



**Swim England East Region**  
**Minutes of the Disability Leadership Group Meeting**  
**19<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

<b>Present</b>	Jackie Harvey (JH)	Manager
	Joan Wheeler (JW)	ROC Representative
	Ann Byrne (AB)	Suffolk Representative
	Carl Cooper (CC)	SE Para-Swimming Talent Coach
	Anthony More (AM)	Norfolk Representative
	Jo Stalley (JS)	Bedfordshire Substitute

Also present Emma Winter, Regional Administrator (EW)

**22/01**                      **Apologies**

- 22/01.1            JH welcomed the Group to the meeting and wished them all a Happy New Year.
- 22/01.2            Apologies were received from Paula Durrant (Cambridgeshire Representative) and Sandra Grant (Bedfordshire Representative).
- 22/01.3            Jo Stalley (JS) attended as a substitute for Bedfordshire.

**22/02**                      **Declarations of conflict of interest**

- 22/02.1            JH asked the Group if anyone had any conflict of interest on anything that is on the agenda for this meeting, there were none.

**22/03**                      **Previous minutes**

- 22/03.1            No previous minutes were provided. JH asked the Group if they were happy to start new as the previous meeting had been so long ago. JW, along with the other members of the Group, agreed.

**22/04**                      **Matters arising**

- 22/04.1            None.

## 22/05

### Athlete Recognition

- 22/05.1 JH discussed Tokyo 2020. She explained how the athletes from our region did very well. Athletes included Jessica-Jane Applegate, Jordan Catchpole, Ellie Challis, Louise Fiddes and Grace Harvey (who still swims under the Hoddesdon Club).
- 22/05.2 In the New Year Honour's list Jordan Catchpole has been awarded an MBE as he was part of the Gold winning S14 mixed freestyle relay team. CC stated that Jessica-Jane was also in that relay team so the East Region had 50% of the Gold Medal Relay which was excellent.
- 22/05.3 CC mentioned to the Group that, subject to clarification, a swimmer from the region may have achieved a British Record in Swansea recently.
- 22/05.4 The Group was informed by CC how this year's talent programme had just been selected and the East Region have done very well. All in all, we have 53 Athlete's offered and taken up a place on our programme this year. JH asked if that was just talent or across the board, CC confirmed that it was on the England Programme. There are 4 tiers this year because Swim England has put them in line with Age bands and the Able Bodied Programme, as the programmes are integrating. East Region has got 8 Swimmers on the Programme, which was 15% of the total.
- 22/05.5 Overall in the Foundation Programme 11-12 year olds the East has 1 swimmer, in the 13-14 year olds 4 swimmers, in the 15-16 year olds 2 swimmers and the 17+ 1 Swimmer.
- 22/05.6 JH asked CC to explain the new pathway, the restructure and integration process.
- 22/05.7 CC explained the new pathway, the restructure and integration process.
- 22/05.8 The National Development Camp will be held in February/March, with pilots held in then January to August. The full integration will have occurred by September.

## 22/06

### County Reports

- 22/06.1 **Suffolk**- AB reported that, although now at a Norfolk club she is still the Suffolk Representative. The Group were sorry to hear that Cheryl Betts, former disability coach from Lowestoft, had died; she was a great supporter of the Swim Ability Meet.
- 22/06.2 Suffolk is integrating the para-Swimmers into the Counties for the first time this year, although they have previously invited para swimmers to their Development Meet. JH asked if they have had many Para-Swimmers take up this opportunity, AB is not sure how many Para-Swimmers have taken it up.



- 22/06.3 **Norfolk**- AM informs the Group that he had agreed to continue as the Norfolk representative. The county will be running a Swim Ability Gala in the 1st week in July, and we're hoping it will go ahead this year.
- 22/06.4 **Bedfordshire**- JS read out a report provided by SG. The report contained information about the lack of competitions over the last 18 to 24 months, and competitions just opening up recently. SG reports that she still continued to support all Bedfordshire clubs as much as she can and encourage them to have a disability representative at their club who can liaise with her.
- 22/06.5 SG had been informed by one of the Bedfordshire clubs that they have recently taken on a disability swimmer who is working towards classification.
- 22/06.6 The report continues, highlighting that there are two other swimmers in the county that have attained their classifications that SG is aware of, and they have also, very recently been selected for the Swim England Talent Programme for the period January – August 2022. These swimmers swim at FDSC.
- 22/06.7 SG was given the privilege of being able to arrange on behalf of Swim England, a Para Taster session that took place at Flitwick Leisure Centre and was organised through Flitwick Dolphins. SG provided a link for more information on the project- <https://protect-eu.mimecast.com/s/tslVC8MLgFyErpSnLwG0?domain=swimming.org> JW congratulated the club on their impressive efforts on the project.
- 22/06.8 **Hertfordshire** - JH informed the Group that Hoddesdon SC, which is one of the main clubs in Hertfordshire with many Para-Swimmers, has lost some of its pool time, so there is a need for more pool time for our Para-Swimmers. Quite a few have not returned back into the pool at all. The club is looking to go back to grass roots and start building up the programme again, something that was established over a few years, so lots of work to do going forward.
- 22/06.9 **Cambridgeshire**- no report provided.
- 22/06.10 **Essex**- no report provided.

