



Middlesex County Amateur Swimming Association

(www.middlesexswimming.com)

Minutes of the Executive Meeting held on 13 September 2022

Via Zoom at 7.30pm

Item		Action
	<p>Those in attendance:- Pam Crofts (President), Brian Kapp, Gillian Neal, Phillip Prentice, Colin Jones, Marc Barrott, Leah Pullen, Jeanette Edmiston, Frances Prentice, Maria Abrams, Ralph Shortland, Susie Breslin (struggled to get access), Andy Woska, Sofia Marcal Whittles, Jo Martin, Sam Whitmore, Fred Willey, Ann O'Leary (from 8.45pm) and Claudio Palumbo (until his proposal after which he left)</p> <p>Apologies for absence:- Ian Woollard, Trevor Hyde, Tony Burton, Suzette Mohammad, Flo Barnes</p>	
	<p>The President opened the meeting at 7.31pm</p>	
<p>XC22/042</p>	<p>Minutes of last meeting.</p> <p>Minutes agreed as accurate as they had been circulated with the exception of the correction of Marc Barrott and Ian Woollard. Amendments subsequently made.</p>	
<p>XC22/043</p>	<p>Matters Arising</p> <p>Overseas Trip (Scotland)</p> <p>Pam Crofts asked whether Chris Reekie had looked at the Scottish meet with a view to going next year? Not sure that he had actually been asked to do so. Leah will send him an e-mail to ask.</p> <p>Subsequent to the meeting, Chris Reekie tendered his resignation with immediate effect on 22 September 2022.</p>	<p>LP</p>
	<p>Inter-Counties competition</p> <p>Jacek Reder is the official going.</p>	

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	<p>Len Badcock Meet</p> <p>Gillian Neal to send e-mail to Barnet thanking them for their generosity regarding the reduced fees. E-mail has now been sent.</p>	GN
	<p>Open Water</p> <p>Brian Kapp is recovering from an eye op and will go through the results as soon as he is able to see properly</p>	BK
XC22/044	<p>Water Polo – Claudio Palumbo Proposals</p> <p>Fred Willey explained who Claudio Palumbo was – coaches at Latymer Whitgift and West London Penguins. Claudio thanked the Exec for allowing him to put his proposal forward. He has had national success and feels we could do even better. Whilst the costs are not insubstantial - £7,000 if we cannot claim VAT – it is vested in the future of Water Polo. Claudio said he came from Itay in 2014 and became WL Penguin Head Coach. Swim England invited him to improve water polo across the board.</p> <p>He wants to help children play better. He was the coach at the last inter-counties. Boys – U/18s have won for the last 3 years; U/16s have won for last 2 years. The girls are starting to catch up. He is picking players from the school where he coaches as well as Ealing, Hammersmith, Wandsworth and Barnes.</p> <p>His idea is to create an elite squad and invite all clubs to send their best players or those who look promising.</p> <p>Pam Crofts asked whether he was suggesting we create a County team but that the players stay members of their own club.</p> <p>Frances Prentice was concerned that he did not understand the geography of the County – Barnes and Wandsworth are not in the County.</p> <p>Claudio confirmed there is the option to book more time in 2 or 3 different pools. Time will not just be taken from WL Penguins.</p> <p>Pam wanted to know, regarding finance, if all players were members of other clubs, would they be charged a separate fee to be part of this team? Fred Willey confirmed that the players would pay an addition fee – it was accepted that they do not get something for nothing.</p> <p>Phil Prentice said that we had paid £580 for Water Polo to go to the inter-counties but no revenue comes in. Fred confirmed no revenue as they are unable to run meets. Phil queried whether officials charge expenses to go to the meets. Fred confirmed they might but it would be minimal. In London, all volunteers only charge travel expenses.</p>	

