

{Subject to sign-off}
Aqua Sulis Performance Swimming Club
Network Club Coaches meeting
08.02.16 at STV

Attendees:

Jamie McNeill (Chair)
Emily Taylor (Club Development Officer, ASA Southwest)
Lauren Roberts (Swim 21 Coordinator)
Rachel Ashworth (Membership Secretary)
Dave Wordsley (Coach Liaison Officer)
Chrissie Lamb (Secretary, CA4 Network Club Coach)
Matt Lawman (Communications Officer)
Wendy Hood (Fundraising Manager)
Karen Bowen (Workforce)
Chris Metcalf – Keynsham ASC
Nikki Vorse – Norton Radstock ASC
Kay Welcox – Norton Radstock ASC
Helen Nord – Frome ASC
Susie Hann - Frome ASC
Fraser – Frome ASC
Charlotte Stubbs – Melksham ASC
Karen Stubbs – Corsham ASC
Chris Hardick – Chippenham ASC
Sue Criddle - BOA ASC
Rebecca Smith – BOA ASC
Mike Greennan – Trowbridge ASC
Barry Heywood - Westbury ASC
John Dougall – Aqua Sulis Head Coach

Apologies :

Bath Dolphins (due to club AGM)
Anthony Phillips – Warminster SC

Meeting commenced 18.35 p.m.

1.0 **Welcome :**

Jamie MCNeil (JMcN) welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for their time. Individual introductions were given by all attendees and confirmation of the roles in which they were attending was given. Chrissie Lamb (CL) confirmed that her attendance this evening was in her coach role at CA4 ASC although she would be happy to take the minutes of the meeting.

2.0 **Purpose of the meeting :**

JMcN opened the meeting by confirming that the meeting was called in recognition of the lack of communication with network clubs over recent months and to address this going forward. He confirmed that the aim of the meeting was to obtain the views of the network club on how it sees ASPSC role in the future.

Concerns were raised by Nikki Vorse (NV) in that she felt the current ASPSC committee were operating outside of its constitution and that she has expressed these concerns, and await a response, from region on this matter. She felt that the quorum of the committee was lost when previous committee members resigned their positions. Emily Taylor (ET) stated that she has checked the constitution which states that a committee member has the right to elect other members but that as this was not the main purpose of tonight's meeting. She asked if the group would mind discussing this issue at the end of the meeting in order to gain value into getting direction for the club's future. This was agreed by all members.

Discussions took place within the group around the current committee member's roles and how they were elected. Confirmation from JMcN that the Special General Meeting was called for 21.04.16. New committee members have all volunteered for roles and are happy for these to be on an interim basis.

ET confirmed that concerns had been received from clubs and parents that ASPSC had moved away from its original model and performance pathway swimming. 3 models were discussed;

- a) Purely performance (under guidance from Lindsay Dunn)
- b) Performance with development (may allow the club to break even)
- c) A One Club model

ET invited members to give their opinion on how they saw ASPSC role within the network. Unanimously all clubs present confirmed that they would want ASPSC to concentrate on the Performance pathway for its swimmers. It was acknowledged that financial viability of

the club sustainability may be an issue on this model alone with current fee structures. Clubs were asked if they would consider making a financial contribution to make up the deficit. There were mixed responses and all dependent on the model.

Rebecca Smith (RS) confirmed that should ASPSC operate a performance only model BOA would be happy to promote and support more development camps which may provide additional funding resources for ASPSC.

JMcN confirmed that if a performance club model was adopted that concise entry and exit criteria would need to be developed to support the swimmers in the transition from home club to ASPSC and vice versa.

JMcN confirmed that the committee would like to consider the make-up of the existing committee to include representation from the network clubs. This was discussed in-depth by all members, some raising concerns about not being able to resource a representative. ET made a suggestion of clubs operating in small clusters / networks and providing one rep where this was an issue. Mike Greenan (MG) suggested re distribution from the voting rights and responsibilities under the current constitution. All this was considered by the group. No definitive agreement was reached on this area at this time. *Next meeting to be held 14.03.16*

3.0 Quorum of Committee :

Susie Hann (SH) expressed concern over the new committee members currently on board and that it would have been more normal to minute resignations and advertise vacancies. SH also made the point that if all three exec officers had stepped down there was not a quorum as the constitution requires at least one to be present for any decision to be ratified and that to form a new committee the only option to the remaining officers after their resignations was to call an SGM. SH suggested that willing volunteers could act instead until the SGM. JMcN confirmed that Mark Lawton was still chair when members were voted in and therefore quorum existed. This was debated by SH and she raised concerns over the powers of the current committee and suggested that an earlier SGM should be called. JMcN confirmed that any member of the club had the right to call an SGM and could do so if wished. ET asked the group to consider what they wanted to achieve. ET highlighted the importance of moving forward to ensure the success of the club and therefore it may be more beneficial to have the SGM in April as planned when we had an agreed way forward. ET asked the group for their opinion. Different opinions were expressed but consensus was that it would be preferable to take the time necessary to formulate an overall plan to be voted on at the forthcoming SGM rather than hold an SGM immediately.

4.0 Recruitment of coaches to provide cover :

CL highlighted that if it is decided that there is no quorum and in turn in the absence of a viable committee then no powers exist and therefore no recruitment and selection can take place. ET asked if network clubs could support in the interim. John Dougall (JD) suggested that he could employ Liam to take on this interim role until recruitment can occur. A discussion around coaching cover took place and the general consensus was that AS is not in a position to recruit given various uncertainties over club structure and status of the

committee. ET advised that any decision should only be taken given appropriate professional (tax/legal) advice, which JMcN indicated would be sought before taking any decision.

5.0 Closing Remarks

NV commented that even though her club only has three AS swimmers, continuity is important and that their swimmers had been impacted by recent events: they take swimmer welfare extremely seriously.

MG reiterated the need for visible AS finances.

ET asked JD if he could assist in drawing up a model for a pure performance programme and also in evaluating potential revenue from Development Camps.

ACTIONS

All clubs	<i>willing to share their financial models to the ASPSC committee and ET to forward these as soon as possible.</i>
ASPSC Committee	<i>compile and distribute financial models for consideration by the network clubs by 28.02.16</i>
ET	<i>will send out a question and answers sheet to clubs by 12.02.16</i>
JMcN	<i>will investigate employment/tax/contractor issues</i>
ET/JD	<i>will provide a model for a pure performance club</i>
ET/JD	<i>will evaluate potential revenue from Development Camps</i>
Clubs	<i>clubs to respond to ET questionnaire by 28.02.16</i>

Meeting closed: 21:05