



SWIM IRELAND BOARD MEETING

TUESDAY 29 NOVEMBER 2022

POINTS OF NOTE FOR BOARD, CLUBS, REGIONS, AND STAFF

The Swim Ireland Board of Directors held its fifth meeting post-AGM on Tuesday 29 November 2022. The meeting took virtually on the Teams platform. The following Points of Note may be of interest:

- The Board received a presentation from Swim Ireland Head of Participation, Ashley Hunter and noted the significant progress that has been made on the roll-out of the Participation Strategy which was launched in May 2022. The Board noted the welcome return of Community Programmes post-COVID and the significant impact these programmes have on the 1,000 participants who have participated to date. The Board also received an update on the Pop-Up Pools, of which there are two currently in operation, and noted that each pool is providing 500-700 swimming opportunities per week. The Board also welcomed the return of Swim for a Mile which will launch in the coming weeks.
- The Board received an update from Swim Ireland Head of Education, Aisling McKeever which included a staffing overview and a discussion of the direction of the Education Strategy which is currently being developed. The Board noted the level of collaboration across departments and with clubs, evidenced by the excellent response to major reviews of Licencing and of CPD undertaken earlier this year. Feedback received is allowing the Department to shape the future offerings to suit the needs of our members and of the industry.
- The Board reviewed the Finance Report and Management Accounts for October 2022 and noted that we are performing behind budget as we return to post-COVID activity alongside rising costs. The Board further noted that we are still awaiting the outcome of the Resilience Fund application, which will impact on our 2022 bottom line figure and could eliminate some, if not all, of our 2022 forecasted deficit.
- The Board received an update from the CEO on a mix of Operational matters including:
 - In an update on ticketing for the Paris 2024 Olympics the Board was advised that, as has always been the case due to limited spectator capacity for Swimming and Diving, athletes are only guaranteed one ticket. A global ticketing agent has been appointed by International Olympic Committee and the Olympic Federation of Ireland has been asked to request extra tickets for our athletes. However, there is no guarantee that they will be successful in this request.
 - The Annual Affiliation has now closed for Clubs, and we have seen a good level of membership return after COVID. At present we have 16,491 Members and 154 Clubs.
 - A visit by the LEN Head of Water Polo to Dublin was very significant in bringing together stakeholders and highlighted a commitment by LEN to support Swim Ireland in the further development of Water Polo.
 - A LEN Official's Seminar was held in Belfast and was very well organised and supported. Swim Ulster and Gary Stoops were congratulated on being excellent hosts and the Board noted that there

was very positive feedback from all Stakeholders. LEN President Antonio Di Silva was in attendance and met with CEO Sarah Keane, and Director of Performance Jon Rudd. The Board extended thanks and appreciation to all of our Officials who attended the Seminar including Swim Ireland President, Mary Haughney.

- The CEO referenced that significant work has been undertaken in relation to our annual insurance renewal as we seek to ensure that there are adequate levels of protection in place for our clubs and for the range of activity across the organisation.
- A review of the 4-year rule as it relates to Committees is underway with a view to running an EGM in January 2023 if it considered that any changes are required. This Rule provides that Committee Members can serve a maximum of 4 consecutive years before having to step aside for at least 2 years.
- The CEO updated the Board on a meeting that she attended together with Swim Ulster Operations Manager, Stephen Cuddy and other senior members of Swim Ireland staff with Sport NI to discuss the new funding cycle, commencing in April 2023. There was some very positive engagement which underlined the positive collaboration between Swim Ireland and Swim Ulster.
- The Board was updated on staffing matters including the launch of a new HR system which is being rolled-out on a phased basis. Our HR has become increasingly complex as our current headcount stands at 38 full-time and 9 part-time staff.
- The National Swimming Strategy Working Group has met three times and will meet again before the end of the year. There was a significant response to the public consultation on the Strategy, over 6,000 and an analysis is currently being undertaken of the responses by the Department. Swim Ireland Director of Operations, Mary McMorrow sits on the Working Group.
- A report on innovations in Swimming Pool Infrastructure prepared by us has been presented to the Minister of Sport, Jack Chambers TD and has been shared with Sport Ireland and other relevant and interested organisations. The Report sets out alternative, more cost effective and environmentally sustainable options for delivering community swimming through modular construction and innovative technologies. National Infrastructure is an important pillar of the new Swim Ireland Strategy as there is a significant need to address the shortage of facilities. In tandem with this Report, we are about to launch a comprehensive survey of swimming pools which will include data on opening hours, club use, accessibility, public hours, and capacity. The collation of data is a first step in developing a Swimming Facilities Planning Model which will provide objective data to support planning on the types of facilities needed when overlaid with population data. This is an important project for Swim Ireland, and we see facility provision as being fundamental to delivering the National Swimming Strategy (NSS) with access and cost being the two biggest challenges to delivery. As referenced above we are actively involved in developing the NSS and see adequate provision of community swimming facilities as being essential to addressing the underlying issues of access that our clubs are experiencing.



- The Board received the Swim Ireland Complaints and Disciplinary Officer's (CDO) Report and noted that there are currently seven cases open, five of which are linked.
 - **The next meeting of the Board will take place on Tuesday 24 January 2023.**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mary McMorrow".

Mary McMorrow
Company Secretary
9 December 2022