



BERKSHIRE AND SOUTH BUCKINGHAMSHIRE
AMATEUR SWIMMING ASSOCIATION

Performance Swimming Events Committee

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Annual Report of the Performance Swimming Events Committee:

Please find, set out below, the 2019 Annual Report of the Berkshire and South Buckinghamshire ASA Performance Swimming Events Committee.

For the 2018/9 swimming season, the Committee has constituted the following members: Stuart Fillingham; Rob Moore; Jonathan Mills; Sue Green; and Gary Shields. Most of the Committee Meetings have also been attended by Terry Norris in an ex-officio capacity. The Committee has also been supported by Brian Bolton. All members and attendees have made an active and important contribution to the smooth running of the Committee and the events that have been organised. As Performance Swimming Events Manager, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Committee for their ongoing support and dedication to the County.

The following four sections of this report respectively cover the key areas of responsibility of the Committee:

Development Meet:

The Committee organised and ran the seventh County Development Meet on the 14th October 2018. This was once again a successful competition, aimed at and provided for those swimmers who did not have, on entry, a County Championships qualification time in the strokes in which they were to compete. The Committee continue to re-emphasize that this meet is not a feeder meet for the County Championships and is aimed at those swimmers that do not regularly achieve County Championship consideration times.

There was a modest decrease in swimmer numbers compared to the 2017 competition. This was primarily due to the absence of Tilehurst S.C. for the first time; though Slough & Eton Dolphins S.C. did not enter for the second year running. As in the prior-year, the meet was run over three sessions to allow for the participation of more clubs and swimmers. This format continued to prove to be successful.

The meet ran well on the day and had an appropriate number of entries. The sessions ran close to time and the meet finished just ahead of the scheduled time. The Committee received no complaints in connection with this meet.

From a financial perspective, the meet total income of £6,244 showed a decrease over the previous year (2017: £8,520; 2016: £9,357; 2015: £7,178; 2014: £7,423; 2013: £7,248) as a consequence of the reduced number of entrants (mainly the Tilehurst impact). Expenditure decreased slightly to £3,535 (£3,836 in 2017; £3,716 in 2016; £3,071 in 2015; £1,817 in 2014; and, £1,785 in 2013, with no material variations in costs. Consequently, although it is never the intention for this meet to be profitable, a surplus of £2,708 was earned (2017: £4,685; 2016: £5,641; 2015: £4,107; 2014: £5,606; 2013: £5,463 the latter two years again excluding medal costs). This surplus has been remitted back to the County for investment as the Management Board consider appropriate.

The Committee has agreed that since the meet was well supported, was not massively oversubscribed, and continues to appear to fulfil a need within the County that it should continue. The meet also remains consistent with the aims of the ASA in their competitive pathway.

Accordingly, the meet will run in 2019 in its three-session competition format (and has been scheduled for 13th October 2019 at the Bracknell Leisure Centre). Consideration is though being given to moving this meet to the new pool in Maidenhead for 2020.

County Championships:

The Committee again organised and ran the annual Performance Swimming County and Age Group Championships; for the third year to the new timetable prescribed in the ASA competition Pathway. The Championships took place on the weekends of 12/13 and 26/27 January 2019.

The 2017 championships were the first organised under the new ASA competition Pathway and had resulted in a number of changes. Some refinement to the format was required in 2018, primarily to transition all of the competition to the 50M pool at Wycombe which had amongst other things entailed a full re-work of the programme. Rob Moore and I were particularly grateful to the County for recognising the efforts this had taken through the presentation to us of The President's Cup in 2018.

Whilst less substantial, further changes were incorporated into the 2019 Championships. The most significant of these changes was to re-instate the 800M for male swimmers and the 1,500M for female swimmers; now that they had been re-introduced at ASA National events. In an endeavour not to increase the number of days of competition, this did make the programme tighter and led to longer days of swimming. A few other changes were made in the current year; mostly reflecting feedback that had been received in the previous year.

The licensing panel continue to insist that the Championship must have age group finals instead of Championship finals and accordingly the latter were therefore again run on a virtual basis to determine the County Champions. The Committee therefore continue to be disappointed that this meet has to effectively be run as an age group competition.

The final program received very positive feedback from the head coaches representing the performance swimming clubs in the County; and accordingly, the Committee will seek to make only limited changes for the 2020 Championships.