## 22/07 **Regional Training sessions**

- 22/07.1 CC informed the Group that he had attended the last regional training session at St Neots. It was very well run by the team new team, and although Louise and Alice who were leading the session are not as experienced as a lot of the other Regions, this wasn't reflected in what they delivered. Three Swimmers were signed off for Skills observation Classification during that session.
- 22/07.2 CC informed the group that EW has been looking into getting a venue to hold a Classifier Training weekend.

- 22/07.3 CC informed the Group that he has not heard back from the Classifiers about a possible date.
- 22/07.4 JH asked if we have a date in the diary for the next Regional Training Session JW confirmed that Leanne Brace had advised that it would be either the 12<sup>th</sup> or 13<sup>th</sup> March 2022 in Newmarket, and the May session would be held in Essex or Suffolk.
- 22/07.5 JH asked JW if it was Leanne organising, JW confirmed that it was Leanne and Emma organising it together.
- 22/07.6 JH asked how the information would be put out to all the athletes and coaches. EW informed the Group that once we have got confirmation of the booking with the venue, we will put the information onto the East Region website, social media and in a newsletter. Fluent forms will be used for swimmers to book onto the training Session.
- 22/07.7 CC informed the Group that there is also a mailing list part of the tracker database form so it will go on there as well.

## **22/08**

### **Para/ Disability Meet 2022**

- 22/08.1 JW reminded the Group that the region normally has a Para meet in October. Martin Lees, Swim England was keen for us to set a date for our regional meet, as he is meeting with the classifiers next month. Initially he suggested the East hold a meet in partnership with London, but as the financial risks were unclear, it was agreed that each region will run a meet that is open to the members from both regions, so that our members will get a chance to go to both meets. This plan will be reviewed next year.
- 22/08.2 London is running a meet in March and the East Region will run a meet in October 2022. Both meet opportunities will be widely advertised to each other membership.
- 22/08.3 JH stated that October was a busy month with the half term break and other Swimming events to be added to the calendar. This was not so much of an issue for our Para-Swimmers but for the Officials that we will need to help support us.
- 22/08.4 JW explained about the main meet that could clash is the Masters meet. JW has spoken with the Masters Manager and they are planning to have their meet in September. Although October is a busy month for Regional and National it is a 5 weekend month, so the possibility is the 1<sup>st</sup> October, 9<sup>th</sup> October or the two weekends 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> or the 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> October. Martin has asked us to avoid the weekend of the 15<sup>th</sup> October as there is a Midlands Regional event that weekend and it will be difficult to get Classifiers to our meet.
- 22/08.5 AB informed the Group that they have a county Development meet in Suffolk, on the 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> October.



- 22/08.6 Depending on the venue and classifier availability, the beginning of half term would be easier than the end as people go away. The Arena League was confirmed as the 8<sup>th</sup> October 2022, so it was agreed the 9<sup>th</sup> October is a possibility.
- 22/08.7 EW asked what pool was preferred. Newmarket pool was discussed as a possibility, but the car parking is a concern. Regional staff will investigate a pool and the car parking at Newmarket.
- 22/08.8 JH asked CC what facilities would be needed for classification. CC will provide EW with some guidelines.
- 22/08.9 JH asked AB if she would be the Officials co-ordinator- AB accepted. JW suggested coming back to details at the next meeting when we know the date and venue and where we are at with restrictions.
- 22/08.10 JW reported that London Region has booked a pool in Harrow for the 27<sup>th</sup> March 2022 and are meeting with Martin to see if classification is possible for that competition. They will let us know the details so we can inform swimmers and officials.
- 22/08.11 JH asked EW to publicize the information regarding the London competition when we have confirmation and more details.
- 22/09 Any other business**
- 22/09.1 JW mentioned that it was great to be meeting again, to think positively about 2022, and to plan some events.
- 22/09.2 It was reported that the Inter-National Para meet will be in Aberdeen in mid-February and it will be used as the trials for the Commonwealth Games. A number of swimmers from the East Region would be competing, and many East Region volunteers were supporting the meet, and the Group sent their best wishes to all involved
- 22/10 Confidential items**
- 22/10.1 There were none.
- 22/11 Next meeting**
- 22/11.1 The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> April at 8.15pm via Zoom.