

# AMATEUR SWIMMING FEDERATION OF GREAT BRITAIN

## Synchronised Swimming Committee

**Minutes of a meeting held at the Quality Inn Hotel, Wigan,  
on Friday 21 September 2005 at 8 pm.**

|                |                               |                                   |
|----------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Present:       | Maria Barnacle (In the Chair) | ASFGB                             |
|                | Gayle Adamson                 | ASFGB Coach                       |
|                | Adele Carlsen                 | Director of Synchronised Swimming |
|                | Jenny Gray                    | ASA                               |
|                | Annabelle Surch-Williams      | ASFGB Coach                       |
|                | Morag Shaw                    | SASA                              |
|                | Karen Thorpe                  | ASFGB Coach                       |
| Apologies:     | Anne Clark                    | LEN member                        |
|                | Kate Coupar                   | ASFGB Coach                       |
|                | Allison Pratt                 | ASGGB Coach                       |
| In attendance: | Andy Wilson                   | ASA Office                        |

### 1 Membership

MB welcomed AW to the meeting. He had recently been appointed as the Committee Administrator for this ASFGB Technical Committee.

### 2 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 June 2004, circulated, were approved subject to the addition of the name of Morag Shaw to the list of those present.

### 3 Matters arising on the minutes

Minute 11: AWC had reported that the conditions for the GB Championships had been altered in line with the decision of the last Committee meeting.

### 4 Correspondence

MB reported on recent correspondence received:

- (a) from FINA concerning a seminar at the Junior World Championships: AC and KT had attended;
- (b) circulation of GB Championship conditions (see above);
- (c) from the ASA regarding participation in the 2006 Commonwealth Games;
- (d) from the ASA inviting a coach to conduct workshops in Kenya: JG had already accepted;
- (e) from Tina Hinks thanking the Committee for selecting her to judge in Düsseldorf.
- (f) From Elizabeth Bowman thanking the Committee for selecting her to judge at Olympic qualifiers.
- (g) from the Chief Executive requiring Technical Committees to report on their progress and achievements during the year.

### 5 GB Athlete update

- (a) Senior duet: nothing to report since the last meeting.

**Action**

|   |  |       |
|---|--|-------|
|   | <p>(b) AC reported on the Junior duet, which had placed 17<sup>th</sup> in the pre-Junior World's competition in Russia. The GB performances had improved from the previous meet, though our swimmers still showed a lack of strength compared with their opponents. AC expressed her concern at the widespread use of mobile phones and possible over-reliance on domestic advice. There had also been some behavioral problems, but they had now been dealt with. AC undertook to produce a summary of requirements from the Code of Conduct that will be presented to swimmers and parents at the beginning of the training year.</p> | AC    |
|   | <p>(c) The absence of a dedicated team manager was also seen as a disadvantage.</p>  |       |
|   | <p>(d) AC had attended a seminar on choreography: she would produce and circulate a précis.</p>  | AC    |
|   | <p>(e) ASA Youth Squad: had had a successful trip to compete in Cairo, where despite unaccustomed heat the squad had trained and competed well. The same shortcomings were apparent in this group as in the Junior duet – relative lack of strength and extension. It was gratifying to report on the amicable replacement of an originally selected but off-form swimmer.</p>   |       |
| 6 | <p><b>Training logs</b></p>  |       |
|   | <p>AC reported an improvement on the swimmers' achievements. Next year she proposed to monitor the logs of only the GB Squad and the Development Scheme swimmers.</p> <p>AC to summarise the results and publish appropriately. Committee agreed results could be published, but not names.</p>  | AC    |
| 7 | <p><b>Budget</b></p>   |       |
|   | <p>The Synchro budget showed an overspend in the region of £9K. This had been discussed with the Director of English Programmes, largely the result of the Junior Duet qualifying for the Athens qualifying tournament. The GB Board had agreed to additional funding up to the end of March.</p>  |       |
| 8 | <p><b>GB Four-Year Strategic Plan - implementation</b></p>   |       |
|   | <p>The GB Plan was based on an overarching Corporate Plan with individual plans for each discipline, and each discipline's plan had to include selection criteria and targets.</p> <p>As part of the plan AC proposed to nominate four swimmers of different ages for financial assistance in the region of £250.</p>  |       |
|   | <p>JG reported that the ASA had decided to support two development squads. The Junior Squad would consist of the top six 14-year-olds, the top six 15-year-olds, and the top six sixteen-year-olds. In addition there would be a Training Squad of the top eight 12-year-olds and 13-year-olds.</p>  | JG    |
|   | <p>Selection criteria to be summarized that can be circulated for ease of reference by AW in conjunction with MB.</p>  | AW/MB |
| 9 | <p><b>LEN update</b></p> <p>AWC had reported that she would be attending the LEN Calendar Conference</p>   |       |

in London this weekend. The regular recomposition of LEN Technical Committees was taking place, and JG was the GB nominee for membership of the LEN Synchronised Swimming Committee.

10 **November Synchro Clinic**

This LEN subsidized seminar was being held at Coventry on 19-21 November. Final arrangements and invitations were being settled this weekend. The cost per attendee after subsidy was £125. Top 10 swimmers in each age group, plus 18 coaches would be invited.

AC

11. **British Championships 2004**

AC reported that all arrangements were in place for the 2004 event, being held at Walsall on 6-7 November.

For 2005 AWC had reported that she was visiting the new pool in Leicester with a view to holding the event there.

AWC

In addition AWC requested that the Committee discuss the necessity for including Technical Elements in the Championships. The Committee resolved that there was no longer such a need and that the requirement should be removed from the Championship programme. AWC to implement.

AWC

12. **Scottish update**

MS reported on synchro development in Scotland.

A Commonwealth Games selection policy had been agreed and had been submitted to the Commonwealth Games Council for Scotland.

She advised that planning pointed at 2010, and that only medal prospects would be considered for 2006. Minimal standards were attainment of top 15 solo and top 8 duet in the GB Championships.

13. **English update**

JG reported a good response to consultation on LTAD. Synchro's LTAD plan had been amended in the light of the consultation, though there had been some evidence of narrow-mindedness in some responses.

New proposals were to be submitted to Sport England and thence to Istvan Balyi for his consideration.

JG

14. **Athens 2004**

JG had attended the Olympic Games as a judge, and briefly described her experiences and impressions. Her overall impression was that the top performers were moving away from the average and below average, with greater athleticism being displayed in terms of flexibility and strength, while choreography too was showing signs of a rich/poor split.

15. **Coach education and child protection**

AC

Reference was made to a recent instruction in Diving whereby physical contact between athletes and coaches was being minimized.

AC to consider appropriateness for Synchro.

16. **FINA Conference**

Noted that a FINA Synchro Conference was being held in Bangkok, 4-6 February. Coaches and judges were eligible to attend.

15. **Dates of future meetings**

The following dates were provisionally agreed:  
8 January 2005; 12 June 2005; 19 November 2005.

Meeting closed at 10.07 pm