

**MINUTES SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT THE NEXT ASFGB BOARD MEETING ON
29 JANUARY 2005**

AMATEUR SWIMMING FEDERATION OF GREAT BRITAIN LIMITED

Minutes of a meeting of the Technical Swimming Committee
held at the Quality Hotel, Stoke on 22nd October 2004

Present:	Robert James	British Swimming Board Representative
	Bill Sweetenham AM	National Performance Director
	Paul Bush	Chairman
	John Atkinson	GB National Youth Coach
	Sylvia Armiger	World Class Programmes Manager
	Ashley Howard	CEO Scotland
	Peter Lourie	Scotland Representative
	Nick Juba	England Coach Representative
	Terry Denison MBE	BSCTA Chair
	Ian Turner	NPD/BSCTA Liaison
	Jodi Cossor	Sports Science Representative
	Jamie Salter	Athlete Representative
	Graeme Smith	Athlete Representative
Apologies for absence:	Craig Hunter	GB Senior Team Manager
	Gary Rosser	Wales Coach representative
	Ian Wilson	Athlete's Representative
	David Sparkes	Chief Executive

1 Approval of Minutes

It was noted that the venue of the last meeting should read Bristol Hotel, Sheffield. The remaining minutes of the meeting held on 6th April were approved.

2 Matters Arising

2.1 Minute 2.8: BSCTA Presentation

Due to the cancellation of the last meeting, it was noted that the invitation to Brian McGuinness was not carried forward. It was agreed to invite Mr McGuinness to present at the next meeting.

JCH

3 British Swimming Board

The Committee reviewed relevant matters from the minutes of the meeting held on 18th September 2004.

4 Senior Team

4.1 World Class Performance Plan

Ms Armiger updated the Committee on the proposed criteria for future athlete funding. A recommendation will be made to UK Sport in a meeting on the 4th November 2004 proposing that consideration is given to athletes achieving a world Top 16 (2 per nation) performance at the British LC Trials. Athletes who do not make a world ranked Top 16 time but have qualified for the relay team at the next major meet will be offered funding but at the lowest level. The funding criteria for the world Top 17-25 category is being reviewed by John Atkinson. Recommendation will also be made to UK Sport to increase the overall funding levels.

4.2 Premier Club Funding

Mrs Armiger presented proposals for future Premier Club funding and

explained the changes are intended to re-focus athletes and coaches on producing the right results at the right time i.e. British LC Trials and Major LC Championships. There will be two strands of funding (1) core programme funding which will be offered to club programmes who have swimmers world ranked Top 16 at the British LC Trials, and (2) funding for medals gained at the major LC Championships. Conditions will apply, including the requirement for the club programme to train and compete at least 50% of the time in LC facilities. An amount will also be ring fenced to pay for Sports Science visits to Loughborough, Stirling and Swansea.

4.3 National Plans

Mr Sweetenham briefed the Committee on the revised National Plan including 17/18 week cycle, 1% of podium performances at Trials, draft selection policies and competition/training camp plans.

Other key points:

- Swimmers to be frequently exposed to venue/location of the next Olympics where they should swim the Olympic programme.
- Independent arrangements for future Olympic preparation camps (not part of BOA camp).
- Dedicated pool in Macau acquired.
- No compromise on 1% of podium results at Trials, funding proposals and priority support for World Ranked Top 8.

These plans along with the selection/funding policies were delivered the previous evening to seek feedback from selected coaches and athlete representatives (Graeme Smith and Jamie Salter).

Mr Denison suggested that opportunities should be sought to gather further feedback from coaches at the BSCTA conference. Mr Turner agreed to talk to coaches individually and to arrange a coaches meeting during the conference to further consider the WCP plans and proposals

IT/TD

4.4 Sports Science

Ms Cossor provided an update on the Sport Science Programme. Priority will be given to world ranked top 8 athletes and athletes identified for the Smart Track Programme. Access to sports science services via Centre visits to Loughborough, Stirling and Swansea will be arranged. Dates of visits to be confirmed.

