

**Minutes of the Coaches Forum**

Date: Wednesday 10th May

Time: 11am – 2pm

Venue: Surrey Sports Park

Present: Kristie Jarrett, Sean Bailey, John Davies, Richard Garfield, David Vine, Rosa Gallop, Nigel Willis, Kim Hill, Kevin Brooks, Lindsay Dunn, Amanda Booth, Tony Smith, Greg Buck, Mike Lambert, Roger Prior

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| **Ref** | **Item** | **Action** |
| **1.** | **Apologies** |  |
| **2.**  | **Matters arising from the last meeting*** Nice dates for 2018 not available yet
* The region have confirmed a budget for 24 athletes to attend the off – shore camp 2018.
* Kyle will be leaving Oxford in August therefore KB will go on the camp again as Head Coach and the Assistant will be invited from the club with the largest number of sections
* Interviews for the Sussex representative were postponed due to complications of attendance at the Youth regionals and the proximity of the next round of applications. These candidates will be considered in July. The coach from Mid Sussex did introduce himself the RG and is going to visit the club.

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| **3.** | **Appointment of a Chair*** After nomination the group appointed Richard Garfield as chair.
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| **4.** | **England Programmes Officer report*** The swimmers selected for the meets coming up in the summer, not all are on the website as some are nominations.
* James Wilks and Max Murphy from the region will be selected for the 2024 squad as they were close to the Commonwealth Youth Games team. They will be notified shortly.
* Sport England confirmed funding for phase 1 and 2 camps. Phase 1 will be 3 x 1 day camps between September and December, there will be an athlete contribution. The phase 2 camps will be 2x2 days, this might clash with the counties but as they will be 15/16 hopefully this will not cause a problem.
* Swim England are currently reviewing LTAD with UK Sport and British Swimming.
* The camp dates will be in a brochure at the summer nationals.
* The funders are committed to the Phase 3 camp but England Programmes would like a different date, the 1st weekend in May clashes with the Youth regionals.
* The Arena final will be on the 21st and 22nd April now.
* Regional parents talk on Saturday 13th during the afternoon warm up. This is for 12 year olds parents or 13/14 year competing for the first time. The topics to be covered are the regional development programme and the youth physical development model. Amanda suggested that Lindsay could incorporate “when to compete” Kevin asked for training to be covered – when they should be doing what – the whole pathway.
 | **Coaches to encourage parents to attend talk.** |
| **5.** | **Update on regional 12 year camps and open water camp 2017*** 32 of the 40 selected for the open water camp confirmed their places, there are a few spaces available if there are any wild card selections.
* Marc Foster from Ellesmere is Head Coach and there are 7 assistants. Marc will be going on the phase 3 open water camp so he can share recent knowledge.
* Regional skills coaches have been selected. Any other interested coaches will be able to book on to observe.
* Bookings are available for the conference on the 11th June in Leatherhead, please promote with coaches and Team Managers.
* Selections for the 12 year old camp will be out by the 5th June, they will only have two weeks to respond so please pass on quickly. Unfortunately we do not hold addresses for all swimmers so we do rely on your help. There will be 36 selections, 18 girls and 18 boys.
 | **Additional open water selections to KJ.****All to promote conference.** |
| **6.** | **Matters arising from the national coaches panel – Kevin Brooks*** Notes went out from the last meeting and minutes to follow.
* The message from Bill was coaches have been selected for the team based on their behaviours around the poolside.
* They were asked again if the group is worthwhile, the answer from all was yes. Kevin raised the point from Josh Willliamson around the permission for licenses around the British Champs. There was a conversation around licensing and the issues, why is there no longer a level 2 Long Course License, the level 3 won’t qualify them for higher meets and the level 1s are difficult to access. Lindsay has been having conversations recently about this, Grant can influence as he sits on the Licensing panel.
* Other discussion was around should the 15+window reflect the exam pressure? The window in 2018 may just be April and May. Lindsay fed back that the Portsmouth 15+ meet has a mixed entry with a few from several clubs. The group asked why we can’t have a level 1 meet in June/ July.
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| **7.** | **Condition 3.1.1 from the SER summer Champs and other issues – Mike Lambert*** ML suggested that the condition be dropped. RP suggested that it be reworded instead, this will go to the swimming group.
* ML apologised for the delays with the seeding on the weekend, there was an issue with the multi-discipline setting.
* Team declarations were a mess, most were late. Next year they will need to be uploaded onto the website.
* Bags were an issue and some coaches and parents were rude about this. The issue is space on the poolside and the venue make this part of the conditions of hire.
* The £1000 security were not able to do the job desired, they should have been on the entrance to poolside and not by the changing room, although it was nice not having parents in the changing room.
* ML apologised for a confrontation with one of the coaches.

RG summarised that there were 3 main issues, software/ bags and a stressful atmosphere. Over the last few years the coaches and ML have built a relationship which has been essential. Coaches felt that ML needs more support on the day to prevent the stressful situations that occurred at the weekend. Coaches also felt that maybe it would be better to use Hytek so other potential helpers would know how to support. ML had been trying to get an MC for the weekend and was unsuccessful. It was suggested and agreed that some of the coaches (Richard, Amanda, Kevin and Greg) would meet with Mike and Rosa to review and develop some actions on the 8th June 12noon.Regional Champs 2018 will be 5-7 May (youth) 12/13 and 26/27 May (age group).  | **KJ to arrange a room in Guildford 8th June 12noon.**  |
| **8.** | **Regional Winter Championships – Short or Long course?*** The region have been told that they should be Long course. The group from an educational purpose around the seasons would like it to be short course. Most other regions are going for LC. There appears to be enough LC meets around this time for qualification and preparation purposes.
* LD was unsure that this was the steer so will also chase.
 | **ML to confirm.** |
| **9.**  | **16 year old age group county champs*** RG spoke with Grant Robins at the British Champs about the 16 year old age group. This is still an issue in a number of counties, therefore, KB has produced a draft letter to send into Grant.
* LD suggested that maybe the letter needed some supporting data to have an impact on any decision making. Tim Jones does not want to change anything at this time until the impact of the current system can be seen.
* Amanda suggested that there is evidence there for the boys in this age group. B finals did not work as 16 year olds did not manage to qualify for the counties.
* ML and others pointed out a few solutions around having a 16 year old qualifying time, making the junior age group 16 years and under.
* GB suggested that actually the 17 year olds at regional level are more of an issue- can we have a qualifying time for that? Maybe the working group can look at that?
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| **10.** | **Coaches Forum members*** There will be four spaces available, current group members to stand down and re apply if they wish are Kevin and Tony.
* JD suggested having the forms at the regionals at the weekend.
 | **KJ to send application forms.** |
| **11.** | **AOB*** LD asked Coaches to push the TM conference in their clubs.
* Mike asked if anyone knew an announcer that could do Sunday 14th. AB suggested that she might and will get in touch.
* Richard, with the movement of the Arena League, there is the question as to whether the competition review has thought about the other leagues including English Schools. LD suggested that there is some need for this and that there has been some discussion around an educational swim weekend, including BUCS and English Schools etc.
 | **Any announcer help for the 14th May let ML know.**  |
| **12.** | **Coaches topic**Coaches discussed tapering, next time they will look at club sustainability - RG |  |
| **13.** | **Dates of next meetings**12th July – Guildford Spectrum13th September15th November |  |