

HERTFORDSHIRE AMATEUR SWIMMING ASSOCIATION

SWIMMING COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held at the Welwyn Civic Centre, 17th April 2012, at 8.00pm.

Present: Grant Chivers, Charles Dainton, Mark Horrod, Karen Huckle, Derek Hughes, Ian Mackenzie, Bryan Thompson and Su Tysoe.

1. Apologies for Absence

S12/25. Apologies for absence were received from: Caroline Holt, Marilyn J Hughes, Derek Milton, Sheila Mackenzie and Barbara Scorer.

2. Minutes of Previous meetings

S12/26. The notes of the previous meeting of 23rd January 2012 were confirmed as minutes by a quorate committee subject to one minor amendment in S12/18 where 'GH' should read 'GC' in the action.

3. Matters Arising

None

4. Masters update

S12/27. DH reported that he and Richard Sumner had met in February to hand over responsibilities.

S12/28. DH reported that draft paperwork for the Information Pack for the 2012 Masters (23rd June. Borehamwood) had been prepared, were to be checked and should be available to clubs and online end April/beg. May.

S12/29. IM reported that Beds ASA were interested in linking up with Herts ASA probably next year. One option might be to look to a joint event in the new 50m pool in Luton. Expanded numbers might mean a two-session event.

5. Competition update

5.1 Inter-counties 2012 – National 2012

S12/30. GC to book a coach and accommodation for this event.

S12/31. BT is to seek a volunteer to pick and manage the Herts team. IM noted that it is essential that the appointee is a formally ASA qualified Team Manager.

S12/32. IM further noted the importance in future that all clubs have an adequate number of suitably qualified Team Managers; particularly when many teams undertook overseas training camps.

5.2 BAGCATS/ County Championships 2012

S12/33. The meeting agreed that the review of the overall fine detail of the event should be left to the Event Management Meeting. However, some 'high-level' thoughts were required for the forthcoming coaches meeting. Key issues identified were:

- a. The possibility of a joint long-distance event with Beds at the 50 m Luton pool.
- b. The large number of swimmers in both male and female 50m Freestyle events (over 290 swimmers in each event). How can this be resolved?
- c. Better organisation of the warm-up sessions.
- d. The low number of swimmers (particularly senior swimmers) who attended the (well publicised) Presentation Evening. Consider the possibility of changing the format to just a 'BAGCATS Night'.
- e. Better manning of the medals table to minimise possibility of mistakes being made (and the added issue of how to, more generally, recognise the importance of Event Support Staff at the event).
- f. Late availability of Information Pack.
- g. The overall issue of awards – including who gets what, latest collection time and possible minimum swim requirements for BAGCATS awards.
- h. Behaviour of Coaches poolside

6. Officials and Education update

S12/34. DH (reporting for MJH) noted that the programme for 2012 was now in full swing. Training events completed by MJH/DH since the last meeting were:

- Timekeeper – Courses at Berkhamsted and Kings Langley
- J1 - Part 1a and 1b - January 28th and March 10th at Stevenage
- J1 - Part 2 - March 31st at Stevenage
- J2 - Part 1 - March 31st at Stevenage

The Part 1 courses were fully booked with over 30 candidates and Timekeeper courses had 10 candidates. Forthcoming courses were listed in the Officials training Poster sent to clubs and available on the Herts ASA website.

S12/35. Assessments for J1s, J2s and T/Ks had been completed by a number of Referees at recent galas with Major League and Peanuts League offering good opportunities.

S12/36. IM noted that the success of the training programme and the push for licensed Officials across the County had enabled the County Championships to run with excellent levels of Officials – 86 Licensed J1s or higher had volunteered for one or more session.

(Unnumbered on Agenda) New initiatives 2102 and beyond

S12/37. BT proposed an idea for an initiative where the number of successful BAGCATS swimmers per (swim21 accredited) club be used to generate income for coach or other training purposes. This might offer a new route to finding where, as a result of cutbacks, existing funding streams had ended. BT to develop a paper for GC/IM.

7. County Development Plan

S12/38. BT proposed the two new items in the plan focusing on swimmers (*Increase Participation and Athlete Development*). All agreed their importance and supported their inclusion. BT noted that pool time was a substantial barrier to increasing swimmer numbers. IM responded that clubs and pool providers could work together to ease the challenge. BT to provide some base data on number of swimmers per club and a historic view as to increases/decreases.

S12/39. GC noted that the notion of 'pathways' was not clear. IM noted that the forthcoming LTAD document should clarify this.

S12/40. Noting the comments in S12/33 e. it was agreed that some mention of Event Support Staff in the Plan would be useful.

S12/41. BT/GC/IM to develop and finalise the Plan.

8. Records

S12/42. No records were tabled at the meeting.

S12/43. Mike Boyce had noted that it was his perception that clubs do not claim all possible records. There is nothing on the Herts ASA website regarding County records. It was agreed that a review was needed regarding to establish a better process of recording and reporting records.

9. Any Other Business

S12/44. ST reported that Rickmansworth Sailing Club had offered the use of their 45 acre lake as an Open Swimming venue. ST to discuss further and identify options with the Club for structures of operation for the initiative and associated costs.

S12/45. There is to be an Open Water event in July. IM noted that he and SM would not be available regarding trophies etc. ST to organise this aspect of the event.

S12/46. DH noted that new DVDs available from the ASA to enhance the Training Programme required a laptop with larger memory than was present on MJH/DH's personal laptops. A laptop specifically for training was required. IM supported the proposal having viewed the DVDs. BT to formally progress the request for funding to the Management Board and report back at the next Meeting.

13/6/2012