



## Minutes of the Inaugural Kent Swimming Coach Forum held at The Holiday Inn Wrotham Heath, starting at 10 am on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2014

### 1 Present

Jean Scott (Swimming Manager)	Sarah Coe (General Secretary)	Kay Grimshaw (Secretary KLSA)
Mark-Beachfield SC	M Slater – City of Canterbury SC	Louise Whiley – Larkfield SC
Peter Bealing – Bexley SC	Denise Walsh – C of Canterbury SC	S Catania – OOSC
Simon Coe – Petts Wood ASC	M Cook – Erith & District SC	K Longland – RTW Monson
P Withey – Black LionSC	P Nicholls – Erith & District SC	M Perkins – Sevenoaks SC David
D Court – Bromley SC	R Skirving – Gravesend	Wharlow – Thanet SC
E Court – Bromley SC	J Cotton – Larkfield SC	Tony David - Gravesend

### 2 Apologies

Tony Smith – Canterbury SC

- 3 Welcome** Jean Scott (Swimming Manager) welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the Kent Swimming Coach Forum. She then asked the Coaches to think about what they would like to achieve from the Forum. A general consensus from the Coaches was that they would like to act together as a group and summarise what the majority of Coaches in Kent would like.

A discussion followed regarding communication and it was agreed that communication should be via email and the website. Coaches are to keep Sarah Coe, County Secretary, updated with their email addresses if they change.

- 4 Kent County Championships Debrief.** A discussion followed regarding the 2014 Kent County Championships. The Coaches all agreed that the 2014 Championships had been exceptional in terms of entries, swimming quality, swimming performance and organisation. There had been a “buzz” about the Championships.

Jean Scott reported that she had re-considered the organisation of the 2015 Kent Championships due to the high number of entries this year. JS has provisionally booked the first Sunday in February and the last Saturday in February 2015 at CP and provisionally the 3 weekends in February in between these dates at Medway Park. JS has since discovered that the weekend of 31 Jan/1 Feb is the Zonal Meet for the South

It is feasible that the long awaited competition review (LTAD/Success is Long Term) will be completed soon. The outcome of the consultation may well influence the 2015 County Championship programme and any changes to county swimming may have to be applied from early 2015. The Development Meet has been booked for 9 November 2014 and will be in the same format as in previous years.

JS advised the meeting that QTs for county championships are usually the last thing she looks at before preparing the programme. It is not the intention to make changes to the QTs for 2015 Championships. The outcome of the Competition Review will have a bearing on the date as to when times may be achieved from.

Coaches requested that if the AOE is not functioning properly for part of the Championships then could 3 timekeepers be put on that lane in order for swimmers to use splits times for Regional entries. This is to be forwarded to the Officials Co-ordinator.

They also suggested that numbers for individual events to be put up on the Marshalling Window as the PA System was difficult to hear. Kim Longland offered to source a new amplifier/microphone cost which then

could be purchased by the Kent County ASA before the 2015 Championships to improve the accoustic situation.

The coaches also inquired about live results going up to the web site. JS has no problem with this but has no knowledge of how to do it. The floor asked if JS was willing to have someone look into this. JS agreed.

The heat in the marshalling area was discussed.

Coaches asked to look at the points system for top club eg swimmers doubling up on points in Junior/Open and Age groups. It was suggested this was an item for the Coach forum and for them to then report back to the swimming committee with their suggestions.

## **5 Coach Forum discussion followed.**

The meeting was unable to set out terms of reference for the forum . A suggestion from the floor that the coaches needed to have another meeting fairly quickly and not wait until the meeting in September. The coaches would then run their own meeting, to first appoint a Chairperson and then set out terms of reference. It is also hoped that the results of the consultation of the Competition Review will have been made public. The next meeting was suggested for 18 May, same time, same place. JS agreed to book the meeting on Monday 17 March.

The coaches felt that KCASA needs to be more political in their approach to ensure competitive swimming remains of a high standard in the county and this was to be pro-active in engaging local authorities, councillors, MPs, media to the needs of swimming clubs with regard to pool time and hire fees.

Coaches would like the minutes of their meetings to be available on the website and also emailed to all of them.

It was decided that the Kent Swimming Coach Forum would purely be for Coaches of Kent Clubs and following the meetings they had, they would elect a representative to report back in person to the Swimming Committee (next appropriate meeting 22<sup>nd</sup> May 7.30pm at Medway Park) to discuss their suggestions with the Swimming Committee. Jean is happy to deal with the bookings for their events.

A brief discussion followed about the Development Survey actioned by John King the County Development Officer. There was discussion around the need for a 50m pool, however most coaches felt that they would prefer cheaper pool time and more access to pool time within the pools and water we already have in Kent, or they would prefer a pool that met with specifications eg suitable for competitive swimming with enough poolside space for swimmers, spectator space, parking and swim down facility (8-10 lanes) rather than focusing on a 50m pool. They also felt efforts could be more focused on gaining access to Crystal Palace, Charlton Lido, Basildon and Stratford (LAC). The issue of a possible 800/1500 Open event was discussed. However the Coaches are going to discuss all these issues in coming meetings then report back to the Committee. The floor felt that if any new build was to take place in Kent that assurances must be written into the contract for swimming clubs to have access to the pool as well as county squad swimmers. It was felt that if this wasn't done then the water will just go to the general public and clubs would lose out again.

## **6 There being no further business the meeting closed at 1pm**

## **7 Date and venue of next meeting**

Holiday Inn, Wrotham Heath TN15 7RS - 9.30am for tea/coffee for 10 am start 18<sup>th</sup> May