

East Diving Leadership Group
(the “EDLG” or “Group”)
Minutes of the Diving Leadership Group held via video conference
26th March 2026 at 7pm

Present:	Lottie Thompson (LT)	Diving Manager
	Ian Mackenzie (IM)	Board Representative
	Sharyn Bord (SB)	Operations Officer
	Lexie Bushnell (LB)	Specialist
	Will Machin (WM)	Hatfield (Brocket) Representative
	Ian Rollinson (IR)	Competitions Officer
	Emma Winter (EW)	Regional Administrator

26/15

Welcome and apologies

- 26/15.1 LT opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending.
- 26/15.2 Apologies were received from Steph Lewis (SL), Specialist and Southend Representative.

26/16

Declarations of conflict of interest

- 26/16.1 None declared

26/17

Previous minutes

- 26/17.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 4th February 2026 were reviewed. No comments or amendments were raised. The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record.

26/18

Matters arising

- 26/18.1 **Financial reports (action from February):**
LT confirmed that, following a conversation with Jo Stalley, a more detailed financial breakdown will now be provided going forward. This will allow the Group to monitor whether any expenditure has been coded incorrectly. LT noted that all submissions to Jo should be clearly marked with the relevant budget code.

This action is considered closed.

- 26/18.2 **Synchronised diving judging workshop (action from February):**
LT confirmed that the synchronised diving judging workshop has taken place. Further information to be provided in the Officials update item.

26/18.3 **Wet-rigging course (action from February):**
In progress - LB will provide an update under the Regional Development item.

26/18.4 **Announcers' course (action from February):**
LT confirmed that materials are still being developed. Work is ongoing with Josh Devine. Provisional resources have been prepared and require further development.
Action: LT to follow up with Josh Devine on announcers' course resources.

26/18.5 **Flashcards (action from February):**
Flashcards have been located and priced at approximately £12. However, international shipping costs from the United States are prohibitive. A solution has been arranged.

26/18.6 IM reported that Southend Diving Club has received the funding from the Council for the new fulcrums.

26/18.7 The J1 course sign-up was circulated. A good number of regional participants attended the March course. Further update is provided under the Officials update item.
Progress has been made with the J2 course. The Region will be hosting a J2 course. Further detail is provided under the Officials update item.

26/19

Correspondence

26/19.1 LT confirmed that, since the previous meeting, no correspondence had been received which was not already covered by competition-related items on the agenda.

26/20

Club reports

26/20.1

Luton:

The club is currently working through the annual Club Affiliation process.

Coaching update:

Hannah, a Level 1 coach, is enrolled on a Level 2 course at Sandwell in the near future. Alfie Whytock and Tilly Rollinson have recently completed their Level 2 qualifications. This represents a welcome increase in qualified coaching staff at the club. This will benefit both the squads and the Learn-to-Dive sessions.

Talent development:

Jack Tempest applied for external funding for a talent identification programme in local schools. Trials are currently being finalised, and a new small squad will shortly begin training, to be headed by Max Hill and Alfie Whytock.

Competitions:

The club attended their first age-groups competition in approximately three years at G-Star in Leeds. Results included a gold medal, two silvers, and a fifth-place finish, with several qualifiers for the National Age-Groups (NAGs) competition. In the East Region Skills competition at Southend last weekend, all divers placed within the top ten, and several qualified for the National Skills Finals.

LT noted that it was particularly positive to see Luton active on the competition circuit again, and to see Max Hill and Jack Tempest coaching at the weekend.

26/20.2

Cambridge:

Competitions:

The club is fully into the competition season. County championships at all levels have been held at Parkside - Cambridge is the only diving club in the county. SB noted that all county events are currently held during club time to manage costs. This is not ideal, and the club is looking to address the situation.

Divers have attended the Scottish Nationals, the Armada Cup, and the East Region Skills and Elites competition last weekend, where a fair number of medals were achieved.

Facilities:

A dry board broke and has been replaced. The club has also acquired a large new air mat funded via a City Council grant. The air mat has been very well received by the divers. The club is looking to install a rig above another dry board, though this work is constrained by the school environment and must be completed out of hours or during school holidays.

Governance:

The club held its Annual General Meeting recently, resulting in a full committee being elected. Codes of conduct and policies are being reviewed in line with updated Swim England guidance. Learn-to-Dive numbers are stable, competitive squad numbers are increasing, and the Easter holiday camp uptake has been strong.

