

**East Diving Leadership Group**

(the “EDLG” or “Group”)

**Minutes of the Diving Leadership Group held via video conference**

**6<sup>th</sup> February 2025 at 7pm**

<b>Present</b>	Lottie Thompson (LT)	Diving Manager (joined the meeting late)
	Lexie Bushell (LB)	Specialist
	Sharyn Bord (SB)	Operations Officer
	Stephanie Lewis (SL)	Southend Representative
	Sarah Gateshill (SG)	Dacorum Representative
	Ian Rollinson (IR)	Competitions Officer
	Ian Mackenzie (IM)	Director Representative
	Emma Winter (EW)	Regional Administrator

**25/01**

**Welcome and apologies**

25/01.1 IM opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

25/01.2 Apologies were received from Lottie Thompson (LT) who was running late and Beth Lee (BL) Luton Diving Club representative and Alice Clarke (AC) Development Lead. LT joined the meeting 5 minutes late.

**25/02**

**Declarations of conflict of interest**

25/02.1 None declared

**25/03**

**Previous minutes**

25/03.1 There are some initials which required changing from IM to IR in the previous minutes from 28<sup>th</sup> November 2024. The minutes from the previous meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2024 were agreed subject to the discussed changes.

**Action: LT to make initial changes from IM to IR.**

25/03.2 24/71.5 IM informed the Group that James Salmon (JS) is currently looking into branding for all of the disciplines so that each discipline has its own set of kit which was approved in the budget.

**25/04**

**Matters arising**

25/04.1 No matters arising.

**25/05**

**Correspondence**

25/05.1 LT informed the Group about the ‘Co-creation of the Future coaching’, which is an opportunity to shape the future of aquatics coaching. Workshops will be taking place within all of the Regions and the East Region workshop is taking place on the 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025 in Cambridge.

25/05.2 SG asked if it is compulsory to attend. LT confirmed that although it is not compulsory, it is a good opportunity for coaches to attend or pass on feedback to help shape the new coaching framework.

25/05.3 IM confirmed that coaches can attend any of the workshops around the Country.

25/06

### Club reports

25/06.1 Cambridge  
As Cambridgeshire County are up and running again with new management. Cambridge Dive Team supported the County by holding the County Diving Championships, which went well. The event had the same conditions as the Beaumont Team Challenge to provide familiarity and continuity for the athletes and coaches. Everything else seems to be going reasonably smoothly for the club.

25/06.2 Dacorum  
Currently 1m board is in action. The club is training in Amersham on a Tuesday evening so they can access 3m and 5m boards. There has been no recent communication regarding what is happening to the club's 3m and 5m boards.  
  
LT asked who condemned the boards. IR confirmed that it is the concrete structure rather than the boards themselves and that it is unknown who condemned the use of the boards. As far as the coaches are aware, it is purely cosmetic, and they are hoping to get the use of the boards signed off and approved for use again. There have been mixed messages regarding whether the boards can be used or not, which was preventing the club from making appropriate future training plans.  
**Action: IM to contact Ian Cotton to find out what is happening and feedback to Dacorum.**

25/06.3 Southend  
The club is doing really well. The club had great success at the Aquatics GB Diving Winter Cup where Todd Geggus placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Junior 3m event and Connor Lano placed 1<sup>st</sup> in the Junior 1m event. There was also a big group of divers who competed at the Gavin Brown Love to Dive competition in Southampton and came away with lots of medals. The event provided good competition experience for the club's younger divers.  
  
The club is also experiencing some major problems, as two of the dry gym boards have been condemned and the club have been given a quote of £8k each to have them fixed. Three of the pool boards have been put onto an amber warning which gives the club 3-6 months before they will also be condemned, and the bubbles and sprays have stopped working again. LB confirmed that as of 6<sup>th</sup> February 2025 some of the sprays are working but they are unable to use the 5m and 10m sprays because it trips the whole system. An electrical engineer has assessed the system and said it isn't an electrical fault. The trampoline also had a hole in it which has now been temporarily fixed and is only being used by the younger/smaller athletes.  
  
Southend currently doesn't have a café, but there is a possibility that the club will be able to sell food and drink at competitions and this is being discussed with the current leisure provider.  
  
