

Amateur Swimming Association

Minutes of the Technical Open Water Committee Saturday 11 October 2003

10.30am Whitehouse Hotel, Kegworth

Present:	Mr M Hemmings	Chairman
	Mr S Greetham	North-Eastern Counties ASA
	Mrs F Dalrymple-Smith	Midland District ASA
	Mr K Barber	Southern Counties ASA
	Mr B Bewley	Western Counties ASA
	Mr D Sparkes	Chief Executive
	Miss J Nickerson	Director of Operations
	Mrs P Larke	Committee Administrator

1. Apologies for Absence

- 1.1 Mr A Capstick, Miss C Hunt Mr G Orphanides Mr P Balmond, Mr D Harman, Mr B Brinkley

2. Minutes of Meeting of 17 May 2003

Minutes were agreed as a true record.

3. Matters Arising

- 3.1 Minute 3.1 Development Plans have been received from all Districts.

3.2 5K event at Sheffield

- 3.2.1 Minute 3.5.1 Discussion has taken place re additional heats for 5k event. At present there is a proposal to schedule continuous time trials between the heats and the finals. Time could be available at the end of the evening sessions. If it is decided that time trials will not take place, this request will be reconsidered. An alternative possibility would be to hold heats at the North East LC Championships in Sheffield but this may be too late for the European Championships. S Greetham to follow up this matter with J Nickerson.

S
GREETHAM

- 3.2.2 Minute 3.3 and 3.5.3 In future, the same rules will apply to swimmers 'dropping out' of the 5k event as all other events.

3.3 Officials' examinations

- 3.3.1 Minute 3.4 and 1.1 M Hemmings to ask A Capstick for a written reply. B Bewley stated that the pass rate of 70% was in line with the pass rate for speed swimming.

M
HEMMINGS

- 3.3.2 Committee requests that the paper be reviewed with regard to the success rate.

OFFICIALS'
PROJECT
GROUP

- 3.3.3 Committee agreed that a set of markers of the theory paper, and a list of examiners for the practicals be drawn up and information on how the pass mark was set, whether it was fixed or variable, be made available to the Committee.

OFFICIALS'
PROJECT
GROUP

- 3.4 Minute 5.2.1 Meeting on Open Water Development Attempts to convene this meeting between coaches and team staff have not been productive. S Greetham will contact Fred Kirby as soon as possible to arrange a suitable time for this meeting.

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GREETHAM

- 3.5 Minute 5.3.1 Talent Identification E-mail to be sent requesting an update.

- 3.6 Minute 5.5.1 Proposed staffing for future training camps and competitions Letter has now been sent.

- 3.7 Minute 5.5.2 Meeting for District Coaches Discussions are taking place with Fred Kirby as to a suitable date for this meeting with Coaches, Managers, Swimmers and their parents.

S
GREETHAM

- 3.8 Minute 5.6.4 Prizes for Grand Prix Money was presented to the majority of the winners at the Northern District event. The remainder was sent on and has been received by all.

<p>3.9 <u>Minute 8 Training Camps</u> Training camps revealed the large difference between the elite swimmers and the next level. It is difficult to take ‘pool’ swimmers out of their own training programmes. Need to link with John Atkinson and Fred Kirby to identify suitable candidates for Open Water training, targeting those no younger than 17/18 that have not qualified for the European championships in 800m/1500m.</p>	S GREETHAM
<p>3.10 <u>Minute 10.11 LEN – Lecture on Safety</u> LEN Committee has taken on board GB safety documentation. It has been suggested that GB should send a speaker to the Europeans in Madrid with an Open Forum on the Friday. Yet to be agreed.</p>	
<p>3.11 <u>Minute 15.4 National Events</u> Yasmeen Underwood unable to attend this meeting. Paperwork outlining procedures involved in sending swimmers abroad is available for discussion after this and before GB meeting.</p>	
<p>3.12 <u>Minute 15.5 Jackets for Open Water Committee members</u> Ongoing. Checking that this sponsor will not conflict with the existing.</p>	
<p>4. Budgets</p>	
<p>4.1 Budgets for 2002/2003</p>	
<p>Development under spent by approximately £3000.</p>	
<p>Grand Prix under spent due to contribution from Scotland.</p>	
<p>Change to the Training at the French Nationals caused an under spend.</p>	
<p>National Age Groups and masters were just under budget.</p>	M HEMMINGS
<p>Sheet outlining position up to the end of the financial year to be distributed.</p>	
<p>4.2 Budgets for 2003/2004</p>	
<p>4.2.1 Net budget figure of £20000 given to Open Water swimming.</p>	
<p>4.2.2 Age Groups and Masters detailed together as difficult to split the figures.</p>	
<p>4.2.3 Safety Training – Alan Capstick to present training free of charge. Training will involve some accommodation costs.</p>	
<p>4.2.4 It was agreed to accept the distribution of the budget.</p>	
<p>5. Report from Sub-Committee / Project Groups</p>	
<p>5.1 Technical Officials – Minutes of a short meeting to set up the new group attached.</p>	
<p>5.1.1 Committee ratified the appointment of Alan Capstick as the group leader.</p>	
<p>5.2 Development</p>	
<p>5.2.1 Development needs to be Coach led. Guidance to be sought from World Class Start / Potential Camps.</p>	S GREETHAM
<p>5.2.2 The good team staff involved this year were an asset to our discipline.</p>	
<p>5.2.3 There is a need for a specific person to drive this forward. It was proposed and agreed to advertise for a part-time Development Officer for a maximum of two days per week through the Learn at Work Scheme. Jane Nickerson to provide the details of the scheme with a target date for appointment of January 2004.</p>	M HEMMINGS/ J NICKERSON
<p>5.3 Events Management - Report submitted</p>	
<p>5.3.1 An outline of the competitions organised this year was given, as were details of entries over a three-year period. Entries for most events were encouraging, however the entries for the Junior event were disappointing. It was agreed to aim to increase entries overall, by 10% each year by working with clubs.</p>	DEVELOP- MENT SUB GROUP
<p>5.3.2 LEN Cup and British 5k championships – Difficulties with hosting an event in London were outlined; transport arrangements in particular. LEN contract to be examined next year to put limitations on which arrival points can be used.</p>	
<p>5.3.3 Weather conditions enforced the 10k race to be stopped. Although unfortunate that this had to happen, the safety procedures were implemented in full and proved that everything in the documentation works at a major event.</p>	
<p>5.3.4 Discussion took place on the question of whether or not the 10k event is a good experience for the swimmers as the water is likely to be either too cold, in this country, or too hot abroad.</p>	
<p>5.3.5 There is a weakness in the current recording system, particularly at the National Age Groups, but the team from Scarborough have offered to provide support in this.</p>	

