

East Diving Leadership Group
(the “EDLG” or “Group”)

Minutes of the Diving Leadership Group held via video conference

10th October 2024 at 7pm

Present	Lottie Thompson (LT)	Diving Manager
	Lexie Bushell (LB)	Specialist
	Sharyn Bord (SB)	Operations Officer
	Katharine Mansfield (KM)	Southend Diving Representative
	Stephanie Lewis (SL)	Specialist (joined 7.35 pm)
	Beth Lee (BL)	Luton Representative
	Ian Rollinson (IR)	Competitions Officer
	James Salmon (JSa)	Regional Manager
	Ian Mackenzie (IM)	Director Representative

24/51

Welcome and apologies

- 24/51.1 LT opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.
- 24/51.2 Apologies were received from Alice Clarke (AC) and Bill Clark (BC).
- 24/51.3 SB congratulated LT and IR on their awards. It was noted that James Hadley also received an award for development coach. The awards were presented by the East Region President.

24/52

Declarations of conflict of interest

- 24/52.1 None declared.

24/53

Previous minutes

- 24/53.1 The minutes of the last meeting held on 8th August were agreed.

24/54

Matters arising

- 24/54.1 Minute 24/43.3 The age exemption has been granted. The course will take place in Cambridge soon.
- 24/54.2 EDLG membership will be covered later on the agenda.

24/55

Correspondence

- 24/55.1 LT mentioned correspondence from the President, Dean Walker, regarding his attendance at the Beaumont Team Challenge.
- 24/55.2 No other correspondence was received.

24/56
Club reports

24/56.1

Cambridge

SB reported that there are waiting lists for the Learn-to-Dive programme. A level one coaching would be taking place at the end of the month. Things are looking positive.

24/56.2

Southend

The Beaumont Cup Challenge was held last weekend. It was a successful event with good numbers of spectators, and good income, including that from the door entry and from fund-raising activities.

Unfortunately, the bubble machine is broken. There are no updates on when it might be fixed. Membership numbers are good. LB is onboard as an Assistant Coach (Level 1). There are many new Learn-to-Dive children, and the numbers in the club are going back up.

LT noted that Todd Geggus has been selected to go to the World Junior Championships, which is an exciting achievement for Southend and good representation for the East Region.

Preparations are in hand for the English Schools Swimming Association (ESSA) Competition.

There is a good team of people trained on dive recording, and they tested their skills last weekend. The club's volunteer base is increasing, with people who have just done the Team Manager training, and more Skills parents getting involved. KB reported a good feeling from parents and volunteers at present.

24/56.3

Luton

BL reported that two of their under-16 divers were given an age exemption to attend the upcoming Assistant Coach (Level 1) course. The bubble machine is still to be fixed -the part is expected around Christmas time. A new club kit should be available soon from a new supplier. Club activities are being worked on to integrate the new divers, to build morale, and to hopefully encourage more parents to become involved and take on a volunteer role. A Christmas or New Year club night and a fundraiser is planned.

Alfie Whytock is currently coaching at Luton as an Assistant Coach (Level 1). He will be overseen by Jack Tempest, ensuring that there is always a qualified Diving Coach (Level 2) in attendance.

24/56.4

Dacorum

LT reported for Dacorum as they were not at the meeting. Things are going well. There are no updates on the bubble situation. They have a new kit supplier. The club is training at Amersham for additional pool time.

24/56.5

Brocket (Hatfield)

AC will contact the club for an update, as there has been no news for a while. LT reported that they still have Diving Coaches (Level 2).

24/57
Operations update

24/57.1

LT noted to JSa that the diving finance report should have been sent out with the invite to the meeting. She shared a screen showing the report.

24/57.2

The Talent Games Workshop took place in September.

24/57.3 SB raised the concern from the last meeting that the pool hire had not been paid. Southend was advised of this and subsequently this has now been paid. The Beaumont Team Challenge expenditure is still outstanding.

LT mentioned that one outstanding item is the pool hire from the camp held in February at Luton. LT will investigate whether or not it has been paid, as there is some confusion about this.

SB requested a copy of the report. LT will provide it.

24/57.4 SB asked IR for an update on the income from the door at the weekend. IR confirmed it was about £640, which included £204 in cash and about £450 from Sumup, minus their fees. He confirmed the actual figure to be £446.47 from Sumup.

24/57.5 SB confirmed that bookings had all been made for next year, and the booking for National Skills Finals is in process.

24/58

Regional Diving Competitions

24/58.1 IR reported on the Beaumont Team Challenge. It went well and ran to time. He mentioned that they have a good group of volunteers and judges. The manual recording on Saturday was done by Amy Rollinson which freed up others to get the event set up.

IR ran the event and will still do so for East Region events, but Ian Havis and Andy Stratford did most of the recording during the Beaumont Team Challenge. IR is currently supporting them with doing the English Schools event on Sunday, which gives them the opportunity to run an event from start to finish. This will enable them to understand how the competition is set up, so in the future they can do the set up for IR. Importantly, this means that from Southend's point of view that they will be able to run their own events.

IR believes the club has agreed to get the storeroom equipped with proper shelving so that the equipment can be left on-site.

