

Berks and South Bucks ASA Swimming Committee

Minutes of a meeting on 4 April 2013

Present:

Rob Moore (RM)

Stuart Fillingham (SF)

Jonathan Mills (JM)

Helen Whittle (HW)

Sue Green* (SG)

Matt Heathcock (MH) Item 1 only

Joan Scarrott (JS) Item 1 only

Apologies received from

Nigel Brand*

Roger Penfold*

Gary Shields

* denotes ex-officio members

1 Development pathway

MH outlined his latest thinking on a second development event. This has been developed in conjunction with coaches from other county clubs at the coaches forum, and had good support. The proposed event would be a skills based weekend camp, probably in January with the following features.

- Residential, probably at Crystal Palace
- Friday night to Sunday lunchtime
- 4 x 2 hour pool sessions
- 4 Lanes for 30 swimmers (12 -15 year olds)
- Aimed at lower end of regional and higher end of county swimmers
- Selection based on transparent criteria (yet to be defined)
- 6 Adults, MH plus 4 coaches and chaperone (probably female)
- Other coaches may drive and attend if they wish at their own expense
- To include session for parents on Sunday morning
- Nutrition talk & guest top level coach

The swimming committee thought this was the right next step, and subject to the costs being reasonable would recommend this to the Exec.

SF confirmed that the 2013-14 budget included funding for a repeat of the October Development Day and includes £3,500 for a development camp.

Actions

- RM to include outline recommendation at next exec, in advance of a fully costed proposal
- MH to produce costings

2 Reflections on 2013 Championships

RM had circulated a brief report before the meeting (attached). This supplemented the minutes of the feedback call held with coaches the week before, see below. Both were discussed.

RM raised the issue of the Chalfont youth and BAGCAT relay teams, where they had entered the fastest entry times (many of which would have smashed the meet best times) and on average their teams swam around 45 seconds slower than the entry time. RM had shared the emails that had been exchanged with the head coach and chairman. The committee were not entirely convinced that the explanations offered stacked up, but noted that both coach and chairman had promised that this situation would not happen again. The committee felt the point had been made and no further action was appropriate. It was agreed that RM would email both coach and chairman to acknowledge their explanations and accept their assurances that this would not occur again.

Actions

- RM to email Chalfont

3 2014 Championships

The output of the 2013 feedback call (attached to RM's report on the 2013 championships) was discussed in some detail. The key items were:

There was support for changes to the 100m IM, but divided opinion on whether it should be eliminated completely, or retained just for 14 & under swimmers. On balance it was agreed we would continue with the event but restrict it to 14 & under pending further guidance (LTAD) from the ASA.

It was agreed that we continue to accept entries from the small number of 9 year olds who meet the Consideration Times (CTs), but that they should not be allowed to enter the 100m events (other than the 100m IM) as required by the licensing rules. To avoid confusion and complexity administering the meet, the current 10 & under age group will be split into separate 9 and 10 year age groups. There will be no BAGCAT awards for 9 year olds and the current 10 years & under will be 10 years in line with ASA practice. 9 year olds will not be eligible for the Parker and Lambert aggregate awards (they would have an unfair advantage due to the very small number). The CTs for 9 year olds will be the same as for 10 year olds.

The CTs will be reviewed and in most case will be harder with a view to reducing entries by 10-15%. SF and HW agreed to benchmark our times against other counties and regions. However, the CTs will be tailored to fit the age/ability profile of our population of swimmers.

It was decided that the format of the current relay session will remain and there will be no further restriction on entry numbers. It was also agreed that we would continue to rely on clubs to submit realistic entry times. However those times would be subject to a greater level of pre-meet scrutiny. Clubs who repeatedly fail abuse this trust may be subject to sanctions.

Entries for the 800/1500 will come into line with the licensed times requirement of all other events

We do not currently have access to the additional pool time that we would need to widen the range of finals offered. However, the changes above should give the opportunity to “big up” finals. So we will look at making finals more special with swimmers walking to the blocks individually to music etc, and perhaps making more use of the scoreboard for finals.

We discussed moving from a Sat/Sun/Sat format to a Sat/Sun/Sun format. Whilst this will avoid the 9:30 Saturday finish, a 6:30 finish on a Sunday (ie a “school night”) was not considered to be significantly better (especially given the higher cost we are paying for Sundays). As part of our normal ongoing discussion with Magnet we will explore the options for getting more pool time for 2015 and beyond.

It was agreed that we would book Magnet for 8, 9 & 22 March 2014 and Aldershot for the evening of 15 March. We will explore whether we can have an earlier start at Aldershot.

Actions

- RM to revise Swimming Championship Conditions, Age Group Conditions and meet documentation in line with the above
- JM to revise on-line entry system in line with above
- SF/HW to propose revised CTs
- GS to consider best way to big up finals
- RM to book pools
- RM/SF to have dialogue with Magnet on the possibility of greater pool time in the longer term

4 2013 Development meet

RM explained that our license application was rejected because we were allowing 9 year olds to swim in 100m events and hence we needed to agree a revised approach for 9 year olds. It was agreed that we would continue to accept 9 year olds, but they would not be allowed to swim in the 100m events (other than the 100IM).

