

**Wilts County Amateur Swimming Association**  
**President     Melanie Sweetman     West Wilts Diving**

**Minutes of the Competition Meeting held on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October at Marlborough Town Hall  
7:30pm**

Present: Rob Hart (WL Sec), Diane Lee (SL Sec), Zahid Mahmood (Cors), Rich Smith (Tig), Sarah Bailey (Swi), Andrew Ryczanowski (Hon Chair), Rebecca Smith (Secretary to Competitions), Scott Garrett (Calne), Deb Parker (Calne), Dominic Keogh (MP), Erica Hodgson (MP), Carolyn Nicholls (Warm), Ele Wilson (Warm), Craig Holden (Chip), Stuart Robinson (Malm)

1/24    A Ryczanowski was elected as Chairman

2/24    Apologies: Michele Greenan (Hon Secretary), Sandra Yeoman (Tig), Tim Sadler (Sal), Paul Honeyman (RWBO).

3/24    County Championships and Age Groups 2025. DL reported that the entry pack was almost complete and due to be sent to the Regional Licensing Officer (RLO). There had been some issues with the continued changing by Swim England (SE) of the requirements of specified age groups for the older swimmers and this had caused much debate and discussion both with SE and with the CDPP committee, but thankfully this is now resolved for 2025 and we will run as separate 16 year old and 17/over age groups for finals and awards in 2025. The dates for the 2025 events are already on the Wiltshire calendar. The Youth events will be held at Bath University long course for the first time, and therefore the 100m IM for the 14/over and Championships will be held on a separate date at the Link Centre, which has enabled us to include some relays. All clubs are encouraged to enter! AR informed the committee that as a County we are able to set our own QT for whichever age groups we would like to from 10 years upwards, however to be compliant with the licensing conditions we have to run finals as stipulated by SE. He also thanked the events team and all organizing contributing to the County Age Groups and Championships for all their hard work on the 2024 competitions and so far towards the 2025 competitions.

4/24    RebS reminded attendees about entries for the Club, Swimmer and Para Athlete of the Year awards, and also the other AGM competitions. Entries due in by 31/10/2024.

5/24    RebS reminded attendees about our participation in the National Inter-County Team event in Sheffield each year and that the team is selected from short course ranked times. Also that we are always looking to add fresh faces to the team staff, and in particular are often short of both male and females with the team manager 2 qualification so encouraging clubs to take this back to their volunteers.

6/24    Development meet; we are expected to provide development opportunities within the County for Swimmers and Coaches. One of those requirements is a development competition. Previous attempts by the County to run a competition have ended up being cancelled due to insufficient numbers of swimmers to make it viable. The County would like to ask coaches and clubs what they would like for their developing swimmers in terms of competition.

A very productive discussion was held with contributions from all clubs present about what might work for them and their swimmers and where the suggestions made might affect their ability to support that particular type of event. The main idea was to run a version of the old Regional Fast Five competition where swimmers enter 50m in all four strokes and a 100m IM. Points are collated for each event to determine an overall winner. It was discussed that maybe swimmers who were disqualified in a particular event (or chose not to compete in one) were awarded a specific time penalty which would then still make them eligible for the overall award without alienating them from that element of the competition. Awards could also be made within each age group for each individual event. Eligibility was discussed with suggestions of only swimmers without any County qualifying times, swimmers with only two time, swimmers who didn't reach finals. Dates were discussed and it was suggested that possibly running the event mid to end of May 2025 (after Regionals) and the qualifying window for Counties in 2026 brought forwards to start from this date to enable swimmers competing to gain qualifying times for 2026.

DL thanked everyone for their contributions and will put together some ideas to circulate to clubs.

#### 7/24 League Report 2023-2024

It was a miracle that this year's league was actually completed with venue cancellations, flooding etc. This was the first real year of the league and we did say it was a work in progress. That being said, the final two galas at Bath were successful and swum in a very sportsmanlike manner. We were able to have spectators and so there was a great atmosphere and we were fortunate to have both the County and Regional Presidents to make the awards. Moving forward, we have produced a framework document for discussion where we have taken on board some of the points raised from the coaches committee.

Congratulations to all teams and especially Swindon Dolphin who were overall winner and Trowbridge for winning Gala 2.

#### 8/24 League 2024-2025

DL circulated a proposal for gala groups and dates for the 2024-2025 season. These were discussed and it was felt that to try and fit in three rounds between January and July might be too much for some clubs. It was suggested that we go with just two "face to face" galas for this year with round 1 to be swam between 17 February and 31 March and round 2 between 1 April and 30 June. The final to be Sunday 16 September 2025. This was agreed by all present to be a sensible solution, with the intention to bring in a third qualifying round for 2025-2026, which could then slot in between November and December, spreading the rounds out through the year.

9/24 AOB – CN asked if there was any update on host clubs charging high fees for poolside passes for their open meets. AR responded that the Region had looked into it, but unfortunately there was little they could do, other than encourage clubs to be considerate towards the costs incurred by visiting clubs.

Meeting closed at 8:50pm.