



## Swim England Hertfordshire

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

### Swimming Committee Minutes 30<sup>th</sup> November 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)  
Jane O'Brien (JO)

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#### S23/45 Apologies

Richard Thornton

#### S23/46 Minutes of last meeting

14<sup>th</sup> September 2023 minutes approved and are correct on the SE Herts website.

#### S23/47 Matters Arising

None

#### S23/48 Masters Update

AM is looking to confirm best dates for Herts Masters in 2024 – aiming for March or June  
AM sent a Hertfordshire to SE East Region Masters inter-counties in Bury St Edmunds, 4 teams competed, Hertfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Bedfordshire and Norfolk. Hertfordshire came 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Region. Hertfordshire came 24<sup>th</sup> Nationally out of 29 teams.

AM attended AP Race Masters in Derby; it was Short Course (25m). There was a good turn out and there is due to be a Long Course version held in Sunderland in the New Year.

BT asked what are they doing differently?

AM explained they are giving it a “big meet” feel, lots of advertising, photos, and autographs, encouraging audiences and atmosphere, they are also interested in records that the swimmers hold. Tom Baster was the referee and AP Race use their own body of officials. AP Race use their own entry software through “swimming events” and individual accounts can be created. Although some concern around GDPR and Safeguarding and supervision within competitive swimming in relation to supervision ratios set out by Swim England.

IM asked whether we should make our masters meet an “open” meet to get sufficient support outside of Hertfordshire as well as in Hertfordshire.

Report for Masters Inter-counties to be published on the website.

#### S23/49 Records Update

1 Short Course record achieved by Shannon Stott (Hatfield) in the 200m Butterfly 2:11.21 achieved on the 5<sup>th</sup> November 2023



### **S23/50 Open Water Update**

No updates due to it being the winter season (closed season) when the weather improves dates of events will be circulated to the County and Open Water community.

### **S23/51 Coaches Feedback**

#### **Development in General**

#### **National Inter-County Team Championships 2023**

BT contacted the senior Events Management Team KH, IM, LH SM and BT

Coaches had expressed concern about Inter-Counties, Development Camps and County Championships 2024

BT sent a personal response to the coaches regarding his position on Inter-County Team Championships and the circumstances around why a team was not sent in the end outlining the process followed when support was not given by the clubs.

Jamie Irvine stepped down from being lead county coach and a new Lead County coach has been appointed – Claire Matthews

*BTs response to be added as an addendum to the minutes*

The feedback that was given was from Mike Cole, Dan Fogg and Jamie Irvine

### **S23/52 Development Camps**

Development camps are to be run to Talent Team guidelines. They always run after counties- this is Herts deviation from the guidelines and therefore runs 3 camps in the new year after counties is completed.

BT was unaware of the date changes until after the forums. Suggestion was to pick swimmers off of rankings but we pick swimmers based on the 100IM and 200IM. On the current list is 43 swimmers so we will take all 43 swimmers on the list and camps are all in the process of being organised.

We run to the guidelines with some minor changes but are conforming to it now the dates have changed.

BT response to be published and feedback responses

We have questioned whether we go back to having separate forums, but we feel we will have less people engaging. By being combined we get a better club and coach engagement. Clubs don't send various coaches just the head coach, although it is open to all coaches. Keeping to one group generates more healthy discussion when asked about feedback responses were not from the coaches that were present.

Coach/ Development opportunities offered - Every club got offered 20 free places on the AP Race Psychology clinic only 9-10 places were taken up. Pre covid we tried to hold a nutrition session and there was no interest shown, we put information and opportunities out through various platforms with limited uptake.

Development camps are a coach education opportunity to learn what Swim England are looking for.

Middlesex want to hold a joint 800/1500m development camp/meet as there is not a lot of opportunity to swim these events and may increase uptake in the county, they have suggested preference on running at Westminster Lodge or Haberdashers not within the Long Course qualifying window with the idea of offering it to those who have not yet reached the county standard.

### **S23/53 Club/Coach Forum and County Championships 2024**

The county were going to hire a marquee for the swimmers during the main weekends of the 2024 County Championships this was decided in order to allow spectators back into the building but after discussion at the Club/Coaches Forum it was voted unanimously to not have spectators in the building to allow the swimmers to be in the gallery.



Following feedback on finals at counties in previous years we decided to cut finals for age groups that have less than 10 swimmers in them. Coaches were not happy with this decision citing the fact that finals are on the development pathway. Therefore it was decided we would have all finals in all age groups for the eligible events regardless of the amount of swimmers in the age group. One coach asked if there is 1 swimmer in a final and they opted not to do it would they still medal, we said no.

JO asked whether we could have combined age group finals? It was said the decision for this would be down to the Referee, Promoter and Meet Director.

BT to resubmit conditions to licensing and adjust relay ages change to be submitted

### **S23/54 50m Pool Update**

No major updates for now. The architect are putting together a glossy brochure to show to potential investors. The college want a unique selling point for it and a larger rental cost however it would mean the college students would have to pay for usage of the facility. The head of the college wants it to be a multi-purpose arena/sports hall but the pool will be 50m x 25m.

### **S23/55 A.O.B**

None

**Date of next meeting 15<sup>th</sup> February 2024 – Via Zoom**

Minutes are subject to approval at the next meeting