Pool operator:

GLL's contract with the Council is coming to an end and has been extended to August 2026. Several operators have applied for the new contract. Two remain in contention. The outcome is expected to be announced around June 2026.

26/20.3

Dacorum:

The club had limited news this month. The East Region Skills competition at the weekend was enjoyed, with several new divers entering competitive diving for the first time at that level. Experienced and older divers have been mentoring newer members, creating a positive and supportive club atmosphere.

The club completed its Swim England renewals without issue. LT observed that the club has been attending a variety of competitions including the North East Region's Syd Boothroyd Diving Grand Prix. This attendance was good to see.

26/20.4

Hatfield:

Hatfield Diving Club is currently operating under its code of provisional affiliation. The club has been training through the UMS system and is ready to dive. The club still needs to hold its Special General Meeting.

One diver won a gold medal at a recent competition, which is very encouraging.

The club is working through its first formal affiliation paperwork, making good progress. The short-term focus is on completing the affiliation process. The longer-term goal is to grow the club and address certain structural matters which are expected to come to the fore as membership increases.

26/21

Operations update

26/21.1

SB gave a financial summary for the competitions held to date: -
Skills: Entries generated £2,400 income and expenses were £1,840.

Elites: £666 from entries, £770 from door income, and low expenses to date. A reminder to all officials to submit expenses.

SL arranged all the shirts and medals for the Elites event. SB noted that a further order may be needed following the Age-Groups competition.

The Age-Groups competition will be the next event to account for.

Action: LT to send a reminder to all judges to submit their expenses promptly.

26/22

Regional diving competitions

26/22.1

IR reported that the East Region Skills competition had more entries than in previous years, which is a positive indicator of growth. The Elites competition is also seeing increased entries.

IR advised that he had put some of the door income from both events towards the Elites event, to help balance the figures

IR reported that a new printout format for marshals and judges was introduced at the Skills competition. It was very well received and significantly improved the running of the event. IR noted that for handling the unusual dive codes (e.g. 21C and 20A), the most efficient solution is to turn off auto-DD in the system

and enter the difficulty degree manually. This will be adopted for future national Skills events.

IR highlighted that approximately 150 entries is likely to be the practical maximum for a single-day Skills event, given available pool time.

The 2026 Group C changes made the competition slightly longer, but this was largely offset by efficiencies elsewhere.

There was discussion on expanding the Elites event to include senior divers. LT explained the background: The January Aquatics GB event has become an international selection event only, meaning senior divers, who are not selected, now have limited competitive opportunities. At the request of London, two senior divers were included in this year's Elites event.

IR confirmed that this worked well, noting that the two additional divers had minimal impact on the event's logistics. IR expressed willingness to expand the Sunday event further for senior divers where feasible, noting that the Sunday event is generally less stressful than Saturday, and more entries would help offset pool hire costs. It was suggested that, to help plan for next year, coaches be canvassed to gauge how many senior divers would be interested.

LT noted that a review of timetabling ahead of next year's event would be worthwhile, particularly given the growing Elites entry numbers.

A proposal was discussed to move Group A divers from the Saturday Skills event to the Sunday, to allow the Saturday event to accommodate more entrants within the 150-diver target. IR expressed some reluctance, as this could require coaches to stay overnight where they might not otherwise do so. The consensus was to keep Group A on Saturday and expand Sunday instead.

26/22.2 Final entries for the Age-Groups competition are due in approximately one week. This will give a clearer picture of entry numbers for the April event. The competition is looking positive.

IR confirmed that all preliminary work for upcoming events has been completed.

Flashcards: IR confirmed that he will purchase the flashcards for the competition and submit an expense claim for these. This purchase is included in the budget.

26/23

Regional development

26/23.1 **Wet-rigging course:**

LB confirmed that she has spoken with Alex Rochas (AR), who is on board to run the wet-rigging course. AR has suggested 11th September (Friday), or potentially 12th September (Saturday), given his busy international schedule. LB will check with Shan Veasey (SV) to assess which date works better for coaches.

Action: LB to liaise with AR and check with SV, Louise and relevant coaches on the preferred date (11th or 12th September) for the wet-rigging course

26/23.2 **May Development Camp:**

LT is working towards a development camp provisionally planned for May, ideally hosted at Luton Diving Club. LT has been in contact with Luton but has discovered a gala clash on one of the preferred dates. LT indicated that the camp may need to be hosted elsewhere for this reason but remains committed

to hosting at Luton on a future occasion for the benefit of Luton divers and the wider Region.

