



# DUNFERMLINE WATERPOLO CLUB

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Chief Executive Officer  
Scottish Swimming  
National Swimming Academy  
University of Stirling  
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22 April 2009

Dear Ms Howard,

## GB WATER POLO - FUNDING

We write this open letter to draw your attention to the disturbing news which we have been made aware of by GB Team Management, that British Swimming funding has recently been withdrawn from the British Water polo Junior and Youth squads and that, should they wish to pursue qualification for their respective European competitions, they will require to be totally self financing which includes the provision of their own kit.

We seek confirmation from Scottish Swimming that this is indeed the current position, at which meeting was this agreed and confirmation of the period of time that this apparent withdrawal of support applies.

Surely a GB team should be selected purely on *ability to play* and not *ability to pay* which is the situation that GB Water Youth & Junior polo now appears to find itself in should the above be true. As Water polo appears to be the only aquatics discipline within British Swimming that will receive no support to compete in their European Championships please confirm the reasons why, if true, this should be the case.

Whilst not agreeing with the recent decision of UK Sport we appreciate the difficulties caused by the withdrawal of this funding stream and the subsequent cancellation of the Senior Water polo high performance centre. We are however extremely surprised that this should impact on these squads which historically have always been supported by British Swimming over many, many years and we seek information on why this funding stream has apparently been 'withdrawn'. It is our understanding that the UK Sport support was solely for the Olympic games preparation, the high performance centre in Manchester and associated Player and Professional staff support.

On the question of no official kit being made available are we to assume that the 'Speedo' contract with British Swimming now excludes our Sport and are 'Speedo' fully aware of this decision which will see GB representative team not wearing official GB team kit?. Do our young players not deserve to be treated like any other member of Team GB as a minimum ?

We note from the minutes of the BS meeting on 24 January 2009 that, following a planned review of funding in 2010, the funding for Water polo may be further reduced (can it go negative ?). In the light of this equally serious revelation we would ask you to provide information on the development plans which British Swimming has in place to move our Sport forwards and re-introduce a player pathway to excellence in addition to their plans to lobby for increased funding for Water polo.

Should the above be true the shocking conclusion that could be drawn is that it appears that British Swimming is intent on withdrawing all support from Water polo.

We note the welcome recent support from 'British Gas' which has recently been announced, can you confirm the amount being allocated to both British and Scottish Water polo from this sponsorship ? With the 2009 ASA Water polo Championships now carrying the 'British Gas' name it is clear that an amount must have been made available to the individual National Associations as well as to *British Swimming*.

As we currently have five of our players and one coach involved with three of the four GB squads this matter is of direct concern to our Club and our members and we await with interest your response to our concerns and queries and look forward to the support of our National Association.

We feel sure that you will agree with us that, despite the many developments and improvements that have been brought in over the past five years or so, our sport finds itself in a very serious situation. We trust that Scottish Swimming will take-up these issues with British Swimming on our members behalf and support us in calling for the re-instatement of the historic funding and provision of standard GB 'Speedo' team kit to the Junior & Youth squads as a matter of extreme urgency.

The talk of a Legacy from the London Olympic experience in terms of Water polo is fast becoming a joke with our Sport probably set back more than a decade. Even if a high performance centre could be re-established how many players and staff will be able to trust *British Swimming* for their short to medium term futures in the light of what has recently happened ?. It is indeed disappointing that so much effort from the Players, Professional staff and Volunteers has seen our Sport go so far backwards.

Yours in Sport,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brian M Campbell', written in a cursive style.

Brian M Campbell  
Club Secretary

Cc

Iain MacCallum, Scottish Swimming

GB Youth (Jill Trafford) and Junior Team (Iain Richards) Managers.

Ken Fussell, Convener SWPC.

DWPC Webmaster