

East Water Polo Leadership Group

Minutes of the East Water Polo Leadership Group held via video conference.

19th May 2021

Present	Dean Walker (DW)	Water Polo Manager/Chelmsford
	Ian Mackenzie (IM)	ROC Representative
	Peter Kreuzaler (PK)	Cambridge
	Rebecca Howitt (RH)	Cambridge Uni
	Simon Lecomber (SL)	Colchester
	Martin Hackett (MH)	Dunstable
	Peter Mole (PM)	Hatfield
	Tom Mills (TM)	Ipswich
	Chris Cawood (CC)	Suffolk Coastal
	Nikki Baker (NB)	Watford
	Steve Chambers (SC)	Watford
	Paul Metcalfe	Invited Guest

21/12		Welcome and Apologies
	21/12.1	Apologies – Rachel Bailey, Gemma Clare, Tim Whitwham, Kev Hall, Jon Lowy
	21/12.2	DW welcomed everyone and apologised in advanced as he would be dropping in and out the meeting.
21/13		Declarations of conflict of interest
	11/13.1	None.
21/14		Previous minutes
	21/14.1	Previous minutes were sent out. Nothing brought up.
21/15		Matters arising
	21/15.1	N/A
21/16		Regional Academy
	21/16.1	DW: Due to ongoing worries about unnecessary travel and wanting to reduce travel time for players and parents, it was discussed and agreed to split the Region into 2 hubs for monthly training and bringing the age groups together for the build-up to Inter Regionals. The West Hub will be made up of Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire. The East Hub will be Essex, Suffolk and Norfolk. DW to source costs and availability for bookings.
	21/16.2	DW: Coaching at Regional Academy (RA) will be open to all Level 2 coaches and those attending Level 2 courses. Level 1 coaches are very welcomed to help with their development. To be finalised at the meeting in July will be the coaches willing to attend RA. Also coaches who want to take a Regional team to the Inter

		Regionals, as head coach or assistant. Head coach must be a level 2 qualified coach with Inter Regional Experience.
	21/16.3	SC: RA must be run in all deep pools. Everyone was in agreement but with the caveat that if an all deep pool wasn't available that a RA would still run in a suitable pool ie: Bedford Modern School.
21/17		Competitions
	21/17.1	DW: Asked what competitions the Regions clubs are wanting and are the Grand Prix still relevant for the development of young players. Feedback from all was more competition would be great and the Grand Prix provide good competition for the younger age groups and help develop the junior players into refereeing and table officiating.
	21/17.2	RA: Would be happy to discuss with the university the arranging of friendly fixtures, especially before they have any BUCs competitions coming up, and possibly joining any leagues. DW to discuss and direct and put in touch with Eastern League secretary.
	21/17.2	SL: Brought up the lack of senior female competition. SL to look at pool time to arrange a female tournament where players pay individually, and teams are made up if a club doesn't have enough players to field a team.
	21/17.3	MH: With the number of water polo clubs diminishing over the years, there is also a lack of club level water polo competition. Everyone asked to come up with ideas, but for now and when restrictions allow clubs can arrange friendly fixtures amongst each other. Possibly hiring their home pool to run a one day tournament.
	21/17.4	DW: Now that every County in the Region has a senior male polo playing club, it would be great to bring back the Regional Inter Counties competition. 3 or 4 Counties could also have a female team, so bringing this competition is also viable. DW to speak to the 6 County Boards to see if they support this competition as there will be a cost to them for this. The positive is that club players see a pathway into local senior competition of playing at a higher level. Especially for female players.
21/18		Collaboration/Sharing best practices
	21/18.1	MH: A few people have contacted him about wanting to try water polo at his club, but live too far away. He would like clubs to work with each other so possible new members are sent to their closest club. DW agreed and assumed this was already happening. All agreed that clubs will work together to help each other grow instead of asking players to join them that could play closer to their home. At present, the SEER need more clubs offering water polo to help with membership growth and development than the need for a 'Super Club'. The Region are currently updating the list of clubs that offer water polo, along with contact details. Please send any queries from potential new members that do not live near your club to the regional website or direct to the nearest club if you know it.
	21/18.2	DW: With water polo practical component part coaching courses now being run, can clubs please work with the Region by letting know if you can offer your club session up for the Institute of Swimming (IoS) and the region to arrange dates for candidates to get signed off.

		If clubs organise direct with the IoS, and there is space and availability for others to attend and become qualified, this really helps the region's clubs and members out.
21/19		Development
	21/19.1	DW: With no water polo camps having been run the past few years, he would like to run quarterly day camps for differing age groups. These could be as part of the build up for Inter Regional competition, boy/girl only, over 15s or new to the sport. There would be classrooms for talks by coaches and/or officials, gym use for appropriate S&C, referee/table official courses for players to get a club level qualification whilst also learning about the sport on top of pool time. All seemed supportive of this and DW to look at venues and costs.
21/20		Any other business
	21/20.1	DW let the group know that following the close down due to the pandemic, there isn't an actual budget this year and that everything we do will have to be cost neutral. This would mean unfortunately passing all costs on to the players. To minimise this as much as possible, we will charge all players for sessions even if there is a possibility of free pool time. This profit would go towards Inter Regionals.
21/21		Confidential Items
	21/21.1	No confidential items to report.
21/22		DW closed the meeting and thanked everyone for their attendance. Next meeting will be 21 st July at 7.00pm.