

Regional Strategy day - 13th June 2024 – Responses

Consistent messages/ highlighted priorities

- We should recognise that performance swimming can exist in a healthy/ enjoyable environment.
- Clubs should be for all members and we should be encouraging / helping clubs to work together to create a system that can cater for all abilities and disciplines.
- There is a need to educate the whole swimming community to support inclusion in aquatics across all aspects; teaching; coaching; officials; volunteers; parents.

Listening report feedback

Which of the recommendations resonate and what are the key priorities?

- Performance swimming was a key area of discussion. Performance means different things to different groups. A consistent message was that it is possible to provide performance swimming, not to the expense of enjoyment, they should co-exist. Not all clubs can provide “Performance” and at times this can be at the expense of other areas, therefore a system / framework of club structures would help athletes and clubs to deliver effectively for their members and across disciplines.
- Continued Listening at all levels of the pathway – not just nationally.
- Safeguarding/ Welfare – education for coaches and support for the Welfare Officers at all levels.
- Support clubs with integrated IT systems.
- A clear, efficient and equitable complaints system.
- A national event calendar, at least 1 year ahead.

What is missing from the regional strategy?

- Information on the regional/ county relationship.
- Regional aspirations based on facilities.
- Pool planning engagement methodology.
- Well governed and financially robust/ sustainable clubs are separate on the objectives, should they be together?
- People management support – with more emphasis on “soft “ skills beyond formal technical training , especially for coaches but including volunteers (e.g. communication, managing difficult conversations, mentoring)

What we do well in the region?

- Development programmes
- Events, including live stream

- Swimming coaches forum – good ownership and sense of responsibility
- Artistic and WP performance outcomes
- Communication
- Professional support
- SwimMark and club affiliation support
- Planning
- Bursary schemes

What we could do better/ additional support required?

- Events – value added experience
- Face to face training / subject- specific conferences
- Celebrate successes
- CPD – support areas not covered in formal coaching qualifications
- Greater social media presence
- Long term projects
- University swimming
- Buy in expertise for specific projects
- Parent education
- Embrace technology
- Strategic approach to pool operators
- Multi discipline clubs
- Standardised software
- Equity for the disciplines
- Club structure with overall support to share resources – similar to academy trusts in schools
- Socio economic inclusivity
- Clubs could professionalise key roles
- Sharing good practice between clubs
- More opportunities for those not reaching county/ regional clubs – more inter clubs galas- team events
- Education to make aquatics more inclusive
- Corporate purchasing power
- Consultant services

What would you like to see from the South East RMB?

- Clarification on what the RMB does and how they can support and add value
- More celebration
- Clearer signposting for key issues
- Visible presence at events
- Opportunities to engage with RMB – e.g. evening with Sara
- Clear link with the counties
- Communication – 2 ways and with improved response times

What would you like to see from the NGB?

- Establishment of key relationships – NHS, Sport England, government.
- Lobby government/Sport England for mandated consultation over pool build projects.
- Collaboration rather than direction.
- Risk assessment app.
- Integrated IT systems.
- Recognition of the size of the regions and distribute resources and opportunities proportionately.
- Official training to be kept simple – not easier.
- Complete toolkits for all compliance work. Clubs should only have to amend if they see fit to.
- Zoom roadshows for those unable to attend the face to face ones.