The importance of having people trained and comfortable with setting up competitions and giving them the opportunity to practise was discussed.

Next year, IR intends to get Ian Havis and Andy Stratford to help with the Skills event and involve them in the configuration of the database.

24/58.2 LT stated that it has been a very successful year for the regional competitions, particularly in terms of how smoothly the events have run and the progress made with volunteers.

24/58.3 LT highlighted to IR that there is a need to approach Jill Robinson following the Paris Olympics, to see if she can deliver an Announcers Workshop which could be available nationally. Preferably this would be before the end of the year. LT also suggested the workshop could be recorded so that it can be used as a resource. It would be a chargeable event. LT suggested Skills as a good opportunity to get people there for the first time to do the announcing, with Louise Lano on hand to help.

Action: IR to message Jill Robinson.

24/59

Regional development

24/59.1 A report was received from AC.

There were 13 divers at the Talent Games Workshop. Some of the Southend divers still need to be followed up for payment.

It was a good experience for coaches to get to grips with the new skills, following the update to the conditions for Talent Games this year. Kirsteen Mitchell who presented the workshop provided expert knowledge and analysis. It was a purely dry-land workshop. This enabled more divers to attend as some of the pool conditions are quite hard for the younger divers. This helped them prepare for next year and get to grips with the dry-land elements, with the pool experience being developed over the next year. AC suggested adding in the pool element next year.

24/59.2 LB attended the workshop and gave positive feedback, mentioning that it was very specific about the requirements and how things should look, as the judging is slightly different this year.

24/59.3 AC is in the process of organising a wet-rigging course. Alex Rochas has confirmed that he is available on the 30th November to deliver a rigging workshop which will be some dry at the start and then in the pool. Approximately five or six coaches will attend. AC will invite the coaches individually, based on their current rigging experience, after she has spoken to head coaches over the next week.

SB questioned the amount on the development budget for this. It is for eight coaches at £20 each. She was concerned about whether it is appropriate to charge coaches as much when they are giving up their time and helping the sport. She suggested making the money elsewhere to support the coaches on these development processes.

SB suggested a nominal charge - a registration fee of £5 to be paid by the coaches who would then be supported by the Region for attending the course. IM agreed.

LT said that in the event of there not being enough sign-ups, people outside of the East Region could be invited at a charge of £20. A £5 fee for coaches was agreed. LT will inform AC.

24/59.4 With regard to the twisting and handstand camp for this year, many coaches are very busy. Sally Freeman from Plymouth has agreed to deliver a twisting workshop, and Sam Buck will deliver a handstands workshop, but this will be in next year.

24/59.5 LT commented that it was a shame that the full development target for the year had not been reached. LB and AC will help to work towards getting more development events in next year.

24/60

Officials update

24/60.1 LT reported that a couple of people did some shadow judging at the competition last weekend.

24/60.2 LT identified a potential issue with when updates are received from Swim England about who from the Region has done the course. There were a few people missing from the list of officials. The list will be updated ready for next year.

24/60.3 There is a J1 course on Tuesday next week. It will be run by LT with a few people from the Region attending.

Demand for J2 course is currently being sought. LT circulated the link in the coaches' chat and it has been included on emails and other distributed items, so that people can register and express their interest.

24/61

Coaches Forum update

- 24/61.1 The coaches are mostly involved in sorting out the English Schools Competition. Between the last meeting and this meeting, they reviewed the conditions for the Beaumont Team Challenge.
- 24/61.2 It was noted that the board for the seniors and synchro event had been changed from 1m to 3m and that this had worked well.

24/62

Any other business

- 24/62.1 EDLG membership
LT is looking to appoint an officials lead to help support with the officials role in a more formal way than has been done in the past. She has submitted an updated Terms of Reference and an advert for the position to IM for review by the Board.
- 24/62.2 LT floated the idea of having poolside equipment for presentations at competitions. East Region Diving 'Toblerone' boards – their size, cost and storage – were considered. Also suggested was a backdrop to go against the wall or behind the medal table. SB, SL, IR and LT will look at this and a request will be submitted to the Board. Any further ideas will be welcomed.
- 24/62.3 SB raised the matter of tutors, stating that there are a lot of coaches who would perhaps take on tutoring roles, but the positions are not available. The lack of tutors is holding people back from being able to do the courses.
- LT responded that there are currently no courses to train tutors, as the courses and their content are being reviewed. It also takes people approximately a year to get trained. There are people interested in doing the course nationally. She asked to be made aware of anyone who would like to do some tutoring, as the Region has provided support for this in the past. She mentioned that they need to do their level 3 in education if they haven't got a teaching qualification.
- 24/62.4 Swim England Membership
IM mentioned that it is essential for clubs to have volunteers who perform any role become members of Swim England, so that they then have insurance and judiciary cover. This is paid for out of club funds.
- 24/62.5 SB requested that an agenda item re the budget be available for the next meeting.
- 24/62.6 2025 meetings dates (February, April, June, August, October and December)
LT asked to be made aware of any potential conflicts to aid with planning the meetings. Potential dates will be circulated.

24/63

Confidential Items

- 24/63.1 A confidential matter regarding tutors was discussed.

24/64

Next meeting

- 24/64.1 The next meeting will be on 28th November 2024.