There was a discussion of the recurring issue of swimmers who were too fast to enter based on their age on the date of the meet, but had a birthday prior to counties and had not yet achieved the county CT for their new age. As per previously discussions, there was no easy answer to this. Using the date of Counties for the age at day would not be permitted by the licensing conditions. Having different “age at” dates for consideration times and events was considered to be too confusing. Widening the development meet upper limit times was also confusing. Whilst for some swimmers, these changes will solve the problem, for others they make it worse. Whilst the DM was aimed at swimmers who did not regularly achieve county times, and would hopefully allow some of them to qualify, it was one of a number of opportunities to qualify, the main one being their respective club championships. Overall, it was agreed we would make no change in this area.

It was agreed that the upper limit times would align with the 2014 county CTs (being developed by HW/SF). The license application will be re-submitted when this work is complete (expected to be mid June).

Actions

RM to update meet documentation

5 AOB

- a. Trophy secretary – RM reported that Herman Bleekendaal of Maidenhead had expressed an interest in becoming trophy secretary and had been in dialogue with Jackie Brown on what the role entailed. Following that, he had formally volunteered to take on the role. The committee were delighted to accept that offer, subject to approval by the Exec.
- b. Next meeting - The date of the next meeting was agreed as Thursday 30 May 2013 at 19:30 at GS's office.

RJ Moore
April 2013

BSBASA

REPORT ON 2013 COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

1. Overall outcome

I think the championships went well this year. There were the usual handful of minor problems, but most of these were resolved quickly and without swimmers and spectators noticing. Sessions started and finished more or less on time.

2. Entry numbers

These were up around 7.5% on 2012 and close to the 2011 figure (3313, versus 3,082 versus 3,305). All those who met the entry conditions were able to swim (there was one reserve swimmer for the 1500m who was offered a swim on the day). It was sad to note that Slough and Eton had no entries this year.

3. On line entry system

This went well and was universally liked by clubs and swimmers. It significantly reduces the administration (and error) for clubs and for the swimming committee.

4. Licensed times requirement

As a result of the automatic checking of entry times to ASA Rankings within the on-line entry system, this went very well.

5. New records

There were 8 new county records and 28 new meet best times. See list attached.

6. AOE

We suffered a total AOE failure in the second race of session 1. This was due to a problem with the AOE harness, something that has been on the verge of failing for many years. We were able to deploy the backup harness purchased by the county in 2011 (exactly for this eventuality) and continue racing with only a 10 minute delay. Magnet have now purchased a new harness which was used and worked perfectly on 23 March.

7. Revenue outturn

Entry fees were up around £2,090 before Paypal fees of £711. Door money was up £332, mostly from the Aldershot session where we increased the entry fee to match that of the other sessions. Other costs were up £261, mostly on catering (although at £800 for 3 days this is a fantastic bargain). Other income was similar (although we are still awaiting commission from

Mailsports). Overall, the surplus before pool costs and trophies was £21,900, up some £1,600 on 2012.

8. Feedback from coaches

As usual we held a conference call (on 27 March) for coaches to feedback on the 2013 championships. Minutes of this call are attached.

9. 2014

To be discussed at the Swimming Committee meeting.

10. Special thanks

Joanne Shields and Lesley Bromidge for the excellent catering.

Jackie Brown for managing our trophies so well over the last few years

RJ Moore
Honorary Championship Secretary
March 2013

**B&SB ASA
County Championships Feedback meeting
12:30; 27 March 2013**

In attendance:

Rob Moore - County Championship Secretary
Stuart Fillingham – Assistant County Championship Secretary
Jonathan Mills - County Swimming Committee
Matt Heathcock – Windsor
Paul Lloyd - Maidenhead
Jayne Fields – Reading
Nigel Willis - Bracknell
Liz Waddy – Chesham
Kevin Brooks - Wycombe

Apologies:

Cindy Bingham - Windsor
Jacky Rogers - Tilehurst

Minutes of meeting:

Rob and Stuart thanked all for dialling in.

Aim of the call was to receive feedback from the 2013 Championships and share thoughts and receive suggestions for the 2014 Championships.

2013 feedback:

Online entry system:

Matt: went really well no issues and saved a lot of administration at the club end.
Kevin agreed that really successful. Nigel agreed. Parents considered quick and easy.

Liz: Puts onus in Jonathan if non-standard entries and not an ASA rankings time, but generally a great success. Familiarity will improve when use again next year.

Jayne: Development meet helped with familiarity.

Much effort put in by Jonathan and this was recognised by all.

Plan is to enhance the system next year. For example - restrict passes and coaches section plus relays entries all of which will be restricted to invitees only.

Volunteer roles:

Windsor have suggested that the volunteer roles should circulate between clubs to provide variety.

100IM :

Matt asked the meeting if the 100IM is still required, noting that its removal would make time available for other events. Kevin and Nigel agreed with Matt that it is

not required. Nigel and Paul suggested leaving the event only in the County Development meet.

