



**Swim England East Region**  
**Minutes of the Swimming Leadership Group**  
**17<sup>th</sup> July 2024**  
**By Zoom**

**Present**

Tom Baster (TB) Swimming Manager  
 Keith Belton (KB)  
 David Metcalf (DM) Officials Representative  
 Gerry Metcalf (GM)  
 Helen Stephens (HS)

**Also Present**

Dan Pilbrow (DP), Dave Champion (DC), Paul Robbins (PB), Lesley Batson (LB), Alex Pinniger (AP)  
 Jo Stalley Regional Operations Officer

<b>24/01</b>		<b>Apologies for Absence</b>
	24/01.1	Ben Negus BN (as a guest).
<b>24/02</b>		<b>Declarations of conflict of interest</b>
	24/02.1	None.
<b>24/03</b>		<b>Minutes</b>
	24/03.1	No minutes of previous meetings.
<b>24/04</b>		<b>Purpose of the Meeting</b>
	24/04.1	To discuss the Short Course Championships, 2025 Long Course Championships and swimming development.
<b>24/05</b>		<b>Short Course Championships 2024</b>
	24/05.1	The Short Course Championship has been licensed. Qualifying standards have been tweaked slightly (e.g. impact of O18's going to university, not many racing 50 Backstroke).
	24/05.2	The schedule remains unchanged. However presentations will be made prior to the distance final heats in the last session of each full day so that parents and swimmers can leave earlier if not required for relays.
	24/05.3	BN had suggested (by email) for B finals or Junior finals in some events. TB advised this would add approx. 25mins to the evening sessions and issues identified in open

		<p>discussion include struggle to fill finals that are currently swum (often going to 11<sup>th</sup> /12<sup>th</sup> placed finishers), evident that some female swimmers who would be 'juniors' do make the final already. TB suggestion is to review data from 2024 for a possible change in 2025 which was agreed.</p> <p><b>ACTION: Data from 2024 Championships to be reviewed re introduction of B/Junior finals.</b></p>
	24/05.4	<p>There is no change to the entry fee but, to note, the championships (combined) are now at break even. Live streaming is great but expensive and some money was saved in not having a commentator.</p> <p><b>ACTION: Short Course Championship information to be published by the 19<sup>th</sup> July.</b></p>
<b>24/06</b>		<b>Long Course Championships 2025</b>
	24/06.1	<p>The expected final date to qualify for national championships 2025 is 11<sup>th</sup> May 2025. The region has 4 available weekends (including 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> May) but would not wish to run the Long Course Championships on three consecutive weekends. Open discussion was had about dates and venues as issues identified with officials, volunteers and coaching personnel 'working' 3 weekends. AP suggested hosting at Luton and Norwich on the same weekend (May bank holiday) however we cannot hire Luton for that particular weekend. LB raised concern of late finishing of some county championships and TB advised all had to finish by National Swimming League final date. GM advised finding officials for 3 weekends on the trot difficult and especially for the distance events. A weekend in March could be used for those unlikely to be attending the British Championships.</p>
	24/06.2	<p>TB advised he had made representations to have the final qualifying date put back by just one week but had yet to hear.</p> <p><b>ACTION: TB to confirm available dates by September with a view to publishing Qualifying Standards in December.</b></p>
	24/06.3	<p>TB asked for feedback on 2024 Long Course Championships. DC felt older swimmers preferred Luton. AP felt youth swimmers struggled with 3 day meet and were tired on Day 3 in Norwich. Schedule has not changed in several years so could be looked at.</p> <p><b>ACTION: Schedule for Long Course Championships to be reviewed by SLG and Coach Forum.</b></p>
<b>24/07</b>		<b>Swimming Development</b>
	24/07.1	<p>TB updated the meeting re the funding available to coaches to attend the ASCA World Clinic in Florida In September. Three applications have been received. The Board had hoped that there would be one coach from each county. TB keen to put development of coaches and athletes back on the SLG agenda.</p>
	24/07.2	<p>GM hoped that those who attended would share knowledge and educations amongst other coaches within the region. DP suggested this could be in the form of papers or videos.</p>
	24/07.3	<p>DC suggested investing in younger swimmers and maybe taking a regional team away to a meet abroad. Open discussion was had that maybe Northern Ireland, Eire or Scotland</p>

		<p>might also be considered. Meets and timings would need to be looked at now with a view to a Spring competition.</p> <p><b>ACTION: DC to contact John Rudd (Swim Ireland) re a 'junior' meet possibility and then to be discussed at SLG/Coach Forum.</b></p>
	24/07.4	TB stated that investment in tech may not be the best option for athlete development due to logistic issues for storage.
<b>24/08</b>		<b>Any other business</b>
	24/08.1	DC gave a little feedback to all regarding the SE Summer Meet earlier in the day.
	24/08.2	DP asked for clarification on dates for Long Course Championships but TB would like to wait until he has an answer to his query before confirming. KB asked if TB knew what the other regions were doing for their championships. TB was unsure but suggested they could possibly be booking three consecutive weekends.
	24/08.3	TB suggested a joint SLG and Coach Forum once a year to discuss the region competitions would be a good idea to which all agreed.
<b>24/09</b>		<b>Future Meetings</b>
	24/09.1	To be decided.