JC

4.5 Event Camps

Mr Atkinson briefed the committee on the proposals for future Event Camps. The Senior Event Camps will be re-introduced and held over a 1-3 week period prior to the Stage 2 meet. The Junior Event Camps will continue in the same timeframe as this year i.e. September.

4.6 European Short Course 2004

It was noted that Darren Mew has withdrawn due to injury and that Chris Cook will be considered as a replacement subject to time trials.

Ms Armiger raised concern regarding the recent withdrawal of Robin Francis following his statement of availability. As this action denies another swimmer a place on the team, it was agreed that for all future events a penalty should be imposed on swimmers who withdraw following selection. Mr Atkinson and Ms Armiger to liaise with Andy Gray regarding future penalty options. In the meantime, Robin Francis he will be required to justify the reason for his

SA/JA

continued funding.

4.7 World Cup Selections

Ms Armiger confirmed that all World Cup selections will continue to be at the discretion of the NPD in consultation with John Atkinson and Ian Turner. John Atkinson will act as the point of contact and deal with requests from individual athletes and home countries wishing to compete. In 2005 a small team consisting of identified Smart Track athletes will be selected for the European Cups.

4.8 World Long Course Championships 2005

Mr Turner reported on his recent trip to Montreal. The facility is relatively large and located on the Expo Island (not at the existing Olympic pool). It was noted that the location of the preparation camp has been changed to Loughborough.

4.9 Olympic Games De-Brief Notes

Ms Armiger agreed to circulate to the committee members the notes from the Olympic De-brief. These are to remain confidential.

SA

Mr Turner to provide Mr Denison with a summary de-brief that can be circulated to the members of the BSCTA executive.

IT

4.10 Commonwealth Games 2006

The proposals for the England Team Commonwealth Games preparation were presented.

The Commonwealth Trials will be held in August 2005 and be combined with the Youth Championships. It was noted that consideration may have to be given to incorporating Disability events at the Trials as Disability teams will be participating at the Games.

Due to the timing of the Games the 3 stage meets will be held 3 weeks apart at the end of 2005 (venues and dates to be confirmed).

The England preparation camps are optional and will take place over an extended period in Australia and possibly New Zealand. Scottish and Welsh swimmers may participate in these camps.

Mr James confirmed the Welsh selection criteria are based on Commonwealth final performances.

Ms Howard stated that the Scottish selection policy has been finalised and endorsed by the Scottish Commonwealth Council.

4.11 World University Games

It was noted that the dates have been brought forward to the 12th-18th August 2005 and therefore selected athletes will be required to depart immediately after the conclusion of the Commonwealth Trials on the 9th August 2005.

A large team will be selected to expose as many athletes as possible to a similar environment to that experienced at the Olympic Village.

Chris Martin and Ben Titley have been selected to lead the programme.

4.12 World Long Course Championships Melbourne 2007

Dates are not confirmed but anticipated to be in the January/February period. It was noted that we should use this opportunity to organise alternative summer events and races with other nations.

4.13 Doping Issues

Mr Atkinson confirmed that asthma testing will be conducted on athletes following the European Short Course.

Home Countries to provide Wendy Coles with their Commonwealth Games long list to ensure all athletes are covered.

RB/AH

5 Junior Programme

5.1 European Junior Championships 2005

Mr Atkinson reported on his recce visit to Budapest. During his visit he met with the National Youth Coach. Work has not yet started on the new 10x50 pool complex based on Margaret Island. Six hotels are available within 10-12 minutes walk from the pool - these are either very good to poor but nothing mid-range.

5.2 Youth and Age Programme Selections

Mr Atkinson provided an update on the final selection process for the Youth and Age programmes and confirmation of the dates for the Assessment and Orientations Days. It was noted that Mr Don Talbot would be involved in the Age and Youth Assessments held on the 30/31 October and 6/7 November respectively.

5.3 Junior Team Manager Appointments

The committee endorsed Mr Atkinson's proposal to appoint Helen Slatter as Junior Team Manager.

