



Swim England East Region
Minutes of the Water Polo Leadership Group Meeting
8th March 2023

Present	Dean Walker (DW)	Manager
	Ian Mackenzie (IM)	ROC Representative
	Chris Cawood (CC)	Suffolk Coastal Torpedoes
	Martin Hackett (MH)	Dunstable WPC
	Peter Mole (PM)	Hatfield SC

Also present Josh Devine, Regional Manager (JD) and Emma Winter, Regional Administrator (EW)

23/01 Apologies

- 23/01.1 Apologies received from Kev Hall (KH) Norwich WPC, Jonathon Lowry (JL) Hertford SC, Gemma Clare (GC) City of Cambridge WPC, Jurgis Reinotas (JR) Cambridge University WP & SC and Anna Leeson (AL) Cambridge University WP & SC.
- 23/01.2 DW welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced JD to the Group.
- 23/01.3 JD introduced himself to the Group as the new Regional Manager.

23/02 Declarations of conflict of interest

- 23/02.1 There were none.

23/03 Previous minutes

- 23/03.1 DW asked EW to share the previous minutes on the screen.
- 23/03.2 DW went through the previous minutes from the meeting held on the 11th November 2022. The minutes were approved.
- 23/03.3 22/21.2 - DW informed the Group that the school competition did take place on the 24th November. IM also attended, it was held at the Haberdashers School. Hitchin brought a club team and there were also 4 schools who attended. Haberdashers have agreed to host it annually. Will look at next year's competition to be over the weekend and invite more club teams
- 23/03.4 Bedford Modern School will hopefully open up soon as a Water polo club.

- 23/03.5 22/23 – DW informed the Group that the budget and plan has been approved.
- 23/03.6 22/23.4 - Later in the year will gauge the interest from the Counties for a junior Inter County competition. Once there is a better understanding of which age groups there are DW will look at putting an Inter County competition on.
- 23/03.7 22/24.1 – Time to Listen courses, there is one in April and one in November, EW had informed SS of the dates. DW asked the Group to make sure that the clubs welfare officer has attended a Time to Listen course.
- 23/03.8 22/24.3 – All 10 Regional Academy training sessions have been booked, with only two pools confirming the first half of the year will be at the Royal Hospital School and the second half at Riverside, Chelmsford. Next year will look at BMS to hold some sessions there as that the same players are not having to travel.
- 23/03.9 Minutes were approved.

23/04

Matters Arising

- 23/04.1 EW shared her screen with the agenda.
- 23/04.2 DW informed the Group that he wants to bring up the Regional Academy's as a matter arising.
- 23/04.3 Attendance has been good and not the same players each time which is good. As a Region we are not back to where we were pre Haberdashers which there were trials and there was a level of standard of player which was accepted onto the Academy, which the players were coached weekly, where now the Academy has gone monthly, but unfortunately the standard of the players did drop, which meant we either low our standards or not run the sessions.
- 23/04.4 Now the standard has been dropped we are now able to run the Academy session, which means that if the player is a member of Swim England and a member of an East Region club they are invited to attend.
- 23/04.5 DW informed the Group that more players are attending and are taking what they have learnt from the sessions back to their clubs and clubs are starting to improve.
- 23/04.6 What DW like to get back to a point of a decent amount of players attending as well as a decent amount of coaches attending and getting back to the trail selection.
- 23/04.7 By the end of 2023 DW would like to have a structure in place of what is expected which falls in line with the National programme.
- 23/04.8 As a Group we need to promote the Regional Academy's and keep sending the players along as well as the coaches from the clubs that the players are attending from.



- 23/04.9 CC it has to start as an improvement tool, as far as selection is concerned it's a good idea once we start getting the numbers that require selection. We need to concentrate getting the players through the door and get them involved in playing Water polo the correct way, using the correct tools and skills and generally improving the way they play.
- 23/04.10 DW we need try and make it as fun as possible but take it up from a club training session.
- 23/04.11 On a senior point, clubs are still playing the local leagues. From a Regional point of view, we look at combining the leagues and run a competition.
- 23/04.12 CC suggested setting up a Regional Cup so that the Eastern side of the Region play each other, and the two winners play in a grand finale.
- 23/04.13 DW asked the Group to have a think and bring ideas to the next meeting for the senior players in the Region.

23/05

2023 Plan and Budget

- 23/05.1 Budget and plan all approved with 10 Regional Academy sessions, entry of the six Inter Regional teams and if there is anything else the Group would like to put on, we will need to put a variation of budget into the Board for approval.
- 23/05.2 The budget and plan was made simple so that if there is anything the Group would like to put on, it can be added.

23/06

Updates from representatives

- 23/06.1 MH – Stevenage Leisure has just been taken over by Everyone Active as of the 1st April as the new operator. We are preparing for the Herts league which starts in April. There is an outdoor tournament at Letchworth on the 10th June.
- 23/06.2 Milton Keynes although out of Region, they are putting things on and had a mini tournament with Bedford and Hitchin.
- 23/06.3 PM has been helping set up the Herts league.
- 23/06.4 CC have new players join the club and working to getting them up to standard to send to Regional Academy. Has also have a full U14 girls team including 2 goal keepers.
- 23/06.5 JD has nothing to report.
- 23/06.6 EW has nothing to report.
- 23/06.7 IM the first of the talent games of the special centres is on at the end of March at Coventry. Once the event has taken place there will be an review.

23/06.8 There is going to be a National Water polo Leadership Group meeting on the 30th March for all Regional Managers and staff to attend.

23/07

Any other business

23/07.1 MH finds that when they get novices join the club they find that you can get really good short illustrated videos on YouTube that become very useful. Not sure if it would be something that other people might find useful.

23/07.2 To get a library put together with a variety of links of different videos of skills and get them put onto the Regional Website.

23/07.3 JD to look into getting the videos onto the website.

23/07.4 CC mentioned if you type Water polo skills into YouTube there are a variety of videos which are useful for teaching.

23/07.5 DW to have a couple of videos of each skill in the library.

23/08

Confidential items

23/08.1 There were none.

22/09

Next meeting

22/09.1 Next meeting to take place on Wednesday 14th June 2023 @ 7pm via Zoom.