



Swim England Hertfordshire

County Association of Swim England East Region
President: Jane O'Brien

Swimming Committee Minutes 14th September 2023 Zoom call

Present: Sheila Mackenzie (SM) Swim England Hertfordshire Secretary
Bryan Thompson (BT) Swim England Hertfordshire Swimming Manager / Chairman
Louise Hughes (LH)
Ian Mackenzie (IM)
Nicola Rix (NR)
Sara Matthews (SaM)
Karen Huckle (KL)
Andrew Macdonald (AM)
Richard Thornton (RT)
Jane O'Brien (JO)

S23/32 Apologies:
None

S23/33 Minutes of Last Meeting
The minutes of the 15th June 2023 were accepted. LH to change the numbering on the minutes to 23. BT to produce an action log to keep track of actions by members of the committee.

S23/34 Matters Arising
None

S23/35 Open Water Update
There is now an Instagram Account for Herts Open Water (OW_Hertfordshire). JO was in attendance at SEER Open Water Championships at Whitlingham Lake, Norfolk and presented the medals to the recipients. SaM to work with someone to learn the ropes for the 2024 championships. Open water is currently quiet due to the winter season.
Lee Valley has opened up to Hertfordshire swimmers this year with coaches provided as a potential options for Hertfordshire swimmers to access some open water training.
RT queried whether Hertfordshire could hold their own Open Water series in the local area with a coach in the area which could be available in Ware.
BT made the committee aware that we would need to be aware of how we would need to staff it adequately.
RT informed the committee that the centre would staff it and will speak to the centre regarding the cost and how we could get other county clubs involved for a small fee.
JO really enjoyed the championships.
BT to ask Jeremy Irvine of Watford for a report for the website as he had a lot of swimmers at the event.
A small group of Watford swimmers are due to do a channel relay soon.

S23/36 Masters Update



23rd of September 2023 was the planned date of the Herts Masters Championships at Stevenage. We struggled to get referees so this means the event will have to be pushed back to a later date. Hertfordshire Officials coordinator did send out an officials plea, however some of the officials on the call did not see the plea that was sent out. On the officials plea there was no facility to allow the officials to sign up to help at the event.

Officials and volunteers are a big struggle for clubs in general at the moment.

AM to look for a new potential date in 2024, March 2024 is potentially a good month to hold the event.

SM suggested to get the senior officials in place first.

Masters Inter-County champs to be held on 12th November 2023 in Bury St Edmunds.

AM to send an email round to clubs to gauge interest and to also look on the masters rankings database as there are a lot of masters competitions going on at the moment to pick from.

S23/37 Records

There are no new records to report of from the Summer.

LH to continue working on the Masters Championship best times and progression times from 2008 – onwards.

S23/38 Development Camps/Development in general

28 children attended the 1-direction camp at Haileybury – they took part in games, land training, training in the pool, mindfulness activities, nutrition and positive mindset activities and looking at swimmer as a whole and how to be a well-rounded athlete.

We had local coaches and good feedback from parents and swimmers.

Looking for this to be replicated annually – 3 camps, first camp to be in September / October.

Next year to be aimed at 12year olds one set of swimmers with a birthday in the first half of the year and others with birthday in the second half of the year. Same group of swimmers over the 3 camps a total of 36 swimmers. Use of a 6 lane pool.

We have to contact clubs to find out swimmers Dates of Birth. We need to select the swimmers from the 200IM and 100IM – if there are spaces left we can accept swimmers nominated by there clubs.

We can't run it in September 2023 so we will push it back to May, June/July and September 2024.

For land training we need to have a coach with a land training qualification.

Haileybury as a venue as it has the right facilities on the same campus.

RT to enquire and get the booking process started.

S23/39 National Inter-County Team Championships 2023

It is due to take place on the 8th October 2023. The training session is due to take place at Haileybury. Only 2 swimmers have turned the invitation down. Waiting on 2 swimmers to confirm. The team is looking good. We are struggling for coaches to lead the event. Jane O'Brien(President) to be invited to join the team to head up to Sheffield.

S23/40 Development Plan

We want to bring back a development plan to use to plan budgets, events and work out what resources we need to be able to put the event on.

BT to circulate the old development plans.

With a development plan we can split it in to the disciplines involved on the swimming committee.

S23/41 Club Coaches Forum

Monday 2nd October 2023 is the next Club/Coaches Forum. This will mainly be about County



Championships 2024. There is space for slides covering the other disciplines.
BT to send out the calendar to SaM, RT and AM

S23/42 County Championships 2024

Event Management Meeting due to take place on Monday 18th September 2023.
Pools are booked, Westminster Lodge, St Albans for the distance events and The Venue, Borehamwood for the main program of events.
Need to work out a date to run the relays at Westminster Lodge.
BT had emailed regarding the marquee so we can allow spectators in.
BT has visited The Venue with AfterDark, Mosaic FX and the Marquee Providers.
Dates and qualification times have been published on the SE Herts website.

S23/43 50m Pool Update

The 50m pool project is ongoing.
JO suggested we recycle money – councillor money to run the Herts Aquatics event and then bank what we have gained for the 50m pool.

S23/44 A.O.B.

Volunteers are a big struggle at the moment for events. NR is creating a volunteer database to reach out to volunteers quickly and to hopefully be fully staffed for the Hertfordshire Aquatics Meet and County Championships.
Watford coach is unable to go to National Inter-Counties due to the new supervision policy bought in by Swim England. This is going to potentially effect future events such as County Champs, Hertfordshire Aquatics Meet, and Inter-Counties due to volunteers being pulled into TM roles to meet the ratio requirements.

Date of next meeting Thursday 23rd November 2023 - via Zoom