



Swim England East Region
Minutes of the East Open Water Swimming Committee Meeting
11th February, 2021 via Zoom

Present	Paul Kendall (PK)	Chairman
	Sandra Grant (SG)	Bedfordshire representative
	Paul Hayes (PH)	Essex representative
	Jacqui Kendall (JK)	Norfolk representative
	Phil Pelling (PP)	Management Board representative
	Sarah Tait (ST)	Suffolk representative
	Janet Warrington (JW)	Hertfordshire representative
	Marion Westwood (MW)	Specialist
	Steve Westwood (SW)	Specialist

Also present

Keith Belton (KB), Regional Board member and Leanne Brace (LB), Regional Development Manager.

- 21/01 Apologies**
- 21/01.1 There were no apologies.
- 21/02 Declarations of conflict of interest**
- 21/02.1 There were none.
- 21/03 Previous minutes**
- 21/03.1 The minutes of the meeting 12th November 2020 were agreed as an accurate record.
- 21/04 Matters arising**
- 21/04.1 20/24.1 Hat sponsorship- SG had completed a comprehensive report on the possibilities of sponsorship and hat prices.
Action- PK to circulate the report to the group.
- 21/04.2 Prices quoted for the hats varied depending on whether they would have printing of numbers on them. It was agreed the region would seek to purchase hats without numbers on. Latex would need to be purchased for this purpose.

- 21/04.3 The committee agreed to request to purchase 640 caps (one colour per wave- yellow, green, pink, and light blue). Woodchester latex hats appeared to be the cheapest when comparing companies.
Action- PK to submit a request to purchase 640 latex hats for regional championship usage.
- 21/04.4 SG had also looked into sponsorship of the hats. She had approached TYR. TYR were able to offer the region a bulk purchase discount but nothing more. It was agreed that whilst pools were not open, it was not appropriate to contact other companies for sponsorship at this time.
- 21/04.5 20/24.3 Chip Timing- PK has investigated the entry process with the proposed company, but he will need to catch up with KB regarding the current entry process to find out what data is collected and how. KB agreed on a catch up to discuss.
Action- PK and KB to meet to discuss the existing entry process.
- 21/04.6 20/25.2 Examine possibility to use alternative venue- Nene Valley had been contacted to determine whether it might be an option for an alternative venue. The venue wished to have sight of Covid Secure Policies before any date could be discussed. As the region, nor Swim England, were yet in a position to know what this looked like, booking a date here was not possible. The cost would also be higher than at Whitlingham Lakes. The committee agreed to not look for any alternative venues at this time.
- 21/04.7 20/28.1 OW training for coaches- PK updated the committee on coaching courses, confirming he had been in touch with the Institute of Swimming (IoS) to discuss the issue.
- 21/04.8 LB explained how the region had promoted a 'register of interest' form for coaches to sign up to. LB had then had a meeting with the IoS to arrange for a practical session to be delivered in the East region as soon as restrictions allow. By doing so, our coaches can become some of the first qualified in the season.

21/05

Changes to the East Region organisation

- 21/05.1 PK informed the committee that Swim England East Region has successfully become a charity. KB confirmed this would not bring about any changes from a practical level of budgeting and planning for the committee.
- 21/05.2 PK provided an update on the Region having completed a restructure of its governance and becoming an incorporated company. As an outcome of this change discipline committees have been asked to rename the committees. This committee will become East Open Water Leadership Group.
- 21/05.3 This change in governance has also brought about changes to Terms of References (ToR) for these groups. The group had been sent a copy of the proposed ToR prior to the meeting. Members of the group were asked to vote on their preferences.
- 21/05.4 The group voted in favour of continuing with county representatives making up the group.
Action- PK will update the ToR accordingly and circulate to the group for approval.



21/06

2021 Regional Championships

- 21/06.1 The group discussed the key factors involved in deciding whether to host a 2021 Regional Open Water Championships. These included; the strength and stamina of the athletes; novices would not be able to compete this year; a potential County Championship clash; uneven playing field if return to training does not happen at the same time; no ability to restrict public space around the lake; there has been no guidance received from the Government nor Swim England as yet to act upon; travel ability for officials; Covid restrictions at the venue itself; and the cancellation deadline date for the venue.
- 21/06.2 Based upon the above discussions, it was agreed the group were not in a position to cancel the event at this time. Another meeting would be held post government announcement (due on the 22nd February), with more likelihood of having some guidance from Swim England.
- 21/06.3 It was suggested participants and volunteers should sign a disclaimer prior to the event to acknowledge they understood the risks and rules associated with entering, and that their health was suitable for competition. It would also reiterate that the region could not be held liable for anyone catching Covid at the event. This would align to Swim England, and British Swimming recommendation. KB felt that this would not be a worthwhile exercise.

In the meantime PK will make contact with Whitlingham Lakes and ask whether they have an indication of what Covid restrictions they may have in place. This may highlight the event may not be possible from risk assessment and policies.
Action- PK to ask Whitlingham Lakes if they are aware of what Covid restrictions they will likely have in place that could propose issues for the event.

21/07

Any other business

- 21/07.1 There were none.

21/08

Confidential items

- 21/08.1 There were none.

21/09

Next meeting

- 21/09.1 The next meeting will take place on 8th April, 2021 at 7pm via zoom.