- 5.3.6 Difficulties with placing and timing the swimmers at the National Age Groups due to the large number of participants have been recognised. More timekeepers are needed or a new way of placing the swimmers. It is proposed to approach Omega to see if this problem can be overcome using technology. J
NICKERSON
- 5.3.7 Some comment had been made in respect of the Team event involving English Counties and Scottish Districts. Analysis showed that Scottish Districts are no larger than some of the English Counties.
- 5.3.8 Scotland chose to enter teams involving Scottish National champions whereas Clubs in England chose to use the event as part of Development, hence the Scottish success in the team competition.
- 5.4 **Talent Identification** – report noted. This will be a key part of the Development Officer's role. It is necessary to make note of every 800/1500m swimmer in the country. Long Term Athlete Development Plan to be adapted for Open Water in consultation with Richard Gordon.
- 5.5 **Competitive Programme** – The valuable comments were noted on the report submitted by Greg Orphanides.
- 5.5 **Staffing** – no report
- 6 **Development Plan**
- 6.1 J Nickerson explained that future GB Development Plans would be integrated with corporate objectives and will not have separate sections for individual disciplines. The first plan will be compiled for March 2004 and will be a one-year operation plan with clear operational targets. Contributions for the First plan will be sought from each committee.
- 7 **Competition Structure**
- 7.1 Draft paper submitted and discussed
- 7.2 It was agreed that there should be five District competitions, preferably ultimately expanding to eight regional competitions that reflect the needs of the athletes through the Long Term Athlete Development Plan.
- 7.3 Standard distances should be tied into LTAD. Advice to be sought on age differentiated optimum race lengths from physiological and psychological experts.
- 7.4 Paper to be referred to new Development person, when appointed.
- 7.5 It was agreed that A Capstick should investigate CPD accreditation for Officials. A
CAPSTICK
- 8 **Development and Training** - covered previously
- 9 **ASFGB Technical Open Water Minutes** were noted. Congratulations were extended for the excellent results achieved by our swimmers in World Championships and LEN Cup. M
HEMMINGS
- 10 **LEN Report**
- 10.1 GB will host LEN Cup event on 19 June 2004 at Holme Pierrepont.
- 10.2 Independent referees will be appointed for all events. The Technical Director and Promoter will help the referee with the presentation. It was noted that the referee should undertake the briefing personally even though English will not be their natural language.
- 10.3 It is expected that the water temperature at the European Championships in Madrid will be a problem.
- 10.4 LEN Federation are pleased with the support given by GB.
- 10.5 Slovenia and other countries are showing interest in LEN events.
- 10.6 LEN may take on a 10k series if FINA does not. This would then involve an extra day of competition.

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| 11 | FINA Report – Transitional stage, looking forward to 10k series being introduced, then included in the Olympics in 2012. It is possible that LEN will take this on as a pilot to get it going (10.6 above). | |
| 12 | Safety Update - no report from A Capstick. Report from P McGregor has been noted. | |
| 13 | ASA Open Water Rule Changes | |
| 13.1 | No comments received on proposed rule changes to incorporate FINA Rules. Rules attached to minutes for recommendation to ASA Committee. Copy to be sent directly to Roger Hargreaves of Rules Committee. Once approved, these rules will be offered for adoption by Scotland. | CTE
ADMIN. |
| 13.2 | Officials’ examination to be offered to Scotland to enable uniform officiating. | |
| 14 | FINA / Pre-FINA Officials - The proposed new system of appointment was outlined to the Committee. | |
| 15 | Equity – Difficulties have been experienced in finding a suitable date for committee members to attend an ASA Equity course. Committee Administrator will liaise with Leona Allen. | CTTE
ADMIN. |
| 16 | Any Other Business | |
| 16.1 | Great Adventure Race – Discussion took place about this event and the difficulties experienced in 2003. England was the only team to send a member of staff to support the swimmers. This was considered to be correct procedure due to the swimmers representing their country. It was noted that one member expressed a desire to have known who was representing England in this race. | |
| | Meeting closed at 12.55pm | |