

**Swim England East Region  
Minutes of the Open Water Committee Meeting  
10<sup>th</sup> February 2019**

<b>Present</b>	Paul Kendall (PK) Paul Hayes (PH) Jacqui Kendall (JK) Sarah Tait (ST) Marcello Tontodonati (MT) Marion Westwood (MW) Steve Westwood (SW)	Region OW Manager / Chairman Essex Representative Norfolk Representative Suffolk Representative Hertfordshire Representative Specialist Specialist
<b>Also present</b>	Amy Bryant (AB)	Regional Development Officer

**19/01 Apologies**

19/01.1 Apologies were received from Phil Pelling (PP), Bedfordshire Representative, Simon Yeates (SY), Cambridgeshire Representative, and Keith Belton (KB), Co-opted (Results).

**19/02 Declarations of conflict of interest**

19/02.1 None.

**19/03 Previous minutes**

19/03.1 The minutes of the previous meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> October 2018 were agreed to be a true record of the meeting. A correction was made to 18/29.3.

**19/04 Matters arising**

19/04.1 PK's work on an event management plan for the regional open water championships was ongoing and proving to be a complex task.

All other matters would be covered in the meeting agenda.

**19/05 County Development Programmes**

19/05.1 No changes had been made to the county programmes reported on at the previous meeting.

19/05.2 It was highlighted that there is a nation-wide need for more officials to be trained in order for open water events to be run efficiently and safely. Swim England have figures which suggest there are only 100 active open water officials in the country. PK confirmed the workbooks for the courses had been improved and that it was now quicker to progress through the Judge Level 1 and Level 2 courses for those who had existing officiating experience as that would now be recognised.

**ACTION: County reps to promote open water official's training and encourage more people to attend courses. All county reps to advise PK if there is sufficient demand locally to run a Judge Level 1 course.**

**19/06 Regional Development Camps**

19/06.1 The 2019 Regional Development Camp will be running on 1<sup>st</sup> June and 16<sup>th</sup> June in Hertfordshire for selected athletes aged 12-16. Additional athletes would again be invited for a race element on the second day of the camp. Coaches had been identified and would be contacted to confirm their availability. Both days of the

camp would be open to coaches to come and observe to learn more about open water coaching. AB confirmed that the dates of this year's camp meant no clash with the weekend of the Great North Swim. Officials training would also take place on 1<sup>st</sup> June and 16<sup>th</sup> June would be used as an additional officials' training opportunity. PK would also look at additional opportunities to run a Judge Level 1 course in another part of the region.

**ACTION: County reps to promote the camp as a coach development opportunity.**

19/06.2 As in 2018, selected athletes aged 15-18 would be invited to attend the Great East Swim to gain more open water racing experience.

19/06.3 AB confirmed that arrangements were being made for a Level 2 open water coaching course to run in the region, with the first day in May and the second in August.

## **19/07 Regional Event**

19/07.1 Conditions had been drafted with minor changes to the 2018 event conditions.

19/07.2 More volunteers would be needed to help run the event, particularly with car parking and traffic management as this was under-staffed last year, putting pressure on the few volunteers who were there. The committee would be happy to ensure volunteers had breaks to watch parts of the event, so that, for example, they didn't miss their child swimming.

19/07.3 Representatives from the committee had attended a meeting at the event venue and had been informed that a new building was planned for the area that the regional event uses for portaloos. A new location was identified a short distance away from that site.

19/07.4 It was agreed to ensure information was available regarding how results work at the event, primarily how the process differs from at a pool, to make people aware that results take longer to process and publish and there are no live results. It is hoped that this will take pressure away from officials and those processing the data.

**ACTION: AB to add information to the open water event page on the East Region website.**

19/07.5 JK had been investigating options for purchasing new hats for the event to replenish low stock levels. The price of hats is likely to increase from the previous purchase of hats due to latex hats seemingly being phased out by suppliers and silicon hats now becoming the only option. However, marker pens wouldn't work on silicon hats so solutions to this had also been part of JK's investigation. The intention would be to purchase enough hats to last for three years and to therefore benefit from a better price for placing a large order.

**ACTION: JK to continue to collect quotes/samples from supplier for hats and investigate options for marking hats.**

## **19/08 Open Water Plan 2018-21**

19/08.1 PK outlined an addition to the four-year plan which would be a potential opportunity for regional athletes to get more racing experience outside of the

region. This is still in the early stages of being investigated but the committee expressed their support for the idea.

- 19/08.2 The possibility of using chip timing at the regional event was also discussed as a possible part of developing the region further. PK agreed to investigate this further in terms of practicality and cost.

**ACTION: PK to investigate chip timing.**

**19/09 Open Water Budget 2019/20**

- 19/09.1 The committee agreed the 2019/20 plan and budget which had been circulated by PK. The plan and budget would go to the next meeting of the Regional Management Board in March for approval.

**19/10 Any other business**

- 19/10.1 PK informed the committee that he had attended a meeting in Loughborough with the open water managers from other regions and members of Swim England staff for open water swimming. This was the first of it's kind in many years and PK felt it was a positive step forwards. The committee discussed at length about concerns around the national promotion and support of open water swimming and how this could be improved. PK advised the committee that there was a national development officer now with a remit for open water. AB informed the group that there was now a separate open water hub on swimming.org to help promote the sport and that more was being done by Swim England to engage with open water venues. The committee raised several questions about the open water hub's content.

**ACTION: AB to contact the Swim England Open Water Officer regarding questions raised about the open water hub.**

- 19/10.2 JK informed the group that she had been nominated by Swim England to be an open water technical official at the World Masters Championships being held in South Korea in August 2019. The committee congratulated JK on her nomination.

**19/11 Confidential items**

- 19/11.1 There were no confidential items for discussion

**19/12 Next meeting**

- 19/12.1 The committee meetings for 2019 will be held at the regional office on:

19<sup>th</sup> May  
27<sup>th</sup> October