

East Water Polo Leadership Group
Minutes of the East Water Polo Leadership Group held via video conference
7th April 2021

Present	Simon Lecomber(SL)	Water Polo Manager/Colchester
	Tim Whitwham (TW)	Specialist
	Gemma Claire (GC)	Cambridge
	Martin Hackett (MH)	Dunstable
	Kev Hall (KH)	Norwich
	Tom Mills (TM)	Ipswich
	Steve Chambers (SC)	Watford
	Ian Mackenzie (IM)	ROC Representative
	Dean Walker (DW)	Chelmsford
	Jackie Spinks (JS)	Hitchin
	Peter Mole (PM)	Hatfield

21/01		Welcome and Apologies
	21/01.1	Apologies – Rachel Bailey
	21/01.2	SL welcomed everyone
21/02		Declarations of conflict of interest
	21/02.1	None.
21/03		Previous minutes
	21/03.1	There has not been a formal meeting with minutes for over a year
	21/03.2	During Covid (2020/2021) there have been several club/coach support meetings which have proved very successful.
21/04		Matters arising
	21/04.1	N/A
21/05		Competitions/Level X
	21/05.1	SL reported that he had attended a SE meeting yesterday about the introduction of Level X. It is for Cat 2 membership and comprises of six skills. The Junior Level X commences on 12 th April with the senior starting on 17 th May with a weekly competition. All the details are on the Swim England website. https://www.swimming.org/waterpolo/level-x-water-polo-2021/
	21/05.2	IM reported that he had just come off a SE meeting and there is concern about the Mental Health of athletes returning to the water, who may need a greater length of time prior to participating in camps and competition
	21/05.3	In the ‘new world’ it is imperative that risk assessments are carried out and are robust, not only at club level but for all competition.

21/06		Regional Leadership Groups
	21/06.1	IM explained how the region's governance has changed. Swim England East Region is now an incorporated body with Charitable status
	21/06.02	This has led to a change in the organisation and we will now have Leadership Groups instead of Committees, which will be constructed differently. There will still be a Manager, but then instead of County representation Water Polo will have Club representation to ensure a clearer message and communication. There will also be up to two Specialists.
	21/06.03	We need to establish a list of all clubs who are involved in WP, juniors, seniors and adults Action – IM to find out from Leanne Brace if she has any data that we can use?
	21/06.04	Four LG meetings fixed for the year, with additional meetings if they are found necessary. All meetings will be by Video, usually Zoom.
	21/06.05	Next meetings - 19 th May; 1 st September; 1 st December; 2 nd February 2022 all at 19.00
21/07		Regional Training
	21/07.1	It was decided to consider this at the May meeting and everyone will bring ideas to the meeting. Action ALL
	21/07.2	SL advised everyone that Edi Brkovic and Dean Walker are being trained as Coach Tutors, so we will have Tutors in our own region to support our clubs. There will be updates as to their progress.
	21/07.3	GC pointed out that Cambridge were desperate to a coach qualification at their club because they cannot run any sessions without one. They have lost all their juniors. Cambridge Swimming Club have changed their governance which has resulted in this situation. Action – IM to establish with Leanne Brace if there is a work around supported by SE
	21/07.4	Concern was expressed about poolside officials with the referee review that is taking place. Action – IM to see if Chris Stephens can join a future meeting to update the group
21/08		Development
	21/08.1	DW asked everyone to consider how we can develop our sport and to bring ideas to the May meeting. This is at all levels and includes Low Level competition for the 11/U and 13/U as outlined in the SE document. Action ALL
	21/08.2	DW has spoken with Craig Figes (Coach Lead on WPLG) as to the SE direction about development.
	21/08.3	Use of Teaching awards 8, 9 & 10 as well as Club awards 1, 2 & 3
	21/08.4	Contact Paul Metcalf for additional knowledge Action – MH to talk with Paul
21/09		Any Other Business
	21/09.1	SL reported about a new club – Hertfordshire Aquatics Club
	21/09.1.1	IM informed the Group, that Swim England Hertfordshire has set up this club to sit with its new pool that it is going to build 50m x 25m x 3m deep and a 25m six lane sloping floor pool, 400+ spectator and 320 athlete seating for all aquatic sports other than Diving.
	21/09.2	Rachel Bayley – Swim England, Head of Performance Operations would like to talk with the Group as an overview of how the regions will feed into the national structure. Action – IM to invite Rachel to a future meeting

	21/09.3	IM reported that Simon would be standing down as the Manager shortly. The Region is advertising for a replacement and it is anticipated that the new Manager will call the May meeting. IM thanked Simon for all he has done for Water Polo in the Region. He will not be lost to us and will continue on the LG as the representative for Colchester. Everyone joined in with their thanks.
21/10		Confidential Items
	21/10.1	No confidential items to report.
21/11		SL closed the meeting and thanked everyone for their attendance. Next meeting will be 19 th May at 7.00pm.