



Date:	May 6, 2025	Location:	Pinecrest Room – Strathcona Gardens
Start Time:	7:00pm	Facilitator:	Kelly Bignell
End Time:	8:00pm		
Attendees: Kelly Bignell, Billie Vose, Nycky-jay Vanjecek, Richard Millns, Rachel Balabuch, Shannon Haugen, Sehleeah Schevers, Kirstie Stewart, Tyrone Monteith, Chad Rochon			

1. Call to Order	Meeting called to order: - 7:00pm
2. Agenda	Acceptance of the agenda as provided: - Approved by all Call for additional agenda items: - None
3. Meeting Minutes	Acceptance of previous meeting minutes: - Approved by Chris (First) Kili (Second)
4. Action Items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACTION ITEM (Rachel): Draft key points and fundraising goals /rules reminders for Mercedes to review and approve sending out to the club – In progress
5. Reports	<p>President</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - None <p>Head Coach</p> <p>The 2024-2025 season is on the sunset and some exciting developments are on the horizon. I wanted to take this chance to report on my findings on my visitation to the KISU Swim Club I was privileged to be allowed to have.</p> <p>I met with and talked in great deal with KISU’s Director (Secretary), Facility Coordinator, Head Coach, Assistant Head Coach, and Junior Coach. I observed the training abilities of KISU’s academy, as well as the feeder group into KISU’s Academy. I questioned everyone involved with hundreds of questions but the overall arching themes I wanted to reach answers in 3 major areas</p> <p>Why is KISU so much better as a team than we are?</p> <p>What was the history of the inception of KISU’s Academy, any regrets, what do you charge, etc?</p> <p>How has your facility accommodated your growth as a high performing swim club?</p> <p>Question #1 Why is KISU Performing at both the Provincial and National level at such a level beyond CRKW?</p> <p>Some things KISU does are excellent, they have tremendous community investment and community participation to the program, there are also</p>

many things they are doing that I feel are fundamentally different than CRKW that I would not recommend mimicking.

Facility

In 2011 Penticton opened a 10 lanes short course pool. KISU has guaranteed access to 7 lanes for their Academy, and 6 lanes for the remainder of their club. The facility services 31000 year round residents with an additional 15-20% of visitors in the summer months. In terms of our communities we are much more similar than we are different, but our facility situation is vastly different.

Community Culture

Penticton has a robust culture of Ironman athletes and overall sporting culture including a well known hockey academy. Sports and excellence have been and for the foreseeable future will be a cornerstone of the town. Campbell River has a pretty good sporting culture as well, it is not at the level of Penticton, and this is displayed in our facilities.

Swim Club Culture

KISU has a heavy investment in it's High Performance, over 50% of its membership is enrolled in their Academy. The expectation of their club has been for decades fully supportive of "what ever it takes" to support High Performance. I did see the top down philosophy in their club with an imbalanced investment in developmental swimming. The overall team atmosphere, behavior of the athletes, and respectful interactions where truly excellent. I do however feel CRKW is much more advanced on our overall team spirit and culture.

My conclusion to why are they ahead of us. It comes down to a great club, with a rich history of team based success in a community that invests in excellence through its choices of how it builds and allocates its resources. KISU is not feeling pressured by space and access to facilities, and any disputes of access where settled by using numbers and logic. CRKW is capable of the same types

of success, as a community we have the same capabilities. Currently our club is much more invested in the development and base of our swimmers, and has excellent retention rates. I will look forward to seeing our profile as a club be able to get a more influential seat at the table to ensure we are able to get what we need in terms of resources to allow for success. I will speak to the rest of my conclusion of this matter.

Academy Inception and Development.

Kisu has 45 athletes who have made the choice to create a last block spare and focus exclusively on the sport of swimming. These athletes are Grade 9-

12 and perform from a divisional level and progress well ranked into the national level. The academy I observed has 10 swimmers qualified for Trials and could have 1-3 athletes on the Canada Games team this Summer. The academy has a great level of speed versatility in the group, though not as large as CRKW. 2024-2025 fees to enter the academy are 2700 per season with a registration fee. The inception of this academy was interestingly enough proposed by the Penticton School board. The KISU Head Coach and Board of Directors decided to go forward with it. The initial launch of their Academy started with very few athletes, and it was decided that the Senior swimmers in their club at the time would be offered the Academy or the group below the Academy that is not officially conducted by the Head Coach, which temporarily reduced their clubs numbers. After all was said and done, the swimmers, the coaches, the board has no regrets that this Academy is in place, inside the KISU club structure there is a long line up to gain acceptance into their Academy. They have a large focus on the "NOW" and the future seems to take care of itself. Truly a top down club. Can and should CRKW take the same type of path? My thoughts are yes. We have different reasons for this, I believe culture can perpetuate itself, but we will have to be willing to shift investment and thoughts into supporting this initiative. CRKW has a history of having our local talent leave to ensure that they can pursue their excellence, and have moments of small groups of individuals succeed but anybody who has gone to the National and International level has chosen to leave Campbell River mid way through high school. Penticton does not have this history.

Facility Management and Accommodation of Growth

With a 10 lane pool everyone in the town is happy. The Swim Club has more than adequate space, the public and its lessons program has more than adequate space. The relationship between KISU and the Community and Pool staff are decent, but have many similar issues as anyone else including us. The biggest asset is having enough space for the people of their town. KISU has a much larger political clout, and voice in how the pool allocates space, compared to CRKW. This leads to KISU having a tremendous visible presence on the pool deck in Penticton. KISU has a club office, with a storage room, and is allowed to truly make a great training atmosphere for its athletes. It is well known that the people who use the facility most frequently is indeed the swim club, and accommodations and understanding of that citizen usership is acted upon in a way that works well for both parties.

Development Coach

- All programming going well, full classes
- Summer camps dates being announced, several camps being offered over the summer

Treasurer

Accounts:



General \$86,315.68

Capital Projects \$4,997.63

Contingency: \$31, 498.59

Gaming: \$4,851.82

Rule the Pool funds are starting to come in. I will create a spreadsheet to track amounts and Swimmers.

Team travel and coaching expenses; this year we have not budgeted for coaching expenses to be paid by the club. Swimmers share the cost of the coach's expenses for all travel/away meets. I believe in the past this was overlooked, and the club did pay for all expenses, but we are not in a position financially to continue this way. This will be a topic to put forth for the next budget (2025/26). I will be sending out Comox meet fees this week.

Fundraising & Sponsorship Coordinator

- Plants sale finishing up
- Blueberry sale starting
- Raffle possible, will require a parent volunteer
- Carwash, possible for June, will require a parent volunteer

Registrar

- None

Meet Manager

- None

Communications/Social Media Coordinator

- Graduate photos and write up have been submitted
- Excellent recent exposure for the club, papers deciding to pick up articles/pics submitted

VPS Coordinator

- None

Discussion:

- Question (Tyrone) are there other opportunities for gain points? To work with Chris directly to review and communicate details

Apparel Coordinator

- None

Social Coordinator



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Upcoming year end BBQ being planned for June 1, 2025, email with details to follow, usual potluck at Hagel Park <p>Officials Coordinator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Repairs to the score board are planned for this coming Thursday - Tools to repair the touch pads have been received, repairs in progress <p>Website Coordinator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - None <p>Travel Coordinator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Kamloops is all booked and ready for swimmers
6. New Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - None
7. Action Items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>ACTION ITEM (Rachel):</i> Draft key points and fundraising goals /rules reminders for Mercedes to review and approve sending out to the club – <i>In progress</i>
8. Next Meeting	June 3, 2025 7:00pm Pinecrest Room (Strathcona Gardens)