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MOVING TOWARDS A NEW FUTURE IN THE SOUTH WEST

!""#. \$ strategic plan and organisation structure are close to being finalised. To achieve its objectives \$\$\$ South West will need to be run more like a business than is the case for e&isting 'istricts, with a Regional 'irector and staff employed on a professional basis, together with a Board and discipline groups drawn from volunteers..

The South West Regional Board continues to make progress in its preparation for Regionalisation. The Board is committed to ensuring that opportunities that swimmers currently have are continued, whilst working to ensure we are providing the best opportunities for all, and forge working relationships with potential partners for the future.

Regional 'irector, \$lison (sher and 'evelopment 'irector, 'ayman together with the Board are working to producpen t

The South West Region Shadow Board, together with discipline working groups have been making sure that everything is in place for the launch of the new organisation on 1st ctober

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Contact the Regional Office for more information.

As plans and structures are approved and appointments made, the latest news will be posted on swimwest.org. Please stay in touch.

ASA SOUTH WEST SHADOW BOARD

- Sue Forsyth Chair
- John Bird Secretary
- Dennis Toogood Finance
- Gill Rogers & Sue Smith Committee Rep
- Ben Collard Gloucester
- Colin Christmas Somerset
- Paul Studley Wiltshire
- John Read Devon
- Keith King Devon
- John Wickman Cornwall

South West Region is supported by B&B De

Lison (sher, Regional Director

Beth Dayman, Regional Development Officer

Jeanne Douglas, Regional Administrator

Queries should be directed to South West Regional Office, c/o Gloucester City Council, Culture Learning & Leisure, Herbert Warehouse, The Locks, Gloucester GL1 10L tel: 01452 396615

Over the summer, Counties will be asked to review and nominate a representative to sit on the Regional Management Board. This is a key opportunity

It is crucial for the future of our sport we have a

Regional Executive can lead the Region forward. The role of the Board is

- Strategic direction
- Governance
- Financial management
- Addressing A Talent A Health A Education and Driving forward their development

The Busi

DIVING

Irene Aldridge, who is also the current District Diving Secretary has recently been appointed Regional Coordinator for Diving and will provide a link between clubs and the National Diving Development Officer, Karen Smith.

Irene, Paul Dudley, Joel Sweetman (West Wilts) and Janetatham are currently working hard on putting the final touches to the Diving Development Plan for the new South West Region, cross-referencing with the National Plan. Several meetings have already taken place and more are planned during June to consolidate the plan, bring it into line with National objectives and produce a budget to go alongside it. The timeline is almost finished and will be finalised next week.

The competition structure has already been agreed and has been brought into line with the National conditions. It should offer divers a smooth progression from club to National level competition. A development day is planned for later in the year for coaches and divers, focussing on the new conditions, especially at Covice and Intermediate level.

The structure for the new Regional Diving Committee has been agreed and job specifications for officers have been produced. Clubs have already been asked to help identify potential officers with the specific expertise needed.

A seminar for clubs is planned to explain the philosophy and values behind the

impact this will have on clubs and how it can be incorporated into club ethos. Several clubs have already expressed an interest in Swim 11 Diving although they would prefer Dive 11 and it is hoped they will be among the first clubs nationally to begin the accreditation process.

But, however good the Diving Plans are, any development is dependent on the people on the poolside. Therefore the priority must be to recruit more volunteers for all facets of the sport, from administrators to teachers. They must be supported, offered development opportunities (preferably at no cost) and encouragement. Because without the right people to implement them, the best plans in the world are meaningless.

Irene Aldridge, June 1996

SYNCHRO

The South Western Region priorities for synchronised swimming will be-

- Implementation of Long Term Athlete Development Report for synchronised swimming
- Implementation of Swim 11 Synchrono
- To update existing officials qualifications, encourage others to become qualified and increase the number of qualified coaches and teachers in the sport

The work of the South West in promoting the new

Skills and Assessors Courses will be continued.

Age Group Competitions and Championships will be organised initially on a regional basis but multi-regional competitions will be organised in the future.

OPEN WATER

Open Water in the South West Region is currently in the middle of the busy summer season. We have just completed two development courses one for swimmers and the other for officials. This work will be consolidated in at the end of June when we hold the Annual Open Water Championships at Weymouth (5km, 10km and 15km swims). The 5km event is part of the £££ grand tri-series of events.

In August we will hold the inaugural meeting of an £££ SWR 10km swim also at Weymouth but this time at Cewton's Cove, a venue we have not used before. The Open Water committee chaired by Brian Bewley have been busy with the planning for this event for the last two years and are confident that this will take its place in the calendar as another high quality event in the South West.

Brian Bewley and Les Ebenham are currently working on the Open Water development plan for the new South West Region. They have identified all of the strands that are needed to bring on the swimmers, train the officials and raise the profile of Open Water swimming. Much of

this is already in place or is carried out as a matter of course, however the development plan is giving a sharp focus to these activities and allowing us to justify each thread within the overall development.

The annual development camp for swimmers will continue with clearly defined aims. It is intended to introduce an open Water development squad and to use this to give the swimmers more opportunities to gain experience, expertise and improve performance.

For the officials we already run training courses for candidates for the annual open Water Specialists Examination set by the SWS, we also run a practical weekend development course this event is combined with swimmers development camp and thus we can simulate scenarios to the benefit of both.

Other officials' development activities include qualification as a powerboat driver (RG) level 6, training and qualification to operate 1 radios (RG) and seminars on changes to SWS and ICS rules and laws.

Within the South West we currently have 1 Referees who have been elected to the ICS W referees list. In addition we have a further two who have been elected to the ICS ()asters W Referee lists, this is easily the highest representation from any of the SWS and S18B regions.

Our planning for officials' development is focussed on identifying new talent and maintaining this level of representation from the South

West at the International level.

Brian Bewley represents the Region on the Technical open Water Swimming Committee and ;es 'ebenham serves as a specialist, 5 W officials and Safety, on that committee. ;es 'ebenham has also been elected to serve on the newly appointed S18B TWS2 as the English representative.

SWIMMING

Swimming aim to provide a regional structure to support athlete development and Swim 1 at all levels. Swimming are proposing to streamline their committee structure to work on a more * project group, basis allowing them to plan and respond quicker to needs.

The region will be producing a development framework for swimmers across the South West enabling support for all swimmers and ensure that 2 counties and partners are working together to provide the best possible opportunities. The Region will be responsible for swimmers below World 2 class level, and will run inclusive programmes.

2 counties will soon be asked to nominate individuals to the Swimming Committee and 2 coaches Committee.

WATER POLO

Water polo have progressed quickly to produce an outline development plan

for their sport. They are revising their committee structure to be more responsive to the needs of their sport and are seeking county representation to contribute to the development of water polo.

The vision for the South West is= HThe development of water polo players to their full potential is an important factor and we will achieve this by ensuring that all players have a quality coaching and training environment at each stage of their developmentI

EDUCATION

Providing education and ongoing training, is crucial to developing our sport and ensuring we are providing the best for our swimmers, teachers, coaches and volunteers.

SWS South West will be establishing a regional education network. This will see the region providing core services and courses to service the needs of our region. We will be establishing a training team to deliver, which will involve us contracting tutors and coordinating teacher and coach education more effectively. 2 courses will be delivered at *education centres, located across the region which will be beacons of excellence to provide courses within a reasonable time and within a reasonable distance. To coordinate this programme we will be employing a Regional Training and Development Coordinator who will coordinate all aspects of training and workforce development.