Long term athlete development programme document not now due until 2015 - so this can not be used for guidance.

Can we consider keeping this event only for younger age groups or just for BAGCAT competitors?

Agreed by all on call to keep as a BAGCAT only event until Long term athlete development programme document available. Swimming Committee to consider based on feedback from all clubs.

100m events for 9 year olds:

These are not allowed by the licensing rules. Hence the meeting debated if we should cease allowing 9 year olds to swim at this distance.

Paul noted AoD rule means 9 year old swim twice in same age group in consecutive years. Matt suggested change AoD to age at National as per Regional so younger swimmers have an opportunity to swim and prepare for Regional / National. Swimming committee to consider going forward but not for 2014 as this was considered a too radical a step.

The meeting agreed instead to recommend that the Swimming Committee consider a single age band for 9 year olds, who could not enter 100m events and would not be allowed to partake in either the BAGCAT competition or overall boy and girl rankings. All agreed that this proposal and should give them an opportunity to swim. It was further proposed that we will give medals but not trophies.

SF to review other counties practices and raise at Swimming Committee meeting.

QTs

It was noted that the meet was at capacity with some long sessions. The meeting debated if we can we do Saturday / Sunday / Sunday instead of Saturday / Saturday / Sunday.

SF observed that we first need to answer the question – do we want the same or less swimmers? The meeting concluded that the aim in 2014 would be a 10-20% smaller entry than this year.

Nigel expressed a view that we should review QT's and make them harder. Liz noted that we need to match QT with results and the pool of swimmers.

The action was for Stuart to update the times from the bottom up whilst also comparing with other counties.

Separate BAGCAT and Youth Competitions:

Nigel asked if we should run BAGCAT and Youth separately like Hampshire. Matt – No as there is much merit in everyone watching each other swim. Kevin – added that counties is for younger swimmers so they should be developed and be inspired by the older swimmers, hence need them all together.

Relays:

Open relays good at Aldershot – Kevin.

Will again communicate that need to formally request first leg relays into rankings.

Need to consider restrictions on number of weak teams a club can enter into the relays.

Relays session finished late. If move Saturday to Sunday it will start and finish earlier. Or if not then may restrict to two heats. Or maximum of three teams per club.

However, it was an exciting end session and best atmosphere of the whole Championship which is generally missing in the sport. Matt / Paul.

Should we introduce a common age at date for relays? Currently at Nationals. Matt noted that it is important for BAGCAT and Youths to stay as national dates so can bring teams together for training as early as possible in the season. It was proposed that we use the later of BAGCAT / Youth date. Agreed. Will also redesign and clarify entry forms.

Finals:

Consider a finals session by spreading out more. Consider 2 full weekends. Swimming Committee to consider but restrictions at Magnet. Note 7.5 hour swimming time limit anyway.

Kevin – We need to create the relays type atmosphere for the finals. Dedicated age group finals session in North Bucks. Final swimmers only on poolside. Introductions and music for bringing swimmers in. To do age group finals difficult with the water time that we have. Kevin suggested we take little steps to make a bigger impact. Longer term game plan to get to age group finals. Finals do encourage older swimmers to come back to prepare for Regional and Nationals.

Stuart and Rob to look at the programme for finals.

Long distance events:

800/1500 were non-ranking qualifying times in 2013 with preference given to those who did have times on rankings. Only 13 people took advantage (30%) of the no rankings time. Hence it was proposed and agreed that going forward

we would apply the common rule that all entry times must be on rankings. Especially since all clubs have had one year of grace to get club championships competitions in order.

Why does the Aldershot date finish so late? Due to the way in which the Garrison price the pool we only start at 18:00. However we will consider an earlier start if the pricing mechanic changes going forward. Clubs would like to see a 20:00 finish at Aldershot.

Sweatshirts

Can the swimming committee consider another supplier? Issues were perceived around: people / quality / queues / late arrival.

Thanks:

Formal thanks were proposed from Matt to Rob / Stuart / Jonathan. Seconded by all on call. Good feedback overall. Withdrawals process good. All works well.

2014 dates:

2014 Dates: 8/9 March at Magnet, 15 March Aldershot and 22 or 23 March at Magnet.

However, if we do move to the Sunday, we will need to consider the ESSA Schools swimming date given it is Level 1 and attracts the older swimmers.

We should also consider the British Swimming trials dates.

Trophy secretary:

A possible volunteer has been identified. Clubs will hear from swimming committee if the volunteer either declines or is not considered suitable.

Maidenhead Marlins have identified a volunteer who could print the BAGCAT certificates on behalf of all clubs. Action is for that individual to contact Rob / Stuart.

Development Meet:

Same format as last year. County clubs only. Finish at 19:30. Details waiting on 100m for 9 year olds and then they will be published on the web site. Date 13/10/13.

The meeting was reminded of the Age on Date issue. This particular matter is on the agenda for the Swimming committee meeting in April. Could potentially move to age at counties but this may create a potential license issue given so far in advance.

Meeting closed at 13:45

Minutes taken by Stuart Fillingham (Assistant County Championship Secretary)