

Swim England East Region
Minutes of the Artistic Swimming Leadership Group Meeting
13th April 2024 @ 10am

Present	Amy Davis (AD)	East Region Artistic Swimming Manager
	Amy Bryant (AB)	Hatfield
	Karen Brennan (KB)	Aqualina
	Tom Brennan (TB)	Aqualina
	Kerri Clewlow (KC)	Aqualina
	Emily Gower (EG)	Norwich
	Sheila Mackenzie (SM)	Regional Operations Committee (ROC) Representative
	Suzanne Rushe (SR)	Dacorum

Also present Emma Winter, Regional Administrator (EW)

- 24/11** **Apologies**
- 24/11.1 AD welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending.
- 24/11.2 Apologies received from Laura Neary (LN) Chelmsford, but she will try to attend if possible.
- 24/12** **Declarations of conflict of interest**
- 24/12.1 There were none.
- 24/13** **Previous minutes**
- 24/13.1 Minutes from the meeting held on the 20th January 2024 were circulated prior to the meeting. Some amendments have been made. The minutes were agreed.
- 24/13.2 AB asked for clarification around difficulty and final scores at regional level. AD suggested asking KC.
- 24/14** **Grading day dates/venues for 2024**
- 24/14.1 AD informed the Group that grading days are planned in May, July, October, November and December.

- 24/14.2 Emma Chapman had previously suggested holding a grading day in May at Hemel Hempstead. SR confirmed that the only day that would be free would be a Sunday. KB informed AD that Aqualina train on a Sunday until 1:30pm.
- 24/14.3 AD suggested having one in July, but Combo Cup is held then. KC suggested not having one in July as all the clubs will be concentrating on the Combo Cup.
- 24/14.4 EG informed AD that Emma Chapman had put on a chat that she may be able to get Hemel Hempstead on the 11th/12th May. AD asked the Group to keep the dates in their diary as a potential date and she will confirm.
- 24/14.5 AD asked the Group if they are happy to miss July. KB suggested holding grading days in September, October and November, and she is also conscious that there are many Norfolk swimmers at the grading days, so it may be worth holding one of the days closer to them.
- 24/14.6 EG also confirmed that the autumn term would be better for them as they would be happy at looking into using their pool again. AD and EG to liaise and look at dates.
- 24/14.7 AB asked whether it will be figures and routines for the May grading day. AD asked the Group what they need in terms of the grading day. AB confirmed that she needs routine grade one.
- 24/14.8 AB asked if anyone would have an issue with a 12 and under swimmer swimming at a regional competition so that they can take part in a routine. AD said that they may have to enter as a grade one and enter figures and routine.
- 24/14.9 SM asked is there a restriction on being able to swim up in the competition. AD confirmed that in the regional conditions it states that if they haven't got a grade to enter them at the level they think they are at, but at a national competition they have to enter at the grade they have qualified for.

SM asked whether age matters. AD confirmed that in the figure section the ages are put into age groups. At regional level it shouldn't stop the swimmer from entering.

Action: AD to confirm the date for the May grading day – whether it will be the 11th or 12th May.

24/15

Competitions 2024

- 24/15.1 AD updated the Group regarding the May competition; she is unable to get a referee. She has contacted the venue and they are able to do October.
- 24/15.2 AD asked what people would like at the competition. The June competition is ungraded figures and combos.
- 24/15.3 AB suggested maybe holding a figure competition as most clubs will just be getting teams together and most of her swimmers would like to do more figure competitions.
- 24/15.4 EG has a mix of swimmers. Some like doing figures and some don't.

