

HERTFORDSHIRE AMATEUR SWIMMING ASSOCIATION

SWIMMING COMMITTEE

Notes of the meeting held at the Welwyn Civic Centre, Monday, 26th November 2012, at 8.00pm.

Present: Grant Chivers, Karen Huckle, Derek Hughes, Ian Mackenzie and Bryan Thompson. NB - Meeting not quorate.

1. Apologies for Absence

S12/46. Apologies for absence were received from: Caroline Holt, Mark Horrod, Marilyn J Hughes, Derek Milton, Sheila Mackenzie, Barbara Scorer and Su Tysoe.

2. Minutes of Previous meetings

S12/47. The minutes of the previous meeting of 22nd October 2012 were agreed as a fair record of the meeting with no amendments required.

3. Matters Arising

S12/48. The Swimming Festival was not on the meeting agenda. A report on the event should be given at the next meeting where the item should be included as an agenda item.

S12/49. IM and BT were to meet to discuss the County Development Plan. The item should be carried over to the next meeting. **Action: IM/BT to meet before next meeting**

4. Masters update

S12/50. DH reported the County came a close third in the Inter-counties Masters gala held at Newmarket on 18th November. Final gala scores were:

- 1st - Essex – 259 points
- 2nd - Norfolk – 231 points
- 3rd - Herts. – 226 points
- 4th - Beds. – 160 points
- 5th - Suffolk – 139 points

Cambridgeshire did not field a team.

It was an excellent display by the team – securing 19 first places and 11 second places. The team was reduced in strength compared to previous years by injury to a few key athletes and some availability issues.

S12/51. DH pointed out that the original database of potential swimmers could be improved and a broader net thrown across the County to identify particularly Masters at the younger end of the age range. Better liaison with Clubs – possibly through designated Masters contacts - would be a good way forwards. **Action: DH ongoing**

S12/52. IM requested that the County's thanks to DH (as Team Manager) and Janet Gardiner (key assistance behind the scenes) should be minuted. IM noted that the County had a swimmer in every event (in many cases swimmers were 'swimming down' to make this possible) and that this had not been achieved in previous galas.

5. Competition update

5.1 Novice Meet – 18th November 2012

S12/53. Due to a marked lack of swimmers the event was cancelled. Feedback was sought from coaches and the main reason given was around the fact that the event was not licensed and so not worth attending as County times could not be secured. This view was directly contradictory to the views expressed by the Coaches at the Coaches Forum, and acted on by the Swimming Committee, where the need for a Novice meet (aimed at the younger and non-County level swimmer) was welcomed and the revised format for the event was endorsed. BT noted that the licensing of County times was generating unfortunate impacts around unlicensed events such as the Novice Meet. The issue of what to do next will be passed back to the Coaches. **Action: IM at next Coaches Forum**

5.2 Daplyn Trophy – 1st December 2012

S12/54. Eight Clubs fielding 12 boys' and 14 girls' teams, are to swim in this year's event. There has been a steady decline in team numbers in this event from 39 in 2009 to 26 in 2012. This level of attendance, with the current programme, will result in a gala length of probably about 1¼ hours – extremely short. Again the Coaches are to be quizzed at the next Coaches Forum about the decline in interest in the event. Again the lack of Licensing appears to be the reason. **Action: IM at next Coaches Forum**

S12/55. Regarding event planning the absence of an AOE operator means that the event will be run manually (though results will be delivered electronically). Nearly 30 Officials have confirmed attendance – a satisfyingly high number. Colin Greenall will be the Lead Referee. Event Support Staff are all in place.

5.3 BAGCATS/ County Championships 2013

S12/56. BT to secure the License for the meet as soon as possible. Similarly the meet Conditions and the Schedule also need to be made available during w/c 26th November. BT noted that so far he had received no queries regarding the event's status but expected this to change shortly if information was not quickly made available.

S12/57. It was agreed that the Swimming Committee was not the place to develop event planning and, as in previous years, an Event Management sub-committee should take the activity forwards. It was proposed to arrange the first meeting of the Committee in the 2nd week in January.

S12/58. GC noted that the Event Management team needed to think about who should announce at the event as he would be otherwise occupied giving out medals. GC noted that this might be a useful time to 'blood' one or more of the County's trainee Announcers.

S12/59. With Gary Robb's departure a new team needs to be found to operate the Meet Manager system. It is quite likely that the required expertise rests within the Clubs. IM suggested that BT produce an 'advert' for the position and that this be sent out to Clubs and placed on the website. Closing date for the position should be mid-December and interviews with interested parties should be scheduled for

early January. It would be important that the successful candidate(s) be able to operate both Hy-Tek and Sportsystems options. **Action: BT by mid-December**

S12/60. *After Dark* should be invited to provide PA and music for intervals.

Action: GC by next meeting

6. Officials and Education update

S12/61. DH (reporting for MJH) noted that the officials training programme for 2012 was now drawing to a close but that the 2013 programme was in place and advertised widely on the website and through Clubs and these courses were filling up. The days on which the J1, J2 and J2S courses are to be held (at Stevenage) have had to be moved from Tuesday (evening) to Friday (evening) due to room availability issues.

S12/62. Assessments for J1s, J2s and T/Ks were progressing but numbers of those awaiting assessment was growing. Currently about 30 candidates are ready, or nearly ready for assessment. The forthcoming (early 2013) Major League galas offer a good opportunity to assess a good number of these candidates.

S12/63. A Licensing Day has been set up by MJH for 20th January (at Stevenage) and promoted to Officials. The day will give those whose licences are expiring the opportunity to discuss license applications as well as receive the required 'Compulsory Elements' of training for re-licencing.

7. Open Water Swimming

S12/64. ST was not present at the meeting but had prepared a report – this will be distributed separately.

S12/65. ST had also prepared a list of Trophy Winners from the County Open Water event. IM noted that in the absence of Open winners the Junior winners should have received trophies; this had not happened and had been noted by at least one set of parents whose child had been affected. This will need resolving both in the short term regarding this year's event as well as in the longer term.

Action: ST/SM by next meeting

S12/66. IM suggested that the event should be advertised better and earlier in 2013.

8. Representative to the East Region Technical Swimming Committee

S12/67. AS BT is no longer in this role a new representative needs to be found. IM proposes that somebody from one of the Clubs should be sought and then co-opted on to the Committee. The Clubs should be emailed to seek suggestions for a representative. **Action: BT by next meeting**

9. County Development Plan

S12/68. Club membership levels still need to be determined (to ascertain whether membership is rising or falling by Club and by County). **Action: IM/BT by next meeting**

S12/69. Other issues in the Plan were difficult to discuss as they were significantly dependent on the new LTAD plans due on 6th December 2012.

10. Records

S12/70. No records were tabled at the meeting.

11. AOB

S12/71. IM reported that the County no longer has radios for the management of the Counties. IM proposed that 6 sets (@ about £105 each) along with appropriate headsets be purchased (total cost in the order of £1,000). Approval for the purchase will be sought.

S12/72. IM noted the forthcoming Rules Update.

Final DH
7/12/2012