

**FISHGUARD FLYERS**  
**PARENTS EVENING**  
**21<sup>ST</sup> FEBRUARY FISHGUARD LEISURE CENTRE**

**Volunteers Present:**

Friedericke Schmidt – Coaches Representative (FS)  
Lynne Fisher – County Representative (LF)  
Karl West – Fixture Secretary (KW)  
Julie La Trobe – Coach (JL)  
Katherine Clapham - Membership Secretary (KC)  
Ryan Thomas - Coach (RT)  
Caz Adams - Coach (CA)  
Rob Montgomery - Coach (RM)  
Anna Dunning - Coach & Child Protection Officer (AD)  
Anita Thomas – Secretary (AT)  
Paul Mason – Chair (PM)  
Martha Owen – Coaches Representative (MO)

**\*Waterdragon Session 5pm – 5.45pm**

FS started the evening with a brief background of the club and explanation of the following:

- \*Sessions
- \*Who the coaches are
- \*Attendance expectations
- \*Swim Wales registration
- \*Coaches & Committee Members made up of volunteers
- \*Competitive Nature of Club
- \*Different levels of galas, and how galas are broken into sessions.
- \*Flyers Clothing & Suppliers

CA highlighted how useful the website was in terms of information on galas, nutrition, squads etc. Information is emailed out to members, however it is worth looking at website and Facebook site also.

**Questions & Answers**

Q1. Do parents need to let anyone know if their child is unable to attend training?

A1. No – not unless they are going to be unable to attend training for some time.

Q2. Is it a problem if a child has started rookies before joining Fishguard Flyers?

A2. It would be preferable for the child to either pause rookies for a little while, or to at least make sure the training is not on the same day as Flyers. This is due to the 2 lessons trying to achieve different things, technique etc. The child needs to be aware that they are 2 totally different lessons.

Q3. Do the coaches hand out a letter to parents to say which events they think their child should do in galas?

A3. No. This is all done by email. An eligibility report will be sent out by the fixture secretary which indicates which event each child can do. FS will however encourage Waterdragons in galas that will suit them e.g. Urdd, Club Champs, County Champs.

Q4. Are there fees for the galas?

A4. Not for internal Club Champs, but external official galas do charge, with the cheapest being approx. £4.50 per event, and the most expensive up to £10.

Q5. What is a Long Course gala?

A5 A gala which is held in a 50m pool.

### **\*2<sup>nd</sup> Session – All Squads 5.45 – 7pm**

KC introduced herself and explained the structure of the fees – both annual and monthly fees. KC also explained the role of Officials in galas and how vital they were. She is trying to organize a course in April, so any volunteers would be great.

LF introduced herself and explained that she is the link between the Club and County. LF explained the following:

- \*Who the Coaches are
- \*Swimming pathway
- \*Structure of County Squads, training times etc.
- \*How the club benefits from mentoring from County Coaches
- \*Criteria for County (based on attitude, skills etc not times)

### **Restructure**

FS explained the reasoning behind the structure change.

County has given advice that a restructure is needed. We need to offer 2 pathways – competitive and non-competitive, and to try and accommodate all current swimmers, but also any potential new ones. We also want to keep a pathway for swimmers for as long as they want to keep swimming.

In the past, the club has lost swimmers who have felt too pressured to compete/train etc. The porpoise group enables this without pressure.

The purpose is to give alternatives to swimmers, whilst still enabling a fluid pathway for those who want to develop into County.

The club needs to utilise all pool times that are allocated to us as Fishguard Leisure Centre monitor how many swimmers we have, and will take away any pool time that is not being used.

FS explained the new structure (See attached notes)

Squad names are not final – please discuss with FS directly if there are queries over which squad a swimmer has been placed in.

### **Questions & Answers**

\*Q1 Is there a concern that if too many swimmers go into the Porpoise group that they will eventually drop out?

\*A1 The club will continue to try and encourage the swimmers to become competitive and enter a number of galas.

\*Q2. What are the barriers to kids competing?

\*A2 This can be a combination of nerves, financial impact, logistics, lack of family support.

\*Q3 When will the new structure take place?

\*A3 It is hoped that this will be implemented after half term.

\*Q4 What is the impact on the coaches?

\*A4 Ideally the club would have 1 coach per session, however we do not currently have enough volunteers for this.

\*Q5 Will there be any consideration to separate the Development Squad between Competitive and non-Competitive Swimmers?

\*A5 This is currently taken into consideration as the 2 lanes split the different level of swimmers. Coaches have a feel for those that can be challenged, and for those that need to have a break. There also aren't enough swimmers to split the group into 2.

\*Q6 Is there an opportunity for an additional hour elsewhere in the week e.g. Thursday evening if the Friday evenings are not very well attended?

\*A6. No. The club needs to offer a certain number of sessions. If we added onto a Thursday evening we will lose a session elsewhere due to the limited pool hours available. We are hoping the restructure will attract more swimmers on a Friday evening, and also themed Friday nights will hopefully attract more (e.g. race skills, relay skills)

### **Volunteering Roles**

\*FS introduced PM who has been co-opted as Chair following Glenda's resignation.

\*All volunteers gave a brief background of why they volunteer, and what role they carry out for the club.

\*The two current vacant roles are for Fundraising and also a Publicity Officer. The fundraising role doesn't have to be carried out by just one person. A couple of people could work together perhaps to organise a fundraiser perhaps a couple of times a year. Anyone we want to help out in any way were encouraged to speak to any of the current volunteers.

\*CA volunteered to arrange a Social event for swimmers and parents.