- 24/15.5 KB suggested having a figure competition, but for the swimmers who are in the top five, and would like to do a solo or duet have the chance to do them at the competition.
- 24/15.6 KC agreed that doing solo and duets as well as figures would be a good idea and maybe do it as 12 and under and don't put a limit on the grade so that everyone gets the opportunity to compete.
- 24/15.7 AD suggested that maybe the swimmers enter the figure competition at the grade, then each club is allowed to enter two swimmers each age group to compete in the solo and duets.
- 24/15.8 AD confirmed that she has booked the venue for the 19th October so that it is just before half-term.
- 24/15.9 AB suggested booking Stevenage now for February and March 2025.
- 24/15.10 KC has a team doing an acrobatic at championships, and she was wondering if it would be possible for them to do a display before or after the teams, just so they can practise in an environment with spectators. AD agreed that it should be fine.
- 24/15.11 SM asked where the competition is going to be held on the 19th October. AD confirmed that it will be at Stevenage from 2pm – 8pm. SM also confirmed that Easter 2025 is on the 20th April 2025.

24/16

Officials courses

- 24/16.1 AD updated the Group regarding the Judge Level 1 course. She is currently unable to get hold of Jenny Gray to arrange a date.
- 24/16.2 AB asked if there anyone in London who could deliver one, and suggested working with London Region to set up a course.
- 24/16.3 AD to contact London Region to see if it was possible to work with them to set up a Judge Level 1 course.
- 24/16.4 AD also confirmed that there is a scorer's course which she can deliver. AD to get a date booked.

24/17

Regional Games

- 24/17.1 TB gave an update on the Regional Games. The Region is taking a squad of 15 and three judges must be provided, preferably grade 2 and above. A scorer, at least two team managers, and at least one, if not two, coaches are also required on the day.

The biggest problem is finding a scorer for the day. TB confirmed that the date of the competition is the 31st May. AD confirmed that she will book the day off and will come along as the scorer.

24/17.2 TB also confirmed that they have not received the official terms and conditions for the event. TB has been chasing for it, but asked AD if she could also chase this, as there is one element that they need to submit prior to the event.

24/17.3 TB has set out the budget so far and will share this with AD. AD confirmed that there was a budget item for the Regional Games, but the budget did not take into account the number of people required.

24/17.4 AD will also order the swimming hats from the Region. If AD can let EW, or Jo Stalley, know how many are needed, EW can collect them from the storeroom while she is there doing the kit run for Regionals.

24/17.5 TB asked EG if she would be available to attend. EG confirmed that she has booked the day off and is happy to help, but she will be only able to come as a coach.

AD asked about the number of team managers there are. TB is going to check which parents have their team manager qualification. EG confirmed that a parent of one of her swimmers is team-manager qualified.

24/17.6 SM asked about the competition venue. TB is confirmed that it is in Bristol.

24/17.7 TB confirmed that he will put himself forward as a judge, and that KB has also said she will attend.

24/17.8 KB has three quotes for T-shirts. The swimmers will have to purchase these themselves.

24/17.9 AD asked for the list of names of those in the squad.

AD asked that a record is kept of the cost of everything, so next year there is a better understanding of costs, and budgeting can be better.

AD confirmed that fuel expenses for the volunteers will be covered. TB confirmed that he has included that into the budget.

24/17.10 SM suggested to TB that if they are struggling for judges they could always ask another Region to see if judges can be borrowed. TB will investigate.

24/18

Any other business

24/18.1 AB updated the Group on the Level 1 Assistant Coach Course. There were four people from the Region, as well as people from outside. The Institute of Swimming (IoS) has asked AB to hold another Level 1 course.

AB asked the Group about the need for another Level 1 on course later in the year. AD confirmed she definitely has one candidate, and EG may have a couple.

AB will confirm dates once grading day dates have been confirmed, ensuring that there are no clashes, and will try to get one in before Christmas.

24/18.2 AB asked about including the difficulty on the coach's cards at regional level.

24/18.3 KC confirmed that she is unsure what was agreed for coach's cards at regional competitions, but for the Combo Cup it is to check that the correct number of hybrids are being done.

24/18.4 AD asked if the difficulty should be included into the planned competitions now. KC suggested that it is worth starting now, as next year it will be included.

24/19 Confidential items

24/19.1 There were none.

24/20 Next meeting

24/20.1 The next meetings will be:
Saturday 14th September 2024 at 10am
Saturday 9th November 2024 at 10am

These will be held via Zoom.