A review of the entry times was completed, though with minimal changes in the current year. At the request of the County Coaches, the aim continues to be that of reducing the number of swimmers eligible to compete in the Championships so as to reduce the volume of entries. Accordingly, in 2019 on the whole it again became more difficult to achieve a county consideration time. It is also worthy of note that in some instances, the County Championship consideration entry time is now faster than the entry time for the equivalent event at the ASA South East Summer Regional Championships.

For the 2019 Championships, 3,385 swims were entered into the Championships, compared to 3,372 swims in 2018, 3,509 swims in 2017, 2,856 swims in 2016 and 2,987 swims in 2015. In 2019, individual swims were effectively the same year-on-year, largely reflecting increases for the newly added events, compensated by reduced entries in existing events. Team swims decreased by 8 to 198. One can therefore conclude that the entry times for individual swims remain at an appropriate level in the context of the amount of water time available.

The Championships therefore remained manageable in terms of swimmers and available water time; but from a back-office perspective the finals sessions remain administratively onerous. The Committee will however continue with this structure and program for the 2020 Championships given the atmosphere and excitement that the finals sessions bring; compounded by the positive feedback that is always received.

All of the County's performance swimming clubs were represented, other than Slough & Eton Dolphins S.C. who unfortunately did not enter this year (or last).

The Coaches in the County, reporting at the annual feedback meeting subsequent to the Championships, expressed their gratitude to the Committee and declared that it had again been a successful and well-run Championship. Albeit, it would have been preferable for more of the clubs to have been represented at that feedback session.

Whilst there were some inevitable problems in running a championship of this size, it did in general run very smoothly across the four days of competition. Particular thanks in this respect should go to Wycombe District S.C. who helped us ensure that our visit to Wycombe Leisure Centre was very well supported by the local team.

The Performance Swimming Events Committee would also like to extend a formal thanks to all of the volunteers and officials who gave up their time to make this (and the Development Meet) possible. Worthy of particular mention are:

- Herman Bleekendaal, who admirably supports the committee in his position as Trophy officer;
- John Rowley, in his role as county PR Officer; and,
- Amanda Bond and Jo Stewart from Bracknell and Wokingham S.C. and Jorge Mateos-Serrano and Diana Kennedy from Maidenhead S.C. all of whom provided additional manpower in the back office meet management area during the Championships.

To date, the Committee has received no formal complaints in connection with Championships and no subsequent issues have arisen since the completion of the 2019 Championships. There was however one changing room incident that occurred during the Championships, though this matter was addressed with the Welfare Officers from each participating club during the competition. Changes are currently under consideration ahead of the 2020 Championships following the learnings from 2019.

Some of the matters covered in the post Championships review meeting were areas such as:

- Results were not available on line (due to GDPR concerns over the SwimResults website)
- The qualifying time of the boys 200m needs revisiting
- Having one club doing the same volunteer role for the whole championships received negative feedback
- The runner's role for finals sessions requires two volunteers
- In some respects, the Championships feel like a Wycombe District SC open meet.

From these matters, a few key decisions have already been taken:

- A rolling program of QTs review would be implemented
- Changing room security and an accreditation system will be considered for the 2020 Championships.

From a swimming perspective, the Championships delivered seven new County Records (up from five in the previous year) and, alongside this, there were a significant number of Meet Best times.

From a financial perspective, the meet accounts have yet to be finalised, the meet only concluding relatively recently. However, draft accounts indicate that total income of £33,802 showed a small increase compared to the previous year (2018: £32,478; 2017: £33,312; 2016: £23,476; 2015: £21,252; 2014: £24,436) mainly as a consequence of higher entry fees.

Expenditure is currently estimated marginally higher than the prior-year at £18,507 (2018: £18,137; 2017: £15,106; 2016: £13,628; 2015: £9,490; 2014 £7,316, the latter two years excluding the cost of medals); mainly as a consequence of slightly higher pool costs.

Consequently, a draft surplus of £15,296 is estimated (2018: £14,341; 2017: £18,205; 2016: £13,628; 2015: £12,060; 2014: £16,871, the latter two years excluding the cost of medals) though this is obviously subject to change. This increase in surplus is partly the consequence of some specific actions that the Committee has taken and implemented in order to reduce running costs in an endeavour to deliver at greater return to the County Association. For example, weekend rather than daily programs.

However, unlike the Development Meet, this meet is designed to be profitable, as it represents virtually the only source of income to the County for the funding of its wider activities. Accordingly, the surplus has also been remitted back to the County for investment as the Management Board consider appropriate.

