

Summary of responses from Derventio Club/Parents/Swimmers Consultation

The consultation was held on Saturday 9th May, was attended by approx 40 parents and 14 swimmers. Discussions were conducted in 4 groups -1 of which was the swimmers group. Attendees were invited to consider the following questions:

1. What are the Pros and Cons for Model 1?
2. Could there be any amendments or improvements which could make this the preferred model?
3. If this is a preferred model, what would have to be in place for Model 1 to work?
4. What are the Pros and Cons for Model 2?
5. Could there be any amendments or improvements which could make this the preferred model?
6. If this is a preferred model, what would have to be in place for Model 2 to work?
7. Is there an alternative model you would like to propose or comments to record?

Next Steps

The comments collected and summarised below will be fed into the consultation process. There have been 3 other consultation events during week commencing 11 May, involving clubs and coaches. Andi Manley the new Head Coach of DX was involved in the coaches meeting held on 11 May.

Comments from each of these consultation events will be considered by the Strategic Group steering this review process. The group is meeting again on 28 May.

A further proposal will be circulated to all consultees soon after 02 June.

General points and questions from consultation on 9th May

Process

- Is this timescale realistic with new coach in place unfamiliar with Derbyshire situation?
- Who is responsible for driving the direction of this plan for Derbyshire and DX
- How will consultation with local clubs be managed so that they all have an equal say – ensure all clubs/parents are properly consulted
- What support will be given to Head Coach through this process – he may be in a vulnerable position not knowing Derbyshire coaches/system

- What happens if clubs don't buy in??
- Can David Joy do road show to clubs to explain situation
- Need to establish clear targets about what DX is trying to do
- Club committees sometimes block messages to parents – how do we overcome this?

Coaching

- Where swimmers have dipped in performance recently what consideration will be given when not their fault – lack of pool time, coaching etc
- How do we manage teenage hormones when selecting squads
- Who will line manage Head Coach to ensure accountability
- Club and Coach continues until 2011. How will this be managed for Kim
- Need to position Kim within these plans
- Need to ensure that proper consideration is being given to individual needs of swimmers to meet their age and skill level

Pool time/logistics

- Derbyshire is a big county – if it is a pathway for Derbyshire it must cover whole area – not just motorway path
- How does programme link to 5 year planning
- Good to see that both models help to ease the pool time situation currently in place

Finance

- Resources and costs need to match
- Can DASA put a levy on ASA registration to support DX
- Will DX parents transfer back to home squads and make raising funds for DX an issue
- DASA and Derbyshire County Council should fund more

Hub Clubs

- Are hub clubs/squads prepared to restructure pool time and squads to take in DX swimmers
- Will the establishment of hub club sites lead to a two tier structure of clubs in the county
- Are 3 hubs enough for Derbyshire given its size – what about northwest corner and extreme north east
- What happens when swimmers opt not to join DX – with hubs in Chesterfield and Derby, they may not need to join – there needs to be greater cross over between clubs and DX
- What powers will hub clubs have

General comments from the swimmers

- They felt £10 a month in option 1 was too expensive for 1 session. Swimmers based in the South were not happy with the head coach

spending so much time in the North. They felt it would lead to a number of coaches taking the sessions.

- Swimmers based in the North felt the head coach should spend time with them.

There were a number of suggestions regarding standards from National to several Midland times but a set of Derwentio times was preferred.

- The age for swimmers in the squad South should be a minimum of girls 12 and boys 13 with less part time swimmers.

North based swimmers were not happy with option 2 and the swimmers present felt they had enough water time at present but requested more land work.

All swimmers were happy to do fund raising activities.

- Swimmers based in the South would prefer to start earlier in the mornings.
- Swimmers would like long course training.

Comments on Option1

Pros

- Keeps squad together
- Good quality time for each group with Head Coach
- This option may be significantly different to current model – for a visual change for others to see
- Development squads are much better for young swimmers
- Involves the local clubs more in system
- Affordability for parents
- Amber valley as a weekend option is more central
- Travel times reduced
- More access to quality coaching
- More quality pool time
- Better for the north

Cons

- Funding and pool time are barriers
- Travel for head coach may be excessive
- Travel time to different pools for swimmers is still a challenge
- Swimmers will move to hub clubs
- 50/50 coach split not best for quality
- Travel times still a problem
- Membership fees need debate
- Model not affordable for DX
- Quality coaches already busy

Questions/observations

- Need to detail selection criteria for A and B squads and how swimmers move between the 2 - how/who/when

- How will the squad be managed in the pool – will there be flexibility, or segregation?
- Can the North squad have 15 hours?
- Do clubs have the capacity to release coaches to support DX coach – coaches of right ability working with swimmers?
- Need to set selection criteria – is it age groups, is it midlands or national times or potential? General feeling that DX should provide for potential midlands to national swimmers
- 20 hours is for a senior squad – need to have more flexibility to allow younger swimmers to train less
- Needs to help prepare other swimmers for aspects – like experiencing camps
- 5hrs at weekend would be challenging – but optimum number weekend sessions needs to be planned well in advance and is essential
- Long course training also desirable and needs planning – maybe with hub clubs who already have some 50m time programmed
- Need consistent in approach to coaching which needs to meet individual needs of swimmers
- Training programmes need to be individualised for each swimmer – not designed around needs of best 3 or 4
- Maximum 2/3 coaches working with each group to build relationships and consistency
- Head coach time should be proportional not equal – based on performance of swimmers
- Swimmers need more skills work and land training
- How do we cater for swimmers moving up and down between groups?
- Where are the 15 hours in north?
- What are the criteria or qualification times?
- How many swimmers – how does this add up financially?
- Can we get quality 50m pool time
- Is this offering best value for money?

Comments on Option 2

Pros

- Cheaper model

Cons

- Differentiates north and south
- Swimmers may leave DX and go to hub/home club
- This doesn't offer more than clubs already provide
- Travel time for younger swimmers to hub clubs will make it difficult for them to train
- Hub squads may have late sessions – too late for young swimmers
- Confusion over who swims for who
- Role of head coach is less clear in this option
- Hub clubs may not work
- The 50:50 coach split is not ideal

- Consistency of coaching is a real issue

Questions/observations

- In option 2 – does this mean there will be only 1 other coach and head coach rather than 5/6 coaches in the Option 1
- North needs to be not just about Chesterfield swimmers – will there be separate lanes and extra lanes?
- Need to ensure coaches drive session and there is consistency in coaching
- How will part timers be treated – part time works for some swimmers? Some progress more quickly than others, but some improve after a while
- Maybe look to introduce a probationary period for part timers
- Strength will be when clubs enjoy success of DX
- Need to change things to buy in the club coaches and swimmers and clubs
- Sometime swimmers have behaved with some arrogance – not helped relationship with other clubs and coaches
- Swimmers should go back to home club more often and become ambassadors and role models

One of 3 groups voted on the two options

Option 1	eleven
Option 2	0
Abstain	abstain