



BERKSHIRE AND SOUTH BUCKINGHAMSHIRE
AMATEUR SWIMMING ASSOCIATION

Performance Swimming Events Committee

Contact: James Glazebrook
Email: championships@bsbasa.org
Telephone: +44 7866 743755

Annual Report of the Performance Swimming Events Committee (2023)

Introduction

Please find the 2023 Annual Report of the Berkshire And South Buckinghamshire ASA Performance Swimming Events Committee.

The report is written to primarily cover the 2022/2023 season, covering the Development meet and County Championships held over the past 12 months as well as the new county records and developments in county swimming facilities.

The Performance Swimming committee comprises the following members: James Glazebrook, Stuart Fillingham, Rob Moore, Andy Mackay, Jonathan Mills, Sam Dyson, and Peter Button. All members and have made an active and important contribution to the planning and execution of the events organised. As Performance Swimming Events Manager, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Committee and other for their support and commitment to the County.

The following 4 sections of the report respectively cover the key areas of responsibility of the committee

Development Meet

The Development Meet is an annual meet aimed at swimmers 17 years old and under in the county who do not yet have licenced times that allow them to be considered for entry to the County Championships. In 2022 additional age groups were added to allow old swimmers to compete. The event was held at the Braywick Leisure Centre on 9th October. This was the first time this event has been held since 2019, the 2020 and 2021 meets having to be cancelled due to the pandemic restrictions.

Following consultation with the county coaches, there was a clear desire to hold the event again although take up was less than expected. The meet went ahead and worked well despite the low turn-out, using only 6 of the 10 lanes, and managing to turn a profit at the same time.

Feedback from the event showed that the major factors leading to the low turn out were:

- Lack of publicity and clubs/swimmers not being aware of the fixture early enough
- Complete entry procedures requiring the use of SportSystem software (not widely compatible with systems used by most of our clubs)
- Clubs still recovering from the effects of the pandemic and recovering their members numbers, including many swimmers without suitable meet experience to quality for the meet

There is strong desire to continue holding the event and it is planned to hold the next Development Meet on 15th October 2023. To grow the event, the following changes are proposed:

- Maintain using the Sunday after the 1st round of Arena league meet date, and establish it firmly in the annual fixture list for our clubs. Applying for an earlier license and publicising before the summer break should also help.
- Allow club to enter using a Hytek meet file format, compatible with the TeamUnify system. This work successfully for the 2023 County Championships (see below) and reduces the admin requirements of the clubs considerably.
- Our clubs memberships are continuing to recover and build following the end of pandemic effects and with a full open meet fixture list swimmers are gaining licenced times.
- To make better use of the pool time we will also introduce extra 200m events and consider reducing the minimum qualifying times.

My thanks go to Paul Lloyd and Maidenhead Marlins who helped us plan the meet and have committee to continue helping in 2023.

County Championships

The 2023 County Championships took place on 14th/15th and 28th/29th January. The meet was held with a full programme of events and all the changes that were introduced in 2022 due to the pandemic were removed, allowing spectators into the gallery again. Following feedback from the clubs, 2 sections of the sports hall were booked to allow swimmers more space to relax away from poolside when not competing, allow for more effective land warm-ups and make marshalling easier. Despite not restrictions being in place, this also meant that poolside did not get over-crowded making officiating a more pleasant experience.

The main changes to the entry process were that the meet consideration teams reverted to their pre-pandemic levels, and Hytek/TeamUnify entry files were permitted as well as the SportSystem type used previously. Following the development meet feedback, there was a lot of pressure from the clubs to allow other entry types, as SportSystem is not a format widely used by our clubs and requires significant amounts of admin to process entries and payments which is automated by TeamUnify and similar systems.

Developing an entry file for the county championships compatible with Hytek was a considerable undertaking, to ensure the quality and integrity of the entries and ensure the file contained the correct entry information and was full compatible. My thanks to Jonathan Mills and Rob Moore for performing this task, together with help from Maidenhead and Chalfont Otters to test the files and iron out bugs before we launched the meet entry process.

The meet income from entries was slightly down from the previous year due few swimmers qualifying (£24k vs £27k), however income from spectators and programme sales raised £9k and without the costs of live feed video the meet profits rose to £13k, only slightly down on pre-pandemic levels.

The 2023 meet included special exhibition event where the 200m IM was held for the 4 top male swimmers in the county, including James McFadzen. This was held on the final day of the championships in front of a packed pool and spectator gallery and was a great spectacle to watch. With the help of our announcers and Kevin Brooks, this allowed us to showcase the great talent from the county and how successful our home grown swimmers have been over the previous 12 months. It was a truly inspiring event for the swimmers and spectators attending and hopefully the opportunity will arise in future to hold something similar again.

Feedback from the coaches at the forum held after the championship was largely positive and appreciative of how the competition was organised and run. However, it was clear that the entry numbers were disappointing and measures need to be taken to grow the meet. Although this was

partly due to club membership numbers and swimmer performance still recovering from the effects of the pandemic, it is clear that some event categories are regularly under subscribed. Following the meeting, a proposal has been circulated around the club coaches and the performance swimming committee to increasing the considerations times for a range of events identified as being under subscribed following analysis of rankings and previous county champs.

The 2024 Championships are planned to be held at Wycombe Leisure Centre on January 13th/14th & 27th/28th.

Performance Swimming Records

During the 2022/23 season (up to the 31st March 2022), 5 new Junior County Records and 1 new County Record have been set by the county's athletes:

Gender	Course	Event	Swimmer / Club	Location	Date	Time
Junior County Records						
Boys	SC	50m Free	Noah Wheeler (Chalfont Otters)	Guildford	19/11/2022	00:23.89
Mixed	SC	4x50m Free	Chalfont Otters	Southampton	12/11/2022	01:46.42
Mixed	SC	4x50m Medley	Chalfont Otters	Southampton	12/11/2022	01:59.91
Girls	LC	100m Free	Annabelle Compton (Wycombe District)	Wycombe	28/01/23	00:57.98
Girls	LC	50m Fly	Annabelle Compton (Wycombe District)	Wycombe	29/01/23	00:29.07
County Records						
Womens	LC	100m Fly	Lucy Fox (Wycombe District)	Wycombe	14/01/23	01:02.80

Performance Swimming facilities within the County

The Performance Swimming Events Committee takes a keen interest in the facilities available in the county which are suitable for the organisation of galas and competitions.

The new Palmer Park Stadium opening on 12th January 2023, providing Reading with a new 25m 6-lane pool. Meanwhile, the Rivermead Leisure Centre, also in reading, is being rebuilt (along side the existing facility). The new centre is due to open in Spring 2023 and will feature an 8-lane 25m competition pool with movable floor.

James Glazebrook

Acting BSBASA Performance Swimming Events Manager

31st March 2023