

**Minutes of the Open Water Committee Meeting  
21<sup>st</sup> May 2019**

<b>Present</b>	Paul Kendall (PK) Phil Pelling (PP) Jacqui Kendall (JK) David Robinson (DR) Simon Yeates (SY) Marion Westwood (MW) Steve Westwood (SW) Keith Belton (KB)	Region OW Manager / Chairman Bedfordshire Representative Norfolk Representative Suffolk Substitute Representative Cambridgeshire Representative Specialist Specialist Co-opted (Results).
<b>Also present</b>	Amy Bryant (AB)	Regional Development Officer

**19/13 Apologies**

19/13.1 Apologies were received from Paul Hayes (PH), Essex Representative, and Sarah Tait, Suffolk Representative

**19/14 Declarations of conflict of interest**

19/14.1 None.

**19/15 Previous minutes**

19/15.1 The minutes of the previous meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2019 were agreed to be a true record of the meeting.

**19/16 Matters arising**

19/16.1 All actions from the previous minutes had been completed.

**19/17 Regional Development Camps**

19/17.1 Twenty four athletes had accepted their invitation to the camp, running on 1<sup>st</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> June. This was an increase on 2018. The deadline for the race-only replies had not passed, this currently stood at eight athletes. The format of the days would be the same as 2018, with day one being pool-based and day two lake-based. There has been some difficulty with finding enough coaches but this was now hopefully resolved.

**19/18 Officials Training**

19/18.1 PK would be running a Judge Level 1 course on 1<sup>st</sup> June at the same venue as the regional development camp and those attending would be encouraged to also attend the second day of the camp to gain experience during the race simulation event. A Level 2 course was planned for 25<sup>th</sup> May at the regional office. Both courses currently had 4/5 attendees.

**19/19 Regional Event Preparation**

19/19.1 Entries were low but at a similar level to this time in 2018 so the committee were not concerned. The deadline for entries was 14<sup>th</sup> June.

19/19.2 JK updated the committee on changes in parking arrangements at Whitlingham Country Park where the car parks are now pay and display, rather than the previous system on pay on leaving. The charge for a full day would be £6, drivers can download an app on their phone and register their card details in advance so they won't need coins on the day, they can then use the app to make a payment

once they know which car park they are using. JK is in discussions with Whitlingham regarding the best way to deal with parking for officials.

- 19/19.3 JK confirmed there was now no need for an alternative location for the portaloos as a proposed alternative use of the area at the site did not take place leaving it free for use at the regional event. PP agreed to manage entries to the deck and SW is still awaiting a response from the local council regarding road signage for the event. PK had approved the design for the hoodies which would be sold at the event, which all were happy with.
- 19/19.4 JK had placed an order for more hats to ensure enough stock for the event this year. The committee thanked MW for her continued help with marking up the hats. There is still uncertainty regarding the future availability of latex hats with several suppliers indicating they would be phasing them out in the coming years. This would have to be considered in the budget if the event is to continue to cover costs as silicon hats are more expensive, with the possible additional expense of a method to mark them up.
- 19/19.5 Chefs had been confirmed for the BBQ. It was confirmed there was no suitable tap available for drinking water on site for people to re-fill bottles. The committee agreed to purchase clear bags specifically for the collection and recycling of plastic bottles used during the event.
- 19/19.6 More volunteers were still needed to cover roles such as programme sales, moving kit, taliband collections and car park marshalling.

**ACTION: All county reps to ask for volunteers to help run the event.**

## **19/20 Costs for 2020 and beyond**

- 19/20.1 The current expenses policy for officials attending the event, which covers help from inside and outside the region, was discussed. The East policy is not as generous as other regions and the committee were unsure whether this had an impact on people coming forward to officiate.
- 19/20.2 JK had investigated the entry fees for other regional events and found the East Region charge of £22 to be slightly above average. Indications had been received by the management board that the whole of the open water budget would need to break even or make a profit, not just the championships, for the 2020/21 plan and budget. The committee expressed their concern as the championships already pays for itself and extra income streams, such as a BBQ and hoodie sales, had already been implemented to ensure this was the case. The committee was also concerned about how the committee would afford development events.
- 19/20.3 The possibility of moving the date of the 2020 regional open water championships was discussed due to it's proximity to national pool competitions. The committee agreed that a move away from the current weekend used would prove difficult as regions needed to share officials for events to run and therefore the events had to be spaced out across the limited time-frame of the open water season. There is also a possible change to regional swimming events which may impact on the regional open water championship entries if the events are too close together. The committee therefore decided that there was no other option but to keep the 2020 event in it's current position in the calendar.

- 19/20.4 Alternative venues were also discussed, however, the region has a very good relationship and reputation with Whitlingham Country Park and the site is best-suited to the event compared to other suggestions.

**19/21 Any other business**

- 19/21.1 PP confirmed that Bedfordshire were running an open water development day at Box End on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019. Essex had expressed an interest in attending.
- 19/21.2 PK explained that Norfolk county training had to move from Fritton Lake but has secured some lake time instead at Whitlingham for sessions in June and July which Suffolk would also be invited to attend.

**19/22 Confidential items**

- 19/22.1 There were no confidential items for discussion.

**19/23 Next meeting**

- 19/23.1 The next committee meeting will take place on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2019 at the regional office.