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	<p>Ralph Shortland commented that there is nothing wrong with setting up a network of water polo clubs but the County needs to see a profit / loss sheet; how it would raise some revenue. London Region also has the same problem in the speed swimming funds the other disciplines. He suggested submission a paper which sets out the costs, fees being charged, pools being used, timings etc. The Exec needs to be able to study this before a decision can be made. Pam commented that the document already submitted sort of did this in principle.</p> <p>Gillian Neal queried what age range was being targeted. Claudio confirmed currently U/15 to U/19 – it was ideal to start with younger player. His aim was to get them from prep school at 8 or 9 years old.</p> <p>Ralph also questioned whether his proposal would interfere with what London Region had already set up. Claudio confirmed that it should not.</p> <p>Pam asked if the suggestion was to try to re-introduce water polo on a County basis – possibly even get an inter-county competition running again?</p> <p>Claudio said that London Region’s training centre is in South Croydon.</p> <p>Leah Pullen said that certain schools (13 +) have water polo but they are not affiliated with Swim England. How did Claudio plan on approaching those players? Claudio said they are approaching and sending kids to Ealing and WL Penguins. Leah also commented that some are boarding schools where they have good players but they are boarding – unable to get out.</p> <p>The Exec thanked Claudio and asked for a more in-depth paper to be submitted to the Exec so it could be discussed further. Claudio agreed he would draft something and left the meeting at 8.17pm</p> <p>Discussion continued with Pam Crofts asking people for their concerns. Ralph Shortland stated that it was network only, there was to be no poaching of players and they must be affiliated with Swim England via a club. They need to put forward a document with budget proposals etc but as a County we need to support all disciplines.</p> <p>Sofia Whittles said that perhaps we were coming at it from the wrong angle. Biggest barrier may be from coaches. She suggested that Claudio should approach the neighbouring clubs and then come back to the County.</p> <p>Pam confirmed that this is just a tentative suggestion – no final details as yet. We need to know whether it will be accepted by players / coaches. Gillian Neal wanted to know if there could be a clash of coaching styles too. Fred Willey commented that they were just</p>	<p>CL</p>

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	<p>building on what already happens. Ralph suggested that the coaches could go with their swimmers.</p> <p>Ralph proposed that we accept in principle with a document and timeline to be submitted. Seconded by Sam Whitmore. Agreed unanimously.</p>	
XC22/045	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>Regarding the Strategy Day for London Region, Sofia Whittles is going for the County. Following the meeting, London Region confirmed that as not all Counties had nominated a representative, the Strategy Meeting would be held via Zoom instead. Sofia will still attend the Zoom meeting.</p> <p>Regarding Swim England becoming a company, Jeanette Edmiston and Gillian Neal are the names to be used.</p>	
XC22/046	<p>Treasurer's Report</p> <p>Leah Pullen asked whether the total in the bank is the same as capital. Phil Prentice said that capital also includes assets – medals etc. The real strength of the County is the money in the bank. Stock is not of any value to anyone else.</p> <p>Phil confirmed that we owe £7,200 to Southbury Road for something not billed in 2017 (approx.). He will now drop it off the ledger.</p> <p>Pam Crofts proposed that the financial report was accepted – unanimously agreed.</p>	
XC22/045	<p>Standing Committees</p> <p>Frances Prentice asked where all the reports were as she was not getting any. Gillian Neal confirmed that the minutes from the Swimming Committee and Exec are on the website.</p> <p>SOC</p> <p>Ralph Shortland confirmed that, regarding the SOC, Tony Burton was now the Chair, the committee had been reformed and he was setting up training sessions and meetings.</p> <p>Due to GDPR, for 18 months no lists have been sent out. The London Region group fought to get Swim England to agree to send the list of officials out (October 21). Ralph now gets a list every 3 months of licensed officials. He can only pass to County representatives (he is Middx representative). Leah Pullen has her own list. It is a national problem getting officials poolside following Covid.</p> <p>The new J1 system – candidates automatically qualify and are licensed so Ralph gets notified. They have to complete the course</p>	

