere, with a trophy to be awarded at the end. <u>Competition</u> <u>Swansea.</u> Good meet which was run very well. It was great to give swimmers an opportunity to compete in a new pool and exposure to staying away from home. We will look to attend this meet again next season. <u>British Champs.</u> We have 3 swimmers attending this year's Olympic selection Harriet Smith 200 Fly Roger Davis 200 BRS Jake Gaunt 50/100/200FC Live streams will be available, and all finals will be televised on the BBC!
6.	<u>LTS update:</u> - We were fortunate to attract a large number of new swimmers to our LTS programme as a result of the closure of another swim school. Emma needed to move fast to offer places and the process was very reactive due to the differences between our stages and theirs. This has resulted in this block of lessons being a period of ongoing assessment while we got the stages right. Thanks to the team for supporting the assessment, class moves and changes. - As a result of the increased number of learners we have now taken on Heather as a second teacher on a Sunday evening and Ali has started on a Wednesday, with one class initially, but we hope to build this to 3 in the future. This will then put us back to running the number of classes we did pre-covid. - As part of starting the new joiners we have identified that within the learner pool programme we currently have quite a large gap between Stage 1 and Stage 2. Heather has very kindly shared some thoughts with me on this, and as a result we have put together a new framework for the Learner pool which introduces a graduated Stage 1 lesson scheme. Now that we are running more Stage 1 classes we have the opportunity to progress these learners through two stage 1 lessons so it is less of a jump moving from the Stage 1 to Stage 2. The framework doesn't introduce any major changes but it formalises what we will expect to see from learners before they progress to the next stage. It is built on the Swim England lesson framework with a few bespoke tweaks to benefit learning in a club environment. Once rolled out a copy will be placed in the back of the register and will be a reference point going forwards.

	- Initially this will be rolled out through the Learner pool first but if required a similar framework can be put together for Stage 4+. - We have arranged a Swim Teachers meeting on Thursday 11th April when we will go through this further along with discussing any updates etc. - We would still like to expand the LTS team and recruit some more paid teachers on a cover and permanent basis to enable succession planning so if you know anyone who maybe interested or would like to find out more please contact me and I will happily discuss this further. - We now have a 1 week Easter Break. - Finally, thank you to all the team for stepping in to cover lessons, as a result we have cancelled fewer classes this term than ever so thank you to everyone it really does make Emma's job much easier!
7.	<u>Camp update:</u> - The next payment of £250 is due this weekend, a reminder email has been sent to all families this week. - We had an amazing day bag packing when we raised over £600. Emma was blown away by the total which was at least double what I predicted so thank you to everyone who attended and the parents who came along to support on the day. Emma is in touch with a couple of other supermarkets and I'm trying to finalise another date towards the end of June hopefully – more details to follow. The swimmers were incredibly polite, helpful and engaging and it was a pleasure to see them representing the club so well. - The Easter Egg Hamper raffle will be drawn this Sunday at our meet, tickets will be on sale on the door for £1 per strip, we have 3 great prizes on offer. - Camp attendees have also been given a letter challenging them to raise £50 (or more) each towards the fundraising target by the end of the season. - The above, along with the towels and the two cake sales we are holding (Club Champs & presentation evening) means Emma is confident we will raise lots to reduce the final balance for parents....watch this space! - Nothing else to report on the logistics and booking of camp but lots more information will follow towards the end of this season and a briefing meeting will be held for families in September.
8.	Disputes and complaints: None
9.	AOB: None
	OUR NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON THURSDAY 25th APRIL AT 7.30PM ON ZOOM