

London Swimming Management Board Minutes
Tuesday 18 November,
London Swimming Offices, Southbank House

Present: Vernon Davies, Richard Whitehead, Christine Goodair,
Den Collen, Kay Grimshaw, Jean Cook, Stephen Baker, Jean Scott,
Colin Robson, Dil Akbar, Jackie Bedford
In attendance: Colin Brown, Gita Sheth

1) **Apologies** : Michelle Weltman; Kevin O'Brien

2) **Minutes of Last Meetings** –

a. 15th October 08 (for ratification)

These were agreed with the proviso that the attendees and absences should not appear in the published version.

b. 3rd September 08

These were agreed.

c. ACM Minutes 15th September 08

These were noted

d. Board Vacancy

Vernon Davies explained that Dave Heathcock had been appointed Head Coach of the England level 3 programme for Freestyle, and so would have insufficient time to continue as a Board Member, and had therefore resigned.

Congratulations and thanks had been passed to Dave on behalf of the Board.

Vernon proposed that Colin Robson the Technical Swimming Committee Chair fill the vacancy.

This was seconded by Kay Grimshaw and agreed by the Board. Colin was invited to join the meeting.

3) **Special Council Meeting 6th December 08**

Vernon explained that the Working Group set up to consider the way forward following the failure to appoint a new Chair at the previous meeting had recommended that the Board should have the power to look outside the sport and this would require a change to the constitution; thus the need for the Special Council meeting. Assuming this change is agreed the Board will then

proceed with advertising the Chairman's post in the appropriate places.

4) Code of Conduct of Board Members / Declaration of Interest

All members were advised that decisions of the Board would be subject to the principles of collective responsibility and that they must sign the asa declaration of interest form and return it through Gita Sheth.

5) Implementing the strategy - taking responsibility.

Members were referred to the document 'The Role & Duties of the asa London Region (London Swimming) Management Board'. Colin explained the purpose of the document, which was to set out general duties and responsibilities of board members; but also to outline specific areas that board members would be responsible for, and roles that they could play in helping to implement the strategy across London. Roles and responsibilities were agreed for the current year (2008/9) . .

6) Handbook

Vernon explained that the updated Handbook should be published as soon as possible. All board members had been asked for their comments and alterations which Gita was collating. Board members had until Friday to let Gita know of any additional changes. Once the changes had been made and after the Special Council Meeting the handbook would be sent for print. Various changes in both content and format were agreed. Jean Cook suggested a loose leaf format (similar to East Region) but it was recognized that such a change would delay publication and would therefore be deferred for consideration next year.

7) Directors Report

Colin Brown introduced the report and expanded on a few points.

4. Swim21 – Board members felt that they would like to receive the monthly updates from Jemma as well.

6. Masterclasses

Christine Goodair raised the point that there should be feedback on how the master classes were doing. This was noted.

8. Crystal Palace

Jean Cook raised the matter that there was a consultant, Kelvin Juba co-ordinating the diving programme situation at CP but that

the Diving Committee had no idea what was going on. Colin Brown explained the situation, and stated that at the moment things had stalled due to a shortage in funding and the resignation of the current Diving NPD. Colin would discuss matters further with Jean separately.

9. Board/Staff Away Day

This date would be during the w/b 5 January 2009. Colin would advise. The would be during the day and would include approval of the 2009/10 budget (meeting to be deferred from December)

8) Finance

a. Finance & Admin Committee vacancy

Dil Akbar was appointed as a member on the Finance & Admin Committee

b. Competition Entry Fees

Richard Whitehead explained that due to rising cost of pool hire the competition entry fees would have to be raised slightly more than was first envisaged. The proposal was to raise them to £6 per competitor and £12 per team.

A lot of discussion took place about this issue and points were raised about making sure that the Region's competitions were value for money for the participants. Jean Cook asked for guidance over the situation that when joint diving events took place with the East Region their entry fees were much lower than the London ones and London competitors were not happy about this. It was agreed that for joint competitions a standard entry fee agreed between the parties should be agreed.

Membership Fees

Richard stated that Individual fees had already been agreed along with the ceiling (fixed at £1,500 for 2009/10 membership year) but that going forward there would be a need to change because of the new business model that was a part of the implementation of the borough pathway. Ben Champion was investigating the options at the moment and these would be brought to a future board meeting.

9) Affiliations

a. Brompton Bees were approved as affiliated.

b. Seven Islands SC would like to change their name to Southwark Aquatics S.C. This was agreed.

c. There was a break away club from Croydon Amphibians who wanted to affiliate under the name South Croydon Swimming Club. They had produced a constitution and would train at Whitgift School. Vernon stated that there was no contact for a Surrey County Secretary at the moment where we could seek clarification, but he could not see any objection to this.

The club affiliated.

(subsequent to the meeting contact was made with an Acting Secretary of Surrey who after consultation confirmed the approval of Surrey S & WPA)

10) Committee Minutes

a. TSC 11.11.08

These were presented to the board and accepted.

b. Diving 15.11.08

These were presented to the board and accepted.

Jean Cook stated that the Diving committee would like to have a banner produced so that it could be displayed at various events promoting London and Diving, and also other merchandise. The banner was agreed and Jean was to check with Richard as regards costs. The issue of other merchandise was referred to the Finance & Admin committee to look at.

Jean also reported that London had 8 new diving judges.

11) AOB

a. Stephen Baker set out the situation with the London Water Polo committee. He suggested that the London Water Polo committee be disbanded and amalgamated with the London Water polo League, so that all the interests of Water Polo in London could be represented. The League committee's constitution would be changed, and London Swimming would have members on the committee.

This was agreed.

b. He advised the board that Gary Simmons was the representative on the ASA Technical Water Polo committee and that sometimes due to other commitments Gary was unable to attend and that in these circumstances Stephen would replace him.

c. Dil Akbar brought up the point that it would be a good idea to have an idea of the different staff and their roles. Colin advised that this would be covered in the Board/staff away that would be organized soon.

Dil also asked that we consider masterclasses for the younger membership of London Swimming. This was noted and Colin would keep this in mind.

d. There was a general discussion about the logo/strap line for London Swimming and members felt that it was not perhaps the most suitable. It was agreed that Colin with the help of Dil would consider this in looking at the marketing of London Swimming.

e. Stephen Baker brought to the Board's attention the asa Knockout Waterpolo competition, where regional teams took part. This was a sub national developmental competition and in recent years a lot of players from other European nationalities had been picked for the polo teams. Having overseas players, whilst in itself was not a problem, if the competition was a national development team he felt that perhaps there should be a limit to the number of non GB players selected and also a limit on the age. It was proposed that the London Team have the proviso that only 2 non GB players be selected, and that an age limit be set. This was agreed by the board. The choice of coach would be left to the newly formed committee and Stephen would advise.

f. Vernon was to write to Will Collins thanking him for all his work during his time at Chairman.

Jean Cook was to investigate a suitable gift that would be presented to Will in the future.

12) **Date of Next Meeting** – The date of the next meeting has changed to 6 January 2009.

December 1 would be a social evening for the Board and staff members to get to know who everyone was and what their roles and responsibilities were.

London Swimming, Southbank House, Black Prince Road, LONDON, SE1 7SJ
020 7138 3235 or London@swimming.org www.londonswimming.org