Georgia Davenport is being considered to lead the session. LT is awaiting confirmation of Georgia's coach selection and international commitments, which may affect the dates available.

Action: LT, LB and AC to finalise the 2026 camps schedule and present confirmation once Georgia Davenport's availability is confirmed

26/23.3

Gymnastics / twisting session:

AC is planning a session with Matt Jackson, a gymnastics coach who has worked with diving through Swim England recently. This session is intended to focus on twisting and will be planned for the summer holidays to maximise access for divers who might otherwise be constrained by school calendars.

26/24

Officials update

26/24.1

J1 course – March 2026:

LT reported that she had hosted a J1 course in March 2026, with strong regional attendance. New judges included Louise Baker (recently moved to Southend), Alice Bilton, Scott Velleman, Timothy Scroxtton, Scarlett Hallam, and Elodie Bigham.

Several of these new judges were already in the judges' seats at the regional competition last weekend. Scott and Alice judged at the event. Louise Baker attended as an observer from the balcony, having not been feeling well, but engaged with the proceedings.

LT noted she will circulate the Age-Groups sign-up form to these new judges to give them an early opportunity to judge at a further event.

Action: Club representatives to encourage club members to sign up for J1 courses

26/24.2

J2 course

LT confirmed that the Region has been approached by Swim England to host a national J2 course. Following discussion with IR, the course will be held on the same weekend as the Age-Groups competition, as all relevant personnel will already be present, making it a practical and efficient use of the calendar.

Swim England is expected to provide funding or budget towards the running costs of the course, though this may not cover the full amount. Finance is being managed with the involvement of Keith Belton, Regional Finance Manager.

LT has distributed an expression of interest to eligible J1 judges who have been judging for some time and meet the criteria for progression. A number have already signed up from across the country. Candidates' eligibility is being checked.

SG asked about the eligibility criteria for the J2 course.

LT explained that candidates must be at least 18 years of years, with an equivalent of approximately eight regional competitions' experience. Ideally, they should have judged at the National Skills Finals. LT noted that the National Skills pathway is preferred but is acknowledged to be a limiting factor given that only three judges per region can be sent to that event each year. She encouraged those who meet criteria to register their interest even if they are

close to, but not quite at, the threshold, noting that eligibility can be reviewed on an individual basis.

Action: LT to explore the feasibility of hosting a J2 course alongside the competition preparation camp

26/24.3 LT noted that planning for the National Skills Finals judging panel needs to commence. The national expression of interest form is expected to be issued in April.

LT asked EW to create an expression of interest for East Region judges. Advanced hotel bookings at a cancellable rate are being considered, noting that rates increase as the event approaches. LT will liaise with Jo Stalley (JSt) to manage hotel bookings.

Action: LT to circulate an expression of interest form for National Skills Finals judges and liaise with JSt regarding hotel bookings at a cancellable rate.

26/25

Coaches Forum update

26/25.1 LT provided the Coaches Forum update in the absence of a separate report. The primary feedback from the forum related to the recent East Region Skills and Elites competitions, which has already been discussed. Coach feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with coaches noting how smoothly the event ran in comparison to the London Skills qualifier.

SB commented that the East Region event appeared to have restored confidence among parents who attended. They had been put off by earlier experiences at the London event. SB noted that the professional and calm running of the East Region competition was particularly appreciated.

LT noted there was a clear appetite among coaches to expand the Elites / potential Senior event in future years.

IR reflected on the operational side, acknowledging that the early part of the day is inevitably stressful as marshals get up to speed, but that once the event settled into its rhythm, things ran very well. IR credited the strong volunteer base at Southend and the contributions of all involved, particularly highlighting how having clear division of responsibilities (judging, marshalling, medals, logistics) enables the whole event to function effectively. LT added that the event had a noticeably positive atmosphere throughout.

26/26

Any other business

26/26.1 None

26/27

Confidential items

26/27.1 No confidential items were raised.

26/28

Next meeting

26/28.1 The next meeting is scheduled for 4th June 2026, but this conflicts with Aquatics GB Diving Championships.

The next meeting is therefore rescheduled to 28th May 2026 at 7pm. LT will update the calendar and notify all members of the Group.

26/28.2 Proposed meeting dates for 2026:

- 13th August 2026
- 8th October 2026
- 3rd December 2026