

**Minutes of the Coaches Forum**

Date: Wednesday 13th September

Time: 11am – 1.30pm

Venue: Guildford Spectrum

Present: Kristie Jarrett, Sean Bailey, John Davies, Richard Garfield, Rosa Gallop, Kim Hill, Lindsay Dunn, Kevin Brooks, Ron Philpot, Dan Cross, Lisa Atkinson

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Ref** | **Item** | **Action** |
| **1.** | **Apologies**Tony Smith, David Vine, Mike Lambert, Nigel Willis, Amanda Booth, Roger Prior |  |
| **2.**  | **Matters arising from the last meeting*** RG Welcomed returning forum members Ron Philpot, Tony Smith and Kevin Brooks and new member Lisa Atkinson.
* The group recognised that the 2016/2017 season was a particularly successful one for the South East region.
* The swimming committee has not discussed having a coach representative - RGF is happy to volunteer.
 | **RGP and JD to raise again at the swimming committee.**  |
| **3.** | **Voting a new member onto the forum*** Unfortunately Greg Buck has resigned from the forum for personal reasons. He will be missed from the group. RGF suggested to the group that Paul Lloyd from Maidenhead would be a good replacement. JD confirmed that the terms of reference did not specify that we had to advise an in term replacement. All agreed that Paul would be good to have on the group.
 | **KJ to invite Paul Lloyd to attend the Forum.** |
| **4.** | **Regional Off Shore Camp 2018*** KJ handed out the selection criteria draft and programme for Flanders. KB feels that this is a good meet and travelling on Thursday for a training day on the Friday would be a good option.
* LD presented a case for the regional team to go away in June, this is a good time of year to prepare for the summer nationals and not many have competed since May. It also can cater for those not selected the rest of the year. The opportunities for junior athletes will be less next year and podium/potential athletes will be selected earlier. Can the region support the next tier?
* This led to a discussion on level 1 licensing, it is possible to license a level1 meet in June, this restriction went out a while ago but clubs do not seem to be aware.
* KB reiterated that our criteria make the winter regionals more competitive, a camp in Jan/ Feb is good preparation for the British Champs, and Coaches are not keen on June due to the exam period.
* DC felt that it would be nice to support the next level of athletes, it was discussed about who would be excluded. Several felt that it was good for higher level athletes to come to act as role models and to share their experiences. Several athletes used the experience last year to improve in following events.
* Coaches asked if the Region would fund more spaces, wherever we draw the line on selection there will always be the next in line.
* LD asked what the region thinks about supporting the 16+ boys as this has been identified as an issue. Some felt that Swim England are not supporting this why pass the issue to us? British Swimming selection policy this year was to include different athletes at each junior event, coaches felt that did not end up to be the case.
* RP felt that a trip in June would impact on training for nationals.
* One possible suggestion was sending a team to a UK meet in June – we can discuss this in November.
* KH suggested looking at the stats over the past 4 years, which athletes have represented the region then gone on to represent internationally to see if this is a big issue.
 | **KJ will make a start on the list and send this around.** |
| **5.** | **England Programme Officer Report*** Phase 1 camps – 48 athletes from the SE have been selected.
* Phase 2 will be selected by early October to avoid duplications with podium potential.
* The coach adviser positions have been advertised – closing on the 20th September.
* Pathway coach programme details are available now for age group coaches – closing on the 6th October. For more information contact Jo Jones.
* Following the review of coach education the assistant coach and coach certificates have been piloted.
* The level 3 coaches have been short listed and mentors are being contacted. 59 coaches will be involved and will start on the 18th/19th November. There is a lack of suitable mentors, England talent staff are taking a few candidates each. Mentors have to be assessor trained, the IOS supported by Jo Jones are looking for people to go through this.
 |  |
| **6.** | **Update on regional camps*** Camp 2 of 3 for the 12 year olds has taken place. We had 100% attendance.
* The day covered stability for starts and turns, front crawl and butterfly starts and breaststroke and butterfly turns. A Goal setting workshop with swimmers and parents.
* Coaches are more committed this year and the number is more manageable. We have had 4 additional observing coaches for the first two days and 8 booked for the December camp.
* Potential camp dates for 2018 – Open water 17th June

Open Water regionals – 14th July12 year camps – 7th July, 1st Sept, 1st or 2nd Dec. |  |
| **7.** | **Update from National Coaching panel*** KB will send on a report
* Tim Jones does not want any changes at the moment.
* The qualifying window 2018 will be 1st March – 31st May
* Going forward this may be just April and May – Coaches felt that with Exams March and April would be better.
* The Qualifying times for the Edinburgh meet cannot be dictated as it is not their meet so there will be qualifying times and consideration times.
* The only junior team will be for European Juniors – 26 swimmers, the policy will look like the 2016 policy.
* The licensing issue was raised around level 1 licences not being granted on the same weekends.
 |  |
| **8.** | **Networks V Performance Centres*** KB talked about the new competition structure, he feels that with the British Nationals and the English meet it has created confusion at the parent’s level. Now with the swim mark not having the levels parents cannot see what level of swimmer can be provided for.
* RGF raised the issue of culture, should networks be based around performance clubs and where does the swimmer pathway fit in?
* RGP said that the networks as she has been requested to set up have not looked at the swimmer pathway and are set up for other things.
* LD was asked what was the talent team’s view this. They are keen to see a more strategic approach for the athlete pathway including levels within Swim Mark. There is a new Sports Development director and they hope to work more closely with the clubs team on this. In the South West there are more examples of networks being developed around performance clubs and the athlete pathway is part of that. They do recognise that there are issues in some places where athletes are moving on too early, it needs to be in the best interest of the athlete.
* RP suggested that clubs are put off by the lack of communication back from the larger clubs/performance centres and the financial implications of sending swimmers on – maybe they can come to a financial arrangement of sorts. There is an element of the coaches needing to be educated.
* KB feels that there are too many clubs, LB has the issue at Maxwell with clubs sharing a pool. Who can have those discussions about mergers, it always comes from the Head Coach at the performance club which is not received well. What happens when swimmers drop out of performance then quite often there is a gap with this structure.
 |  |
| **10.** | **Discussion Topic None requested*** Damien Bryan is coming to the next meeting to talk about Open water, content requested from coaches was around training/ turning/ transition from pool to open water in the club environment.
 |  |
| **11.** | **AOB*** Team Manager 1 Presenter course, 21st October. We are really lacking presenters please promote.
* RGF wants the swimming group to look at the contract for entries being between the region and the swimmer not the club
* Licensing is an issue, Guildford was refused a license as Crawley had a meet, there are 4800 officials why is this an issue?
* SE region development morning – Charity status workshop is available 10-12.
* The region has produced a strategy 2017-2021. The headlines are in there, we need to look at some of the detail.
 | **Swimming group comment on entries.****Regional strategy to go on the November agenda.** |
| **13.** | **Dates of next meetings**15th November – Guildford Spectrum**2018**10th January14th March9th May11th July12th September14th November |  |