



**ASA East Region**  
**Minutes of the Water Polo Committee Meeting**  
**31<sup>st</sup> May 2017**

<b>Present</b>	Martin Atkinson (MA)	Water Polo Manager
	Chris Cawood (CCa)	Suffolk Representative
	Simon Lecomber (SL)	Essex Representative
	Dean Walker (DW)	Specialist
	Andy Morton (AM)	Management Board Representative

Also present: Amy Bryant (AB), Regional Development Officer

**17/01 Apologies**

17/01.1 Apologies were received from Jon Lowy (JL), Hertfordshire Representative, Charlie Costin (CCo), Bedfordshire Representative and Kevin Hall (KH), Norfolk Representative.

It was noted that KH had advised the committee prior to the meeting that he would be standing down as the Norfolk Representative.

**ACTION: AB to confirm that Norfolk ASA are aware KH is standing down.**

**17/02 Declarations of conflict of interest**

17/02.1 None were declared.

**17/03 Previous minutes**

17/03.1 The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as a true record.

**17/04 Matters arising**

17/04.1 All matters covered in following agenda items.

**17/05 National and Regional Issues**

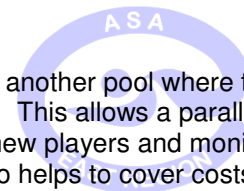
17/05.1 Two players from the region, Dan Paddon (Chelmsford SC) and Pete Pickford (Watford WPC) had been selected to play for the England Senior Mens team. Finlay Parnell (Teamipswich) and Aril Pandya (Watford WPC) had been selected for the U17 boys squad and Poppy Mayall (Teamipswich) had been selected for the U17 girls squad.

17/05.2 MA advised the committee that Regional Academy Competitions (RAC) had been suspended by Swim England due to lack of funding. The committee viewed this as a valuable tool for talent identification as part of the talent pathway and all agreed it was disappointing that it would not continue.

17/05.3 The National Academy is unaffected and regions would be asked to send players. Concern was expressed at the differing standards of players that regions were sending and whether this would increase without the RAC acting as another check on the standards of players. The high standard of players and coaches sent to the National Academy from the East had been noted by Swim England.

17/05.4 The next National Academy would be held at the end of August at Lancaster University for 2001 and 2002 born boys and girls with a view to selecting U17 teams competing into 2018.

17/05.5 The Regional Academy had been running well at Haberdashers School, Hertfordshire, on a Friday evening. It was noted that some players found it hard to get there on a Friday evening but the pool is one of few that is 'double-deep' in the region meaning that more players can be



in the water in the correct training and competition depth as opposed to another pool where the shallow end would have to be used and players would be able to stand. This allows a parallel session to run to the Academy which allows Academy coaches to see new players and monitor progression of improving players. Being able to invite more players also helps to cover costs.

MA confirmed the booking with Haberdashers will end on 30<sup>th</sup> June at the end of the school's term. Other venues would be arranged for July and August.

17/05.6 U16 Inter-regional teams had been selected and notified for the tournaments that would take place in July.

## 17/06 Development

17/06.1 *Regional Academy Satellites*

In response to the launch of the National and Regional Academy structure, the region had re-branded the RTC in Suffolk as the 'East Satellite' and added a new 'West Satellite' at Haberdashers School. The West Satellite was running well and was expected to be close to breaking even by the end of June. The East Satellite had good attendance but had experienced problems with payments for the players not being received despite a reminder email being sent to parents.

**ACTION: CCa to send another reminder email to parents regarding payment of fees for the East Satellite.**

17/06.2 *Regional Development Camp 2017*

The camp in 2017 for players born 2004 – 2006 would no longer be running due to lack of a suitable venue. AB had contacted multiple schools but accommodation over half term was unavailable. Some schools would consider letting their accommodation over the Easter or summer holidays.

The committee agreed it was important that development targeted at this age group should still take place and agreed the best way forward was to organise two single-day development days instead.

**ACTION: MA and AB to liaise regarding dates and venues for development days to secure bookings.**

17/06.3 *Coaching Assistant Course*

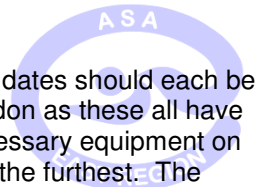
AB reported that there had been interest from 13 people for the Level 1 coaching course but several had withdrawn. Several were from outside the region. CCa suggested that June may not be the best time for older players who wanted to do the course but had exams during that period. More players were still needed for the practical sessions on 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> June at New Hall School in Essex, sessions are free for players to attend.

**ACTION: ALL to promote course practical sessions to clubs and players.**

## 17/07 Competition

17/07.1 MA had attended a meeting of the Eastern League in January and confirmed it is still running but in a reduced format which will hopefully reduce pressure on clubs with all of their other competition commitments annually. However, the organisers have yet to pay affiliation fees and the league can therefore not run until this is resolved. League organisers are aware and it was expected any outstanding fees would be paid quickly.

17/07.2 MA updated the group on discussions with the regional Management Committee regarding the Grand Prix element in the budget and the funding that had been agreed to support this new competition format.



17/07.3 Suitable pools were discussed and the committee agreed that the three dates should each be held at a different venue, ideally Northampton, Haberdashers and Basildon as these all have pools of the correct dimensions, particularly depth, and all have the necessary equipment on site. This will also ensure that it is not always the same clubs travelling the furthest. The committee also looked at dates in September and November to avoid clashes with the BWPL.

**ACTION: MA and AB to make booking enquiries**

17/07.4 Each team, not each club, would be charged a £50 fee to enter the tournament. Teams will be mixed-sex and clubs will be able to join forces to enter a team if they are unable to enter one themselves. It was expected that around eight teams for both 2003 and 2005 age-groups could enter and guests could be invited from other regions to ensure there were enough teams and help with income. Spectators would also be charged although this may be difficult at Haberdashers and Northampton due to limited spectator space and multiple access points.

**ACTION: MA to put together tournament conditions for publication.**

17/07.5 It was highlighted that this was also a development opportunity and clubs would be expected to send junior coaches and officials for their own development in a tournament environment but also to help support the running of the event, as well as more experienced officials and coaches.

**17/08 Plan and Budget 2017/18**

17/08.1 MA explained that the 2017/18 plan and budget had been approved by the management board in March with the exception of the Grand Prix. As mentioned in 17/07.2, this has been discussed further with the Management Committee and a reduced format was then agreed by the board.

17/08.2 Other expenditure and income, such as the Inter-Regionals, was in line with 2016/17, apart from the satellites which with the addition of the West, would increase for 2017/08. However, as in 17/06.1, this was expected to be close to break-even.

17/08.3 As the development camp was unable to go ahead, MA would keep in contact with the regional Finance Manager regarding using the funds for development days instead to ensure development for that age-group is still provided.

**ACTION: MA to keep the regional Finance Manager up to date if changes to planned budgets are expected.**

17/08.4 MA explained that the money in the budget for buying kit for Inter-Regional teams had not been spent as he was awaiting the outcome of the board decision on whether the region would be re-branding in line with Swim England to ensure all new kit had the correct logos and wouldn't need to be changed in the near future. Stock of trunks was running low so new stock will need to be ordered as soon as possible. The committee also questioned whether the Region had to stick with TYR kit as they are Swim England sponsors or if they wanted branded items they could use others.

**ACTION: MA to obtain quotes from suppliers for stock needed.**

**17/09 Any other business**

17/09.1 None.

**17/10 Confidential items**

17/10.1 None.

**17/11 Next meeting**

17/11.1 The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2017 at the regional office in Kentford.