

AQUATICS GB BOARD

MINUTES

FROM THE MEETING HELD 12TH APRIL 2024 VIA ZOOM

ATTENDEES:

Karen Webb Moss (KWM)	Chair
Drew Barrand (CEO)	CEO
Corinne Cunningham (CC)	Senior Independent Director
Caroline Green (CG)	Swim England – Home Nation Nominated Director
Keith Ashton (KA)	Swim England – Home Nation Nominated Director
Jane Nickerson (JMN)	Swim England – Home Nation Nominated Director
Fergus Feeney (FF)	Swim Wales – Home Nation Nominated Director
David Carry (DC)	Independent Member
Piers Martin (PM)	Independent Member
Aimee Booker (AB)	Athlete Representative
Kathreen France (KF)	Director of Finance <i>[item 11 only]</i>
Chris Spice (CS)	Performance Director <i>[item 12 only]</i>
Rob Henderson (RMH)	Business Operations Coordinator

APOLOGIES:

Graeme Marchbank	Scottish Swimming – Home Nation Nominated Director
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MINUTES:

- 10. Welcome and Apologies**
KWM welcomed all to the meeting, which was held online via Zoom.
- 11. Finance update**
 - 11.1 KF joined the meeting.
 - 11.2 With regards to the Management Accounts, there is a deficit of £170k which represents a variation to the budget of -£89k. KF outlined the reasons for this in the written report.
 - 11.3 DB clarified that the official company name remains as British Swimming, which will trade as Aquatics GB. The Aquatics GB moniker has been trademarked and will be registered at Companies House.
 - 11.4 KF expects the World Class Programmes will underspend by more than the aforementioned £89k, with final figures being presented to the Audit and Risk Committee in May and Board in June.
 - 11.5 KF clarified that £300k can be carried forward in total across the three programmes. All the rebrand costs will count against last financial year.
 - 11.6 DB updated that the Risk Register is now a living document and the Risk Appetite statement continues to be developed by the Audit and Risk Committee, to be brought to June Board.

11.7 The Board noted more change than previously in the Risk Register, a separate SWOT session was suggested by FF.

11.8 There was some discussion on the risk of event cancellation due to polluted water at the Paris Olympic Games. DB stated that there are reserve days available in this scenario, but ultimately, cancellation also remains an option.

11.9 KF left the meeting.

12. Performance update

12.1 CS joined the meeting and gave a presentation with the slides as follows:

- 12.2
- Diving Programme update
 - Para swimming Programme update
 - Swimming Programme update
 - Swim Tunnel
 - o Virtual walkthrough

12.3 CS took questions from the Board in the following areas:

- Speedo Aquatics GB Swimming Championships
- Team morale
- Swim Tunnel – exposure, opportunities and dimensions

12.4 DB clarified that the Communications team works closely with BOA on any social content around team announcements.

12.5 DB is keen for the business to have a strong reputation for innovation, swim tunnel works towards that.

12.6 CS left the meeting.

13. Declarations of Interest

There were no further declarations in addition to those previously identified.

14. Governance, Minutes and Matters Arising

14.1 KWM noted the Minutes from the 3rd February 2024 Board meeting, the initial notes from the 20th March Board meeting and the Action Log - there were no further comments.

14.2 KA gave a verbal update on Remunerations Committee, which was focused on annual salary increases.

14.3 CC welcomed any comments on the Audit and Risk Committee Minutes, from the meeting held on 7th March 2024. KWM noted that the Audit and Risk Committee will require a new Board representative before the end of the year as KA's term will conclude.

15. CEO's Briefing

15.1 KWM gave thanks to DB and whole staff team for their efforts in pulling together the rebrand and the Swimming Championships.

Speedo Aquatics GB Swimming Championships review

15.2 DB gave a presentation with the following slides:

- 15.3
- Broadcast
 - Social Media
 - o Growth across all platforms, short term and long term
 - Attendance
 - Sponsorship
 - o Value proposition
- 15.4 Overall, the broadcast figures were extremely positive despite very little marketing promotion from the BBC and Channel 4. DB believes that it is realistic to grow the event further still, repositioning the event around World Championship qualification in 2025.
- 15.5 KWM requested DB to give a broadcast briefing to Brent Nowicki, James Moy and colleagues at World Aquatics.
- 15.6 KA fed back that the pool operator, Everyone Active, were pleased with the effective organisation of the event. Furthermore, the staff workforce had invested themselves professionally into the event and should be commended. DB agreed, stating that a new baseline has been set for events.
- Partnership sales – update
- 15.7 DB gave an update on partnership sales, listing brands that have reacted positively to sales outreach or proactively contacted Aquatics GB with an interest in partnership. Specific proposals will be developed once fuller briefs have been ascertained.
- 15.8 Following a question from FF, DB clarified that direct approaches into AGB are moved to a ‘Do Not Touch’ list for the agency.
- 15.9 DB left the meeting.
- 16. CEO’s Report**
The report was taken as read, with no questions arising.
- 17. Chair’s Report**
- 17.1 KWM updated that positive feedback has been received from attendees of the Sport Accord conference, on the rebrand and Swimming Championships. Attendees included UK Sport, BOA and other NGBs.
- 17.2 **Action: FF to lead a review of the Lime Culture report at a subsequent Board meeting when the report and recommendations have been finalised.**
- 17.3 The external Board audit report has been received and identifies nine recommendations for the Board. KWM would like to get full Board input at the June meeting. Bvalco will facilitate these discussions.
- 17.4 There was some comment from the Board on the initial findings as presented by KWM.
- 17.5 FF would like to rank recommendations in order to bookend the Bvalco relationship with a review.
- 17.6 In March, KWM hosted a Home Nation Chairs’ Meeting - delivering the rebrand presentation, including briefing on Swimming Championships. There were further updates on International Relations and improved representation at European level.

- 17.7 Swim England gave an update on recent issues including the Listening Report. Membership is returning to pre-COVID levels, KWM reiterated support and collaboration.
- 17.8 Scottish Swimming have updated their articles to match Aquatics GB Board Composition Policy. Membership has returned to pre-COVID levels.
- 17.9 During the meeting, Ian Jones introduced himself as the interim Chair of Swim Wales. Ian reported an increase in participation numbers but increased risk in facility quality and availability.
- 17.10 The recruitment for a new Independent Non-Executive Director for the Board is down to a final shortlist. It is hoped that recruitment can be concluded in early May. CC outlined that all candidates were of a high calibre with sustainability credentials, all would be capable of doing the job. KA agreed.
- 17.11 KWM thanked the Board for their excellent representation at Swimming Championships and requested that the Diving Championships is similar. Through the UK Sport Chair, the network of NGB Chairs have been invited to the session on the Friday evening (24th May).
- 17.12 KWM has been asked to represent Europe on a World Aquatics global advisory board. This adds further international representation.
- 18. AOB**
There was none.
- 19. Date of next meeting**
The next meeting is to be held on 7th/8th June 2024, with a location as yet to be confirmed.