

Berks and South Bucks ASA

Swimming Committee

Minutes of a meeting on 15 February 2012

Present:

Rob Moore (RM)
Stuart Fillingham (SF)
Gary Shields (GS)
Jonathan Mills (JM)
Helen Whittle (HW)
Sue Green* (SG)
Nigel Brand * (NB)

In attendance:

Matt Heathcock (MH)
Joan Scarrott (JS)

Apologies received from
Myra Felmingham*

* denotes ex-officio members

1 County development

MH and JS presented their outline thinking for a county development pathway. This comprised three main elements.

Foundation event

- Aimed at 9-11yr (30 – 50 swimmers)
- One day local event
- 2 pool sessions, plus a guest speaker
- to include parents
- likely timing October
- Annual cost of circa £1,000

Level 1 camp

- Aimed at 12yrs upwards (30 – 40 swimmers)
- Post counties and selected on counties performance
- Weekend residential event (Crystal Palace)
- Pool sessions, plus guest speakers
- Swimmers plus coaches
- Annual cost of circa £4,000

Level 2 camp

- Aimed at top 20 ranked swimmers nationally
- 12yrs & upwards
- Long weekend training and competing abroad
- Annual cost of circa £5,000

MH explained that this was a long term aspirational plan to re-establish county level swimming camps. The aim would be to start with the foundation event and then introduce the other levels. It may take some years to build up to all three events.

There was then some detailed discussion about how these events might work. It was agreed that getting buy in from the head coaches of the county clubs would be key.

Overall, the swimming committee was very enthusiastic about the plan presented. They agreed that the next stage was for MH to float the idea with the head coaches and gauge their level of interest. If they were similarly enthusiastic, then MH/JS should put together a more detailed plan and request for funding for the initial foundation event in Sept/Oct 2012. The swimming committee would support such a plan and it was considered highly likely that the BSBASA Exec would make the necessary funding available for the initial foundation event.

2 County team

MH explained that having observed the team at the 2011 inter-counties, he had a number of ideas to enhance the overall experience and in particular to get the team to bond better and earlier in the weekend. His suggested programme was:

- leave earlier, 11:00 on the Saturday
- stop in Loughborough for a 1 hour pool session (this pool session would replace the existing team training day)
- dinner and team ice breaker event on arrival at a Sheffield hotel
- team preparation (face paints etc) Sunday morning
- travel back with only short stop on Sunday evening

The swimming committee supported the proposed changes and confirmed MH/JS should move ahead and make the necessary arrangements. It was noted that this would be largely cost neutral.

MH explained his proposed county team selection criteria. There was some discuss about the decision not to convert LC times, but there was a large majority in favour of MH's suggested policy. HW agreed to find out what the ASA Inter-county Meet Conditions say about eligibility as we would need to be consistent with this. Once this was resolved, it was agreed that the selection criteria would be published on the website.

3 Development meet

There was considerable discussion about timing and venue. Overall there was a strong consensus for SC with ideal timing being October or July. It was agreed that we would initially look for a venue in October 2012.

The meet parameters were discussed and the following were agreed.

- One day
- Ages, 14 & under
- Licensed at level 3 with wide consideration times
- Entry preference to swimmers without county consideration times and to county clubs
- Events 50 & 100m all strokes, plus 200 Free and 200 IM.

4 Counties

RM summarised that entries were down about 7% (from 3,305 to 3,082 swims).

JM then described the outcome of his work on comparing the entered times and the times on Rankings.

- 2096 matched perfectly with the time on rankings
- 70 were for 800/1500 which did not require licensed times
- 159 were where 200m times were required for 100m events
- 327 matched with the converted LC times on rankings
- 138 were slower than the time on rankings,
- 99 were on the face of it more problematic

JM explained he had investigated the 99 and there were a number of reasons for the discrepancy. Some apparently innocent errors and some seemingly less so. He had produced a report of these and it was agreed that this should be sent to the clubs to show that we were indeed checking all entry times.

RM explained that one possibility for 2013 was to move to an on-line entry system whereby it would only be possible to enter using the times in rankings. This is something that will be considered further in the coming months.

RM explained that this year's process had been very frustrating for him. There was a real need to simplify a number of aspects of the meet to reduce the work load and allow someone else to run the meet on the day. This is also something that will be considered at the conclusion of the 2012 counties.

RM advised that he would arrange the usual feedback call for the week after Counties had finished. Also, the best dates for 2013 were looking like 9/10, 16 and 23 March. The other available dates either clashed with half term or the Bracknell Masters Meet.

Finally SG explained that John Mackrell was not available at all to operate the AOE at counties and that this was proving problematic. RM agreed to ask Ian Castledine if he could help. JM would also put a request for volunteers to be trained on the website.

RJ Moore
15 February 2012