

Regional Coaches Forum
20th March 2014
Coventry Sports and Leisure Centre

Minutes of meeting

Present: Alex Dallimore, Greg Clarke (Part), Rob Wells, Fred Furniss (Part), Carl Grosvenor, Adam Ruckwood, Jo Deakins, Marc Foster, Liz Sykes, Dave Clarke

Apologies: Mark Stowe, Nathan Hilton, Alan Bircher

	Action
Chair – Rob Wells, Minutes – Adam Ruckwood	
<u>Matters Arising from last meetings minutes</u> Correction to the last meetings minutes – ‘Nationals’ should have said ‘Midland’ Championships when referring to atmosphere	
<u>Club Updates</u> <i>Hereford</i> – Visit of Lindsay Dunn from England Talent was very worthwhile. Club starting dialogue with new Head Coach at Ledbury SC, Lawrie Thompson. <i>Wrekin College</i> – Dave introduced himself and explained he had taken over from Dan Malcolm as the Shropshire County Coordinator. Shropshire County are struggling to locate venues for future county championships with the uncertainty of Central Baths in Wolverhampton and the pool in Shrewsbury. Discussions on-going with Shrewsbury council about competition pool provision. Stroke and coaching clinics had been run by the County for 9-10 years and had been successful – good turn out from the clubs involved. An additional county championship has been introduced in the summer to encourage some lower level swimmers who missed county qualifying times. These championships aimed at encouraging swimmers to swim 200m events and above. <i>Birmingham</i> – Visit of Fred Furniss from England Talent very worthwhile. 9 pools being demolished in Birmingham with 6 new ones being built, one of which will be a 8x25m competition pool in the Ladywood area of the City. These pools will be online by 2017. <i>Coventry</i> – Proposed closure of the 50m pool at Fairfax Street discussed and updates given. Everyone encouraged to sign the online petition on the council website to retain a 50m pool in the City. All coaches asked to encourage their own club members to sign the petition. <i>Wolverhampton</i> – Nathan now confirmed as leaving Royal	

Wolverhampton to take up Head Coach position at Nova Centurion. Everyone on the RCF wished Nathan the best and thanked him for his time and effort with the Forum over the years. The vacant Head Coach position has been advertised and a good response of applicants has been had. Interviews to take place over the next few weeks.

Beacon Update

AR explained the Beacon was going well and 22 swimmers were part of this seasons programme. The S&C sessions had changed somewhat from previous years due to the University re-locating their gym, but after a rocky start this was now progressing well. Physiotherapy Screening and Underwater Filming had been done over the last few weeks. No Sports Science support at Commonwealth Trials would be offered due to the cost involved and reduced funding for this period.

West Midlands Team in Luxembourg

Thanks were given to Liz Sykes and especially Jane Campbell for their hard work in pulling the logistics together for the meet. All reports have been extremely positive and the swimmers had some good performances. Everyone agreed this was a very positive meet and wanted to see it continue in 2015 – LS to speak to the Regional Board about future trips.

England Talent / World Class Update

FF gave an update on new appointments and movements within the Talent / World Class structure. FF also explained how each Talent Officer now had a cohort of clubs to work with around the country on an A, B and C tiered system. 'A' tiered clubs would be looked after by World Class while 'B' and 'C' clubs would be the domain of England Talent.

Policy was now in place for the England Talent Level 3 programme – details of selection policy is up on the British Swimming website. These selections have been influenced by the policy of working towards 2020/2024 and swimmers of appropriate ages would be targeted.

FF also updated the group on possible future coach education, swimmer profiling and program details.

West Midlands Talent Update

RW gave brief update on the West Midlands Talent Review and Implementation group. This group were focussing on coach education as this had come out as vitally important from the Talent Review. Proposals were now being finalised and will be going to Regional Board next week for approval.

Coach Development Day in Coventry in January 2014 was a big success with some excellent feedback and almost 50 coaches attending. This was agreed to be very important and more days were

FF to confirm which clubs are being covered and by who is WM

RW to send proposal to members once

hoped for.

approved
by WM
Board

Regional Camps

AR gave some updates on his thoughts from the Phase 1 and Phase 2 camps. Phase 1 was good but there was a lot of testing and hopes were this information would be put to good use and not simply filed away. FF explained a lot of the programme was put together last minute due to the nature of the funding limitations from UK Sport in 2013 (post Olympics) and so there were some things that might be tweaked for 2015. The general feeling though was that the programme was a huge improvement from previous years and continuation was needed.

The Phase 2 camps were very positive and a huge improvement from previous years.

The West Midlands follow up camp had to move dates and so ended up clashing with Shropshire County Championships. This caused a lot of swimmers to have to decline the camp. FF explained this would be avoided in future programs as dates would be set in plenty of time and so clashes could be avoided.

Regional Championships

Additional Open Water meet that was planned for the West Midlands has been confirmed as taking place at Sandwell Valley on Sunday 6th July.

An Open Water Development day in May has been scheduled after its success and good take-up in 2013. Andy Sharp will be running this camp.

Long Distance Time Trials have been confirmed for Sunday 11th May at Loughborough. Swimmers from the West Midlands who are outside the Qualifying Times are encouraged to contact David Rush as priority will be given to swimmers inside the Region when allocating swims, before swimmers from other Regions.

Midland Short Course has been confirmed for December at the new 8x25m pool in Rugby.

Proposal for 2015 Midland Short Course to be held at the new pool in Nottingham.

Club Development Group

RW explained this was a new group and replaced the regional swim21 panel. It could be used as a potential resource for this forum to explore any future ideas/initiatives.

AOB

None

Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 19th June at 11am, Alexander Stadium, Birmingham