This is particularly bad timing with the changeover of the leisure provider not yet confirmed.  
SL confirmed that the club now has a dedicated fundraising team, and they are reaching out to local companies to sponsor the club and equipment. However the Committee have some concerns that the club starts paying for equipment they may have to bear the ongoing maintenance costs.  
  
The Group discussed the matter further and LT asked IM if he would be able to find out who is going to be the incoming leisure provider so that conversations can be had with them regarding the current and future position of the equipment which needs to be replaced.  
**Action: IM to try and find out who is taking over Southend from Fusion.**

LT informed the Group that she had suggested to Shan Veasey (Head Coach) that the club could arrange some fundraising activities at the upcoming Regional Elites event. The Group agreed with the suggestion.

**25/06.4**

Luton

BL had provided a report ahead of the meeting detailing that their Christmas club competition was a success, and they were visited by Phil Winder (President) and Phil Pelling (Secretary) of Bedfordshire County. The club also took 9 divers to Surrey Skills to kick off the season and anticipate taking a similar number of divers to London regional Skills on 1st March 2025.

John Cripps (Chairman) and BL are still meeting with Lindsey Bierton from Active Luton every month to discuss the club which is really positive.

LT advised she had spoken to (BL) in the week and she informed LT that Lindsey Bierton has been very supportive of diving and is supporting Jack Tempest (Development Coach) as his line manager. LT agreed that she is going to reach out to see if Jack or the wider coaching team requires any additional support or guidance from the Region whilst there isn't a head coach in place.

LT stated that overall, the club is in a positive place, and they are building up their competitive groups again.

**25/07**

**Operations update**

**25/07.1**

SB gave an update and confirmed that all the pool bookings for the 2025 Regional events have been booked and have been paid.

Everything has been booked for the National Skills Finals with the contracts all signed but have still got to pay for the venue.

SB has ordered all medals and shirts that they will need until July 2025 and she is arranging with EW regarding getting them to the events.

For the Skills/Elites weekend SL is away, and SB is unsure of her mobility, so SL is organizing suitable alternative volunteers to take on **their** roles. SL confirmed that Kerry Billton will take on the role of Field of Play manager.

SB highlighted that the booking for the pool on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2025 is to 5pm but the entry pack states the event will close at 5.30pm. LT confirmed that the pool booking should be updated to 5.30pm.

**Action: SB to contact Southend to extend the pool booking to 5.30pm.**

**25/08**

**Regional Diving Competitions**

**25/08.1**

IR confirmed that the entry packs for the Skills and Elites events had been circulated.

LT confirmed that she will liaise with EW to get the Expression of Interest (EOI) form set up and sent out to the regional judges.

**Action: LT to email EW with information for the EOI form for the Judges.**

LT asked SL to put her in contact with Kerry Billton so she can liaise with her regarding the Skills and Elites events.

For the Age Groups Competition LT confirmed that unfortunately she will not be attending as she will be away, but she will make sure that there will be a suitable chief referee for the event.

25/09

#### **Regional development**

25/09.1 LT confirmed that she had spoken with AC and she is trying to liaise with Shan Veasey so they avoid delivering the same development themes at the Talent Development Centre (TDC) sessions. As the TDC sessions have been delayed, LT suggested that they go ahead and organise the regional development sessions.

**Action: LT to arrange a meeting with AC and LB to discuss Regional development.**

25/10

#### **Officials update**

26/10.1 The updated regional officials list had been circulated along with the meeting papers. LB pointed out that Sasha Brooke is a J2 judge. LT confirmed that she will update it the officials list.

**Action: LT to update the officials list.**

LT highlighted that depending on the interest for the Regional Skills event, **she** may try to upskill recently qualified J1 judges at the Skills event as Skills can be quite difficult to judge. An option to shadow judge would be added to the EOI.

25/11

#### **Coaches Forum update**

25/11.1 The Regional Coaches are really keen to have the Regional Elites event and there is a lot of support for the event. LT confirmed that they will need to see how the event goes and how it will progress in future years. As the Region now has a number of Elite divers coming through, it is nice to cater for them at a regional level.

25/12

#### **Any other business**

25/12.1 There was no other business to be discussed.

24/13

#### **Confidential Items**

25/13.1 No confidential items.

25/14

#### **Next meeting**

25/14.1 The next meeting will be on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2025.