

Minutes subject to approval at ASA Committee meeting 19 November 2005 and British Swimming Board meeting 12 November 2005

**AMATEUR SWIMMING ASSOCIATION/
AMATEUR SWIMMING FEDERATION OF GREAT BRITAIN**

Minutes of a meeting of the ASA/ASFGB Medical Advisory Committee held at 10.30 am on Sunday 2 October 2005 at the Ramada Hotel, Loughborough

Present: Dr David Hunt (in the Chair)
Dr David Booth
Mr Kevin Boyd
Mr Mark Gillett
Dr Ian Gordon
Dr Phil Penny

Apologies: Dr Nigel Fisher
Dr Mari Jary
Dr Philip Shute

In attendance Mrs Anne Clark (ASA President)
Mr Andy Wilson (ASA Office)

Minute

Action

1 Welcome

DH welcomed Mrs Anne Clark, President of the ASA, to the meeting.

2 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 May 2005 were confirmed (see minute book.)

3 Report from Dr Ian Gordon

Dr Gordon reported on his activities subsequent to his recent appointment as Lead Doctor – British Swimming Team. He advised the Committee of his new ‘office’ email address – medicalservices@swimming.org. Experience to date suggested an ongoing and growing flow of correspondence relating to swimmers’ medical conditions and related matters. The use of a dedicated mobile phone was being found advantageous.

A number of instances of interest to members of the Committee were described.

4 Doping Controls

DH reported on recent changes in procedure from the notification of the athlete for testing to the arrival at the Doping Control Station. The changes appeared to be of benefit to the athletes concerned. All athletes and their representatives will now have their entry to and exit from the Doping Control Centre recorded. Improvements have also been made to the doping control equipment that should lead to greater security of the samples. In the case of disabled swimmers where there is difficulty in collecting a sample a new collecting receptacle has been delivered which should help to obviate existing

collecting problems.

DH suggested that athletes should carry a card listing any medication they were taking. In addition he suggested that such a card should also be adapted to carry a photograph to obviate the need for young swimmers to carry their passport.

The Committee agreed to recommend to the ASA Committee and British Board that the swimmer's ASA membership card and WASA and SASA cards should be amended so that a photograph of the swimmer could be attached to facilitate recognition at doping control as is the case in some other sports.

It was also agreed that comments on the suggestion of making provision for the attachment of a passport photograph to the membership card should be sought from the Swimming, Masters, and Disability Committees, and the Legal Department.

DH also mentioned a Sports Council Tutors Course, which had been attended by three people. Five more people would be nominated to attend future courses

Recommendation
to ASA Cttee/
GB Board

DH

5 Medico-Legal Sub Group

Nothing to report.

6 Certificates of Disability

A new Certificate of Swimming Disability was circulated (see minute book). Though an improvement on previous certificates additional changes had been suggested. However, pending the inclusion of additional points it was suggested that the certificate should be made mandatory throughout Great Britain.

DH raised the question of swimmers in possession of the Certificate of Disability setting records on this basis. This was particularly pertinent to Masters events where record applications were submitted with no reference to a Certificate of Disability. DH suggested that this point should be referred to the GB Swimming and Masters Committees and to the Legal Department for comment.

Recommendation
to GB Board

AW

7 ASA Committee matters – epilepsy

It was not clear that Guidelines for swimmers with epileptic conditions had been posted on the British Swimming website. AW to investigate.

A copy of the SASA policy on epilepsy was provided and circulated (see appendix to these minutes) and it was recommended that the measures in the paper should become British Swimming policy.

AW

Recommendation
to GB Board

8 LEN Medical Committee

With regard to the minimum temperature for open water events, the Committee agreed not to recommend any amendment to the current 16° Celcius minimum temperature recommended by the LEN and FINA Medical Committees.

DH remarked to the Committee that in some Continental countries it was normal to screen swimmers before permitting their participation in open water

events. This was, he thought, potentially of great importance in senior and Masters events.

Agreed to continue this minute at the Committee's next meeting.

9 FINA matters

DH circulated FINA papers setting out new medical requirements for FINA-run events (see minute book).

The Committee noted that it would be necessary to have procedures in place for the FINA World Short Course Championships being held at Manchester in 2008.

Agreed this should be a major agenda item at the next meeting.

KB

(It was expected that there would also be a medical conference associated with this event. It is hoped that members of the Medical Advisory Committee and physiologists and biomechanics workers would be able to present papers on this occasion.)

10 Open Water matters

Dr Shute had carried out some research this year, and a paper from him had been circulated (see minute book). A sports scientist had stated an interest in research in this field, and it was agreed to contact Dr Shute with his name.

Mr Boyd undertook to find out whether some first year students would be prepared to take part in research in this area.

KB

Agreed that age limits set out in the ASA Handbook should remain unaltered.

The Committee noted that it was not always easy or tidy to restrict swimmers to water of FINA temperatures. The examples of informal bathing in Hampstead Ponds and the possibility of a 'cold water' event at Tooting Bec were mentioned and briefly discussed. PP agreed to respond giving advice on cold water problems.

PP

Members suggested that the time was ripe for research to be undertaken into the physiological effects of swimming in open water, whether competing or not.

DH circulated a checklist of safety and health points with application to open water events, for comment. A number of points were made: it was noted that it was not always possible to have a qualified doctor on site in all open water events; it was suggested that local hospitals should be advised of the event in case of multiple referrals. Water quality would be a matter for the local health authority.

DH would submit comments to Ash Cox in the Legal Department.

DH

11 Diet for adolescents

It was not clear that this paper had reached all members, and it was agreed to defer discussion until the next meeting.

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| 12 | Team doctor appointments | Noted that Ian Gordon was the first of two appointments. Agreed to invite the second appointee to join the Committee. | AW |
| 13 | Paramedical attendance | DH reported that he had discussed the desirability of paramedical attendance at meetings of this Committee and had encountered a favourable response. A representative of paramedical staff would be invited to the next meeting. | AW |
| | | Relations with the BSCTA were discussed. There had been a clash of dates, which prevented this Committee's attendance at the BSCTA conference, which was being held on the same weekend. However, contact had been made and it was felt to be vital that contact was maintained. | |
| | | A request had been made for a list of doctors and their interests to be sent to the BSCTA so that local groups could make contact and arrange talks etc. | DH |
| 14 | Medical Bag contents | The list of contents of Medical Bags was circulated and amended (see minute book). | DH |
| | | It was agreed that Team Doctors should be responsible for the medical bags, notifying when drug replacement was required and listing medications used. | ALL |
| 15 | Website papers | Members were reminded of the need to create a source of references on medical matters as part of the British Swimming website. | |
| | | A number of contributions had been submitted to IG and more were sought along the lines agreed at the last meeting. | ALL |
| 16 | Childhood asthma | PP reported on an enquiry he had received from Imperial College inviting participation in an enquiry into childhood asthma. He had drafted a letter for DH to consider and send. | PP/DH |
| 17 | Chairmanship | Dr Hunt reminded the Committee that this was his final meeting as Chairman and that he would be stepping down from the position. Members thanked him for his contribution to the work of the Committee and the improvement in medical procedures generally. | |
| | | It was agreed to recommend that Mr Kevin Boyd should succeed Dr Hunt as chairman of the Committee. [An advertisement was about to appear for chairmen of technical committees, including this one.] | |
| 18 | Date of next meeting | Agreed the next meeting should be at Loughborough on Sunday 12 March 2006. | AW |