The EYOF Team Manager position is still to be confirmed. Mr Atkinson to put forward his proposal

JA

5.4 Selection Policies

The draft proposals for the 2005 European Junior Championships and European Youth Olympic Festival were considered. Mr Atkinson highlighted an anomaly in the points system for the 50 Fly and 200 Fly events and his proposal to adjust the points were endorsed by the Committee.

Mr Atkinson and Sylvia Armiger to re-draft and circulate the selection policy documents.

JA/SA

5.5 Commonwealth Youth Games

It was noted that Scotland has nominated a team to attend the Commonwealth Youth Games in Australia.

5.6 European Junior Championships 2004 Report

Mr Atkinson predicted more countries winning medals in future and highlighted the need for British Swimming to keep ahead of the game if we are to continue our success at this meet. The 4x200 teams are an indicator of a country's strength and an important part of this equation.

6 Events and Calendar Planning

- 6.1 Ms Armiger circulated the Performance Planning Calendar 2004-2008 plus an integrated annual plan 2004-05 covering Performance, Youth, Age and Smart Track activities. Ms Armiger explained that the dates of LC Trials, Stage Meets, Senior Event camps, Mens and Womens camps etc reflect the National Plan/17-18 week cycle leading into each Major Championship through to 2008. However, it was noted that the dates of the Major Championships from 2006 onwards are not confirmed and therefore other related dates at this point were guesstimates.

SA to distribute an updated calendar showing the revised dates of the World University Games.

SA

7 Other Relevant Business

7.1 World Class Structure

Mr Sweetenham presented the new organisation structure. John Atkinson will take responsibility for Management and Administration across all programmes to enable Bill Sweetenham to spend more time on deck working with the Performance and Smart Track Athletes. Tim Jones will be given responsibility for the Youth Programme in addition to the Age programme. Ian Turner and Ben Titley will be in charge of developing the men's individual 200m and 4x200 and women's Individual 200m and 4x200 respectively.

7.2 Coach Development

Mr Denison expressed concern regarding the recent appointment and remit of the Coach Education Manager and where this position sits within the ASA (as this a GB appointment). Concerns were also noted regarding the areas in which the £240k UK Sport grant is being directed.

The lack of relevant coaching expertise within the Source Group was also noted. Ms Howard explained that the focus of this group (home country CEOs plus Richard Gordon) in to determine strategy and that technical input will be via the liaison of the Coach Education Manager, Spencer Moore, with Bill Sweetenham and John Atkinson.

Mr Atkinson expressed concern about the NCC's current structure and ability to deliver.

Mr Sweetenham explained that coaches can't develop at the elite level without the facilities to practice and therefore the number 1 priority is 8 Coach Education Centres along with 8 fully funded coaches. This could be implemented immediately if the funding is made available. In the meantime an accreditation system will be provided via World Class programmes.

It was agreed to invite Spencer Moore to the next meeting to address the Committee.

JCH

7.3 LEN Calendar Meeting

It was agreed that we should continue to lobby for coach representation on the LEN Swimming Committee. It was noted that LEN resisted it this year. Mr Denison indicated that the World Coaches association continue to press for this but that the Federations also need to be involved.

Mr James agreed to raise this at Board Level.

RJ

- 7.4 Coach Development Training Duncan Richards**
It was noted that Duncan Richards and other psychologists (including Ian Maynard who has worked with the Sailing team) will be invited to present to coaches at the World Class Programmes National Team Accreditation Workshop.
- 7.5 Email Circulations**
It was agreed that all future email circulations to the GBTSC will be marked:- For Discussion, Agreed Policy or Confidential. Ms Armiger to notify the British Swimming office. SA
- 7.6 Selectors for Future GB teams**
To be reviewed at the next meeting
- 7.7 Chair Of Selectors**
To be reviewed at the next meeting
- 7.8 GBTSC Members**
To be reviewed at the next meeting
- 7.9 Selection & Nomination of Technical Officials & Appeals Procedure**
Approved
- 7.10 Technical Officials & Technical Committee Members Code Of Conduct**
Approved
- 7.11 GBTSC Annual report and GB AGM**
Mr Bush to follow up with Craig Hunter. PB
- 8 Date of next meeting**
The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Thursday January 6th 2005, 12 noon at the Belfry.