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	<p>within 11 months of passing on-line part. It is not for the SOC to get officials for the meets.</p> <p>Leah Pullen asked if Frances Prentice knows of people who are not on the list, then ask them to sign up on the MCASA website. Pam Crofts confirmed that we are not allowed to contact without permission due to GDPR.</p> <p>Tony Burton confirmed that there are currently 3 x J2S courses planned for 8 October (11 or 12 people have signed up) to be run in Perivale, Hillingdon and Southbury. There are 2 x J2 courses currently running with more people waiting to sign up for the next course.</p> <p>Jeanette Edmiston commented that Joe Dixon had passed his J2 but has not been updated on Swim England. How long is Swim England taking to update records? Ralph confirmed that Joe needs to get his course leader to update Ralph.</p> <p>Swimming Committee</p> <p>Nothing further.</p> <p>Water Polo</p> <p>Nothing further.</p> <p>Artistic</p> <p>No report received.</p> <p>Diving</p> <p>No report received.</p> <p>Masters</p> <p>No report received.</p> <p>Open Water</p> <p>Brian Kapp will send a report of the results from Open Water once he has recovered from his eye operation.</p> <hr/> <p>Para Swimming</p> <p>No report received.</p>	<p>BK</p>
<p>XC22/046</p>	<p>Welfare</p> <p>Maria Abrams said that she is very busy at the moment. In March, London Region sent out an invite to a work shop for welfare officers. Only 7 people attended. This was very shameful and concerning.</p>	

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XC22/47	<p>London Board</p> <p>Nothing to report.</p>	
XC22/048	<p>Training Camp / Development Days</p> <p>Jeanette Edmiston said that Leah Pullen had sent e-mails out and was waiting for people to come back</p>	
XC22/049	<p>Inter-Counties</p> <p>Phil Prentice confirmed that he had paid 50% of the hotel bill. A new hotel had now been booked which was 2.5 miles away. Sharon Austin had spoken with the coach company as they will need to drive to Ponds Forge on Sunday. Pam Crofts believes that letters have gone out to the selected swimmers. Currently awaiting a report from Sharon Austin on the weekend. Believe Lisa Bates (coach from Chelsea & Westminster) stepped in as Chris Reekie resigned 9 days before.</p>	
XC22/050	<p>Open Meet – October 2022</p> <p>Entries have been coming in – deadline is 17 September. So far no Harrow or Brompton. Over £6,000 in entries from Camden Swiss. Marc Barrott said he will try and get as many officials as possible. The first weekend ran with 17 and 18 officials on Sat. This is not good enough. The County is chasing officials and non-tech volunteers right up to the list minute. Any suggestions??</p>	
XC22/051	<p>County Championships 2023</p> <p>Leah Pullen said that Teddington were not happy – the times were too hard. Pam Crofts said she would respond to Teddington.</p> <p>Jeanette Edmiston said she had been through the conditions and had sent comments back to Leah Pullen. Leah confirmed that the licence request had gone to Jean Scott.</p> <p>Jeanette Edmiston commented that we may have made the QTs a bit too fast. Gillian Neal stated that this is what the coaches wanted – a more elite competition.</p> <p>Leah Pullen stated that she will be changing the conditions as presentations will be taking place.</p>	PC
XC22/052	<p>Medals / Trophies</p> <p>Jo Martin said that she wanted to keep the red backing for County Champs and that Ian Woollard uses black for Masters. It was agreed to amend previous decision on medals to:</p> <p>Red - County Championships</p>	

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	Blue - Open Meets / Development Meets Black - Masters Unanimously agreed.	
XC22/041	AOB The swimming committee had discussed a proposal from Leah Pullen to purchase a timing system for galas. On behalf of the swimming committee Jeanette Edmiston raised this to see if the Exec was aware of this and whether the County would be happy to buy the AOE equipment? Gillian Neal suggested a decision needed to be made asap as it takes approx. 3 months from ordering for the equipment to arrive. It was stated that most people did not know what we were referring to so Gillian sent the relevant e-mail out at 9.35pm to all committee members. Gillian asked for a response within 2 days to the proposal. After the meeting, the general consensus was that it was far too much money to purchase the equipment (approx. £27,000) and then there would be storage problems, getting the equipment to the relevant pool etc. Idea shelved for the time being.	
	Meeting closed at 9.42pm Next meeting is Wednesday 12 October 2022 via Zoom at 7.00pm	

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