The Committee has agreed that since the meet was well supported, and continues to fulfil a need within the County, that it should continue and accordingly, the meet will run again in 2020. For 2020 the Championships will be run again at the Wycombe Leisure Centre on the following dates in January: 11/12/25/26.

Performance Swimming Records:

The Performance Swimming Events Committee continues to take responsibility for the administration of Performance Swimming County Records. The Committee also retained responsibility for administering County Championship Meet Best Times.

The administration system written a number of years ago along with a database and reporting mechanism has been maintained throughout the year. This aligns the meet best times and the records into a single database. The system continues to generate a certificate of achievement for records that is presented to the new record holder. The up-to-date records list continues to be re-published on the website each time after a new record has been set.

An appendix to this paper sets out all of the new County records ratified since the last annual report of the Performance Swimming Events Committee. A listing of new County Championship meet best times is also available on request.

Performance swimming facilities within the County:

The Performance Swimming Events Committee also takes a keen interest in the facilities available in the county which are suitable for the organisation of galas and competitions. To this end, the Committee notes the development of two new pools in the county. A new ten lane short-course pool is planned to replace the Magnet Leisure Centre in Maidenhead with estimated completion in Q1 2020. Secondly a new short-course pool has also recently opened in Slough.

The Committee has already participated in discussions about the requirements and development of the new pool in Maidenhead and will continue to note progress with interest to ensure relationships with the operator are maintained. The Committee will consider use of this pool for future county competitions in due course.

Stuart Fillingham
BSB ASA Performance Swimming Events Manager

31 March 2019

Appendix – **New County records since the last annual report**

<u>Sex</u>	<u>SC / LC</u>	<u>Distance</u>	<u>Stroke</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Swimmer</u>	<u>Club</u>	<u>Meet</u>	<u>Venue</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>
Boys	LC	800	Free	County Junior Record	Joshua Williams	Wycombe District	British Swimming Summer Championships	Sheffield	28.07.18	08:31.69
Boys	SC	1500	Free	County Junior Record	Joshua Williams	Wycombe District	South East Regionals	Portsmouth Mountbatten Centre	04.11.18	15:29.86
Mens	SC	1500	Free	County Record	Joshua Williams	Wycombe District	South East Regionals	Portsmouth Mountbatten Centre	04.11.18	15:29.86
Boys	SC	800	Free	County Junior Record	Joshua Williams	Wycombe District	Swim Wales Open Meet	Swansea	01.12.18	08:14.28
Mens	SC	800	Free	County Record	Joshua Williams	Wycombe District	Swim Wales Open Meet	Swansea	01.12.18	08:14.28
Girls	SC	200	IM	County Junior Record	Emilia Sansome	Wycombe District	National Swimming League	Wycombe Leisure Centre	08.12.18	02:12.69
Womens	SC	200	IM	County Record	Emilia Sansome	Wycombe District	National Swimming League	Wycombe Leisure Centre	08.12.18	02:12.69
Boys	SC	400	Free	County Junior Record	Joshua Williams	Wycombe District	Swim England Winter Championships 2018	Sheffield	14.12.18	03:53.20
Mens	SC	400	Free	County Record	Joshua Williams	Wycombe District	Swim England Winter Championships 2018	Sheffield	14.12.18	03:53.20
Boys	SC	200	Breast	County Junior Record	Joseph Buxton	Reading	Swim England Winter Championships 2018	Sheffield	16.12.18	02:18.60
Boys	LC	200	Fly	County Junior Record	Thomas Sansome	Wycombe District	County Championships 2019	Wycombe Leisure Centre	13.01.19	02:09.26
Girls	LC	100	Breast	County Junior Record	Megan Daley	Wycombe District	County Championships 2019	Wycombe Leisure Centre	27.01.19	01:14.66
Girls	LC	1500	Free	County Junior Record	Ella Dyson	Wycombe District	County Championships 2019	Wycombe Leisure Centre	27.01.19	17:26.33
Mens	LC	50	Fly	County Record	Adam Barrett	Tilehurst	County Championships 2019	Wycombe Leisure Centre	12.01.19	00:24.12
Mens	LC	400	Free	County Record	Jamie O'Connor	Wycombe District	County Championships 2019	Wycombe Leisure Centre	12.01.19	04:03.80
Mens	LC	800	Free	County Record	Joshua Williams	Wycombe District	County Championships 2019	Wycombe Leisure Centre	13.01.19	08:28.40
Womens	LC	100	Free	County Record	Jemima Hall	Wycombe District	County Championships 2019	Wycombe Leisure Centre	13.01.19	00:58.01