

HERTFORDSHIRE AMATEUR SWIMMING ASSOCIATION

SWIMMING COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held at the Welwyn Civic Centre, 11th June 2013, at 8.00pm.

Present: Caroline Holt, Mark Horrod, Karen Huckle, Derek Hughes, Derek Milton and Bryan Thompson.

S13/14. Apologies for absence from Grant Chivers, Louise Hughes, Marilyn J Hughes, Ian Mackenzie, Sheila Mackenzie and Su Tysoe

1. Minutes of Previous meetings

S13/15. The notes of the previous meeting of 6th March 2013 were confirmed as accurate,

2. Matters Arising

None

3. Masters update

S13/16. DH noted that all plans were in place for the Herts Masters on 22nd June 2013. Gary Robb is able to help out in the control room. All paperwork for the event (programmes etc...) had been prepared. Official numbers were similar to last year. Numbers of volunteers were, as ever, lower than for other County events but were adequate. It is easier to find parental/carer volunteers when children are swimming.

4. Competition update

4.1 Development Meet 2013

S13/17. The coaches, at the Coaches forum, indicated support for the event. The format would be 200m and 50m single stroke events and 100m IMs. Age would be as at end of Counties (2014) so County times could be achievable (for 9, 10 and 11-year olds). The event would not be licensed with 'not faster than' times set at qualifying times for Counties for each age/stroke/distance. Entry fees would be £8 per stroke (200m & 50m events) and £4 for the IM. If over-subscribed then the top-end would be reduced.

S13/18. There was a suggestion that the start should be at the deep end. However, the meeting discussed this possibility and came to the conclusion that there were many operational difficulties which might cause difficulties eg stewarding down the whole (busy) length of the pool, wiring the AOE system safely and simply etc... Reviewing this thought might be advisable. *ACTION: BT to review the start location option*

S13/19. The draft letter for the event was checked at the meeting and was to be sent out shortly. *ACTION: KH to send out amended letter in near future*

4.2 Daplyn Trophy 2013

S13/20. The event would be repeated as organised in 2012.

4.3 BAGCATS/ County Championships 2014

S13/21. BT reported that pools had been booked (Luton for long distance events and Borehamwood for the balance of events) for March 8th – Long Distance and March 15th & 16th and March 22nd & 23rd for the remainder of the events.

S13/22. In 2014 there would be no still camera photographs. However, the video feed would be repeated and possibly enhanced (possibly a 'big screen', underwater shots and mixing).

S13/23. Qualifying times would be tighter with a target of setting it at the 24th placed swimmer from 2012. This should resolve the issue of over subscription.

S13/24. Another relay (4 x 50m Free for U-13s) to be introduced into the programme with a maximum of 2 teams per Club permissible.

S13/25. Regarding catering, The Venue is to extend the catering offered to the public (the 2013 Counties were the most profitable ever for the Venue's cafeteria, not least due to the video feed in the café). Officials/Coaches catering would be waitress service in 2014 as some Officials/Coaches were 'over-serving' leaving no food for eligible latecomers (often the Officials).

4.4 BAGCAT Development Day

S13/26. This event was now organised and would be held on 7th July at St Alban's School.

5. Officials and Education update

S13/27. DH (on behalf of MJH) presented a draft budget for consideration in budget-setting for the future. There was some discussion around whether the finances should come from the Workforce Development budget, not the Swimming budget. *ACTION: BT or DM to review by next meeting and contact MJH as necessary.*

S13/28. There was a general discussion, stimulated by thinking about budgets, concerning the issue of travel expenses which might be claimed for attending meetings of various types. Clarification was necessary regarding what should be eligible. *ACTION: BT to review for next meeting.*

S13/29. DH reported that training courses (3 per J1 and J2 per year) were progressing well as were practical assessments. Timekeeper courses (which proved an excellent means of introducing people into Officiating) were being taken up at a good rate by a number of Clubs (courses upcoming were for Cheshunt, Harpenden and Hemel Hempstead).

6. Open Water

S13/30. Lee Valley facility has now been re-opened after the Olympics. The first training session was held on the w/e of 8th/9th June. *ACTION: ST to continue promoting the opportunity*

S13/31. The Stanborough Festival of Sport took place (in Welwyn Garden City). The option of Herts ASA participating in the open water event proved problematical – there were too many difficulties to overcome (especially around wearing wet suits) to enable participation. Possibly with an earlier start on planning next year participation might be possible. *ACTION: BT/ST to set planning in motion with Hercules, the event organiser, in good time for 2014.*

S13/32. There is regular open-water training available (on Saturdays) at Stanborough. Herts ASA should promote this – BUT, it should be emphasised that it is not Herts ASA training. The point was made that it's 'real' (ie dirty and weedy) open water swimming. *ACTION: ST to promote the opportunity*

7. County Development Plan

S13/33. The Plan was discussed, key points emerging were:

- a. The 'Come & Try' sessions generated little interest. The hope is that Clubs are attracting new members through other routes (eg Club websites).

- b. Athletes' Development and Officials Development were both on track.
- c. The last two Coaches Fora had been particularly good and positive.
- d. Hoddesdon to be invited to a forthcoming Club Forum to explain how they achieved such good links with their facility provider.
- e. BT has established Disability Swimming Times. These need to be formatted appropriately and made available so that disability swimmers are facilitated in entering County events.

8. Records

No records were tabled at the meeting.

9. Any Other Business

S13/34. DM reported that the Workforce Development Committee had asked for ideas for funding opportunities. SM had suggested the idea of four, Level 3 licensed, inter-Club galas, in different parts of the County featuring local Clubs, to be set up to raise funds. The events would be 200m IM and 100m for each stroke and would have not faster than times. ***ACTION: BT to invite comments on the idea before next meeting.***

S13/35. CH suggested that the County could consider providing water bottles to Officials before events and refresh them at start of each session, rather than provide a constant flow of water in cups throughout the event.

V1 DH
11/7/2013