

**East Diving Leadership Group
(the “EDLG” or “Group”)**

**Minutes of the Diving Leadership Group held via video conference
3rd August 2023**

Present	Lottie Thompson (LT)	Diving Manager
	Sarah Gateshill (SG)	Dacorum Representative
	Allan Jaunzens (AJ)	Cambridge Representative
	Kate Mansfield (KM)	Southend Representative
	Ian Rollinson (IR)	Competitions Officer

23/25

Welcome and Apologies

23/25.1 Apologies – Sharyn Bord (SB), Bill Clark (BC), Alice Clarke (AC), Beth Lee (BL), Ian Mackenzie (IMK)

23/25.2 LT opened the meeting with a tribute to Derek Beaumont, not only a dedicated and tireless contributor to the sport over so many years, but also a wonderful human being who would be sadly missed by everyone.

Action: LT to investigate options to amend naming of the regional Club Championships award using Derek’s name as a long term tribute.

23/26

Declarations of conflict of interest

23/26.1 None.

23/27

Previous minutes

23/27.1 The minutes of the last meeting held on 30th March 2023 were agreed.

23/28

Matters arising

23/28.1 23/22.1 Completed, broken course links had been fixed.

23/28.2 23/23.1 Still open. Action - LT to follow up.

23/29

Correspondence

23/29.1 Funding request- New fulcrums

LT had circulated correspondence from Shan Veasey at Southend prior to the meeting concerning financial support for installation of new Fulcrum technology on 1 and 3 metre springboards which was also being rolled out at Diving Centres Nationally. The initial Southend installation (2 boards only to begin) was expected to cost in the order of £13K. As the main regional centre where competitions were held this would enable athletes to gain experience before going on to use this new technology at other centres outside of the region.

Action: Following general confirmation of EDLG members support at the meeting LT to forward the request to the board for consideration.

23/29.2 Funding request – Leeds Coaching Course
Local candidates from the region (Beaumont, Cambridge and Luton) had recently attending the Diving Coach course further afield in Leeds due to lack of course availability nationally and uncertainty regarding when and where the next course might be.

Action: Following general confirmation of EDLG members support at the meeting LT to forward a request to the board for consideration of refund of at least some travel expenses.

23/29.3 National Skills Finals 2024
LT had previously been asked and confirmed that the region would be willing to host National Skills Finals in 2024. Following subsequent confirmation that they would like us to do so by Swim England, LT confirmed that a provisional booking had now been made at Southend. LT had had circulated information about host region responsibilities prior to the meeting for EDLG members to review. The region may also be asked to host the 2025 event.

23/30

Club Reports

23/30.1 Dacorum
SG reported good levels of enquiries wanting to join the club, partly as a result of difficulties at Luton. However, the club had limited capacity in terms of sessions and qualified coaches. The goal was to train a further level 2 coach as soon as possible.

23/30.2 Cambridge
AJ reported good progress for apprenticeship training of Tadhg Owers with completion expected October 2023. The club would like to employ him subject to finances allowing. Learn To Dive numbers were still lower than the club would like but heading in the right direction. Installation of the new club management and parent portal software was progressing well with expectation that admin staff could then free up time to support other activities like promotion/PR/fundraising etc. The club remained in a healthy position overall.

23/30.3 Luton
LT/IR gave an update on the sad events at Luton where pool operator Active Luton had now given notice to the club that only restricted training hours would be available from September. No further national age group and elite training would be possible forcing divers to move elsewhere. Swim England had met and further meetings were planned to see how new Club Chair Tim Wall could be supported in his efforts to keep the club going. The search for a new Head Coach had also been unsuccessful so far, made all the more challenging in an atmosphere where “Active Luton” appeared to have limited interest in supporting diving activities remaining at the centre.

Action: LT to update EDLG at the next meeting

23/30.4 Beaumont
Following Derek Beaumont’s death it was hoped that the club would be able to continue in some form at the facility, possibly under the management of GLL as part of the “Tom Daley Diving Academy” and a new name for the club. The club had a newly qualified Diving Coach (Level 2) Simona Nikolova) and it was hoped that former coach Ashley Franklin may return to support Simona in her new role. Further talks with GLL were planned.

Action: LT to update EDLG at next meeting

- 23/30.5 Southend
All squads were in a healthy position, with the latest group of recently qualified coaches taking on new skills groups to gain coaching experience. Club Volunteer nights continued to be successful with over 30 volunteers signed up to support activities including team managers and chaperoning etc. Individuals had expressed interest in doing the Judge 1 course planned for September 2023 and there remained further interest for coaching courses. KM very much hoped that the city council and pool operator would support further investment in the facilities including financial support for the new fulcrums.
- 23/31**
- 23/31.1 **Operations Update**
In SB absence, LT reported that SB had made pool bookings for the regional events at Southend in 2024, albeit at a large increase in pool hire rate. However, the new rate remained competitive.
- 23/31.2 Based on expenditure to date, LT reported expenditure prediction for EDLG for the officials sent to National Skills Finals 2023 would fall well within the annual budget plan of GBP750.
- 23/32**
- 23/32.1 **Regional Diving Competitions**
Regional Age Groups (May 2023)
IR confirmed that all had gone smoothly thanks to excellent support from the Southend team of coaches and volunteers. The "SumUp" machine had been an excellent investment to make life easier and the event had recorded a small surplus overall.
- 23/32.2 2024 dates
Dates for 2024 were confirmed as below. The pool at Southend had been booked:
- National Skills 23rd March
 - Age Groups 20th to 21st April
 - Club Champs 5th to 6th October
- 23/33**
- 23/33.1 **Regional Development**
In AC absence LT reported that the dry rigging workshop held under the direction of Alex Rochas had gone well. A wet rigging workshop as follow up was next.
- 23/33.2 Date for talent games/dryland skills workshop was fixed provisionally as 16th September in Southend. Kirsteen Mitchell would be leading.
- 23/34**
- 23/34.1 **Officials Update**
LT was pleased to report that three judges had been selected from the regional for National Skills Finals, Lexie and Ceri as J2 and James as Chief Referee.
- 23/35**
- 23/35.1 **Any Other Business**
LT confirmed that the upcoming Diving Coach (Level 2) course for September / October in Southend had gone live on IoS web site and encouraged all clubs to advise her ASAP if they wished to sign up any participants. The course would be run by Sam Hydes. She would in any case reserve places for Beaumont and Luton.
- 23/36**
- 23/36.1 **Confidential Items**
LT raised one confidential item.

Subject to approval at the next meeting

LT closed the meeting and thanked those attending.

Date of next meeting - 5th October 2023 at 7pm.