

## **Berks and South Bucks ASA Swimming Committee**

Minutes of a meeting on 4 February 2013

Present:

Rob Moore (RM)

Stuart Fillingham (SF)

Jonathan Mills (JM)

Helen Whittle (HW)

Sue Green\* (SG)

Gary Shields (GS)

Apologies received from

Nigel Brand\*

Myra Felmingham\*

Roger Penfold\*

\* denotes ex-officio members

### 1 2013 Counties

RM explained entries had closed and we have 3,313 entries from 10 clubs. This was up 220 versus 2012 and 8 versus 2011. The on line entry system had work very well and generally seemed to be accepted by swimmers. We will seek more feedback on this specifically as part of our normal feedback process (see below). It was sad to note that there were no entries at all from Slough this year.

RM explained he proposed accepting all the entries except for the boys 1500m. This meant some very full sessions, but these were manageable and would fit within our pool booking and license requirements. There were 33 entries for the 1500m, but there was only time for 4 heats. RM proposed that the swimmer who had the least margin under the consideration time be made a reserve swimmer and would only swim if one of the other 32 swimmers withdrew. There was a very good chance that the swimmers would in the end get a swim. This proposal was agreed. The session timings were discussed, tweaked and agreed. RM would get the accepted entries list and supporting documentation published ASAP (probably by the weekend)

SG requested that swimmers and teams at the Aldershot session be reminded that it was their responsibility to provide a timekeeper.

The entry pricing was discussed. It was agreed that this would be maintained at 2012 levels, except for the Aldershot session which would be brought into line with the other sessions.

It was agreed that Nigel Brand be asked to present the prizes. Last year's feedback call had included a request to do presentation during the sessions (ie while there was still a good audience). The sequence of events means that this is not often possible, but it was agreed that GS would seek to facilitate this wherever possible.

In 2010 and 2011 we produced BAGCAT certificates (British Gas branded

BAGCAT certificates are provided by the ASA). We did not do this in 2012, as there is just not the time to produce them during the relay session, and producing them afterwards introduces an additional task of mailing them. There had been 1 or 2 requests last year to start producing them again. RM proposed that blank certificates be provided for the clubs to collect on the last day and we would then provide on the website a PDF file for each club/swimmer to print their certificate. This was agreed.

The reduced space behind the start at Magnet (due to the flume) and the issues this would cause, especially for relays, was discussed. It was subsequently decided that all chairs and clothing boxes would be removed from the end of the pool during the relay races and there was little else we could do to alleviate this problem. We will need to rely on the common sense of officials, swimmers and coaches.

RM proposed that each club have a tray by the meet office in the changing rooms. Coaches packs, withdrawals sheets, relay declaration forms would be placed in these trays for each clubs to collect. As requested on last year's feedback call, water would also be provided for coaches. This was agreed.

SG reported that she had received only a small number of requests from officials for car park passes. It was agreed that we should not purchase any Hines Meadow passes for officials and that anyone who had not requested a pass would not get one (or their parking reimbursed).

RM reported that Magnet had been helpful in allocating space to accommodate both Mailsport and Fine Designs, and both would attend. The precise locations would be agreed during the meeting with Magnet later in the week. [Mailsports on the balcony and Fine Designs in the entrance foyer.]

It was agreed that we would hold the usual feedback conference call on Wednesday 27 March at 12:30. SF would provide a dial in number.

#### Actions

- RM to remind swimmers about timekeeper requirement at Aldershot
- RM to ask Nigel Brand to present the prizes.

## 2 2014 Championships

These were briefly discussed. It was suggested we investigate keeping the same pattern and RM would check pool availability on the corresponding dates, ie 8, 9 15, 22 March 2014.

It was also agreed that we review all the consideration times (using a more objective approach). It was particularly noted that there were really more entries for the 400 Free than the meet timing would allow and that the consideration times for this event should be closely reviewed.

#### Actions

- RM to investigate 2014 pool availability
- SF to review consideration times

### 3 2013 Development meet

Pool availability at Bracknell for Sunday 13 October has been confirmed and GS has managed to get some additional pool time. With some streamlining to the meet set up, we should be able to offer 1 additional hour of competition and still finish by 7:30. 7:30 was considered the latest appropriate finish time for such young swimmers on a Sunday.

RM will now go ahead and book the pool and JM will announce the date in the BSBASA website. Full conditions will be published shortly. As already decided, the meet will be closed to BSBASA clubs this year.

The medals to be given was also discussed and it was agreed that we would stick with the red medals used in 2012.

#### Actions

RM to book pool and prepared conditions

JM to publish on website

### 4 Development pathway

Unfortunately, Joan Scarrott and Matt Heathcock were not able to attend to present their proposals. There was a very brief discussion of the email sent by Joan and the general reaffirmation by the committee that it would prefer the next step to be at level 1. Since we are already in February, and the attention of the swimming committee members will very much be on the 2013 championships over the next 2 months, it now seems unlikely that any firm proposal can be submitted to the Exec until the June Exec meeting. It seems likely that any decision on the next steps on BSBASA led development should be taken by the new Management Board or whatever arrangements the Board puts in place for future swimming development.

### 5 County pins

The December Executive had asked the Swimming Committee to consider if we should revive the presentation of County pins to swimmer selected to represent the county. The overall feeling was that these pins would not be appreciated by swimmers, and that a hat and polo shirt were a sufficient memento. It was therefore the recommendation of the swimming committee that this practice should not be revived, and that no alternative memento was appropriate.

- a. Trophy secretary – Jackie Brown had indicated that she would not be continuing her trophy secretary role after the 2013 counties. It was agreed that it was very important that a replacement be found, and that an advert be placed on the website and that the swimming committee try to identify a suitable candidate during the 2013 counties.

Actions

JM to write a job description and post on website  
All to identify possible candidates

- b. SER Coaches Forum – Roger Penfold had asked the committee to make a recommendation to the Executive about a successor/a selection process for a successor to Liz Waddy as the BSBASA representative on the ASASER Coaches' Forum. It was agreed that the committee's recommendation was Matt Heathcock, the County coach, and if he was not willing to take on the role, that he be asked to make a recommendation to the Swimming Committee.
- c. County laptop – RM reported that the County PC was now very sick and unserviceable (it is certainly more than 6 years old to RM's knowledge). Whilst the County makes use of equipment owned by RM, SF and BWSC, some of this is also becoming quite elderly, and it is probably appropriate for the county to invest in a new laptop. JM advised that now would be a good time to do this while Windows 7 laptops were available as we may well encounter compatibility problems between our hardware and software and Windows 8. It was agreed that the Exec be asked to approve the purchase of a new laptop (circa £400).

Actions

JM to investigate laptop specs  
SF to seek funding at February Exec.

- d. Next meeting - The date of the next meeting was agreed as Thursday 4 April 2013 at 19:00 at JM's house.

RJ Moore  
February 2013