

# ASA East Region



## Technical Swimming Committee

### Minutes of a meeting held on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2007 at Chippenham Village Hall starting at 10 a.m.

**Present:** Don Neate (Chair), Bob Outtram, Roger Howkins, David Robinson, Alex Morgan, Vix Metcalf, Ian Cotton and John Rushmer.

**Apologies:** Tina Lander and Mike Rayner.

07/11 The minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

07/12 Matters Arising.

RH asked how the finance for the Inter Counties event was arrived at and DN explained that the Management Board felt that the Region should take ownership of its events and any income generated should come to the Region and the Region would finance the pool hire and any other expenses.

07/13 Development Camps

07/13/1 DN advised the meeting that the two regional camps were being organised by the Regional Development Coach to requirements set by the National Development Team and the Region were required to finance the facilities hire and swimmers accommodation, where necessary, and the remainder of the costs were down to the English Development Team. The camps are being organised by Mick Hepwood and will be on September 15/16<sup>th</sup> and 22/23<sup>rd</sup>. There will be an additional National Camp organised and paid for by the English Development Team. All these events will be at UEA Sports Park, Norwich including the National event.

07/13/2 Additional Regional camps were discussed and it was agreed to ask the Regional Coaches Forum under Mick Hepwood to arrange these with funding from the Regional Development Fund. This could only be done after the selections are made for the Regional and National Camps and the Easter Holidays were proposed as a suitable date as half term holidays vary across the Region.

07/14 Championships 2007

07/14/1 Accommodation, DN said that as the UEA accommodation was not available he had booked the Holiday Inn, Norwich Road for the November meet at about £2 per room more than the UEA. While this involves more travel the rooms will be better and a lot less noisy than the UEA accommodation, which tends to be very noisy.

07/14/2 Officials DR is organizing the Officials but will not start until nearer the date.

07/14/3 Staffing JR said that this was becoming more of a problem although the Bagcats had been OK as there were many more, younger parents involved but with the Long Course events with older swimmers this may be a problem. This was discussed and it was agreed that clubs other than UEA City of Norwich should be asked to

get involved, specially those with larger numbers of swimmers and also those with less distance to travel to the meet. It was agreed that key roles and shortages be identified and JR then approach suitable clubs through Club Secretaries for specific jobs.

It was also suggested that for the Bagcats in 2008 that one specific person in UEA CoN be identified to organise the helpers.

07/14/4 Coaches passes were discussed including the suggestion that Annual Passes with a photo identity be issued but it was agreed that this was not practical as many clubs have a pass which is used by different Coaches on different days. It was agreed that Annual passes be offered as an alternative to those per event from 2008 and that the cost should be reduced to £5 per weekend with £20 for an annual pass. The coaches should be advised that they are entitled to use the tea and coffee facility in the Town Close room. It was also agreed to reintroduce the offer of lunch for Coaches at £8 per day.

It was agreed to introduce the £5 per weekend charge from September with the offer of Lunch.

VM said that the string issued with the passes was one of the reason why Coaches did not display them prominently and it was agreed to ask Tina Lander to look at purchasing reusable Lanyards or similar for the passes.

07/14/5 Entry and Programme Charges, it was agreed that the entry for November should be kept at £2 per day or part day with £5 per programme on Saturday with flexibility to reduce this on Sunday depending on numbers sold.

07/14/6 Qualifying Times. The QT's for November were discussed and agreed and BO said he would try and publish these on the website in the next week. BO agreed to use only one time at the Junior level.

It was also agreed to restrict the 1500M event to six heats and it was agreed that this should be advertised with the QT's.

07/14/7 Review. VM had e-mailed 32 Coaches with a questionnaire on the Championships to date but had only received four replies, which were supportive of the way the events were run and with suggestions on the QT's and ways to limit the length of the event. It was also felt that Coaches should be made aware that they were responsible for the behavior of their swimmers on poolside and especially during the warm up.

#### 07/15 Championships 2008

07/15/1 Dates. DN asked if the Youth Championships should be reduced to a two-day event and after a lengthy discussion it was agreed that it was in the interests of the swimmers to keep it at three days.

DN had circulated the Dates for Regional Championships from the National Calendar and it was agreed that May 3/4/5<sup>th</sup> for the Youths and June 7/8<sup>th</sup> and 14/15<sup>th</sup> were acceptable but some doubt was expressed about the Senior Championship dates as it was not clear if this still clashed with the DSE National event. It was agreed that BO should check this before we make a decision and if the date does clash that we look at November 22/23<sup>rd</sup>.

DN agreed to book the pool for the Youths and Bagcats and hold for the November booking until the DSE dates are confirmed.

07/15/2 Qualifying Times. BO explained that he had used 60% of the All Time Best data from 2005 for the Youths and Bagcats but that we need to increase our QT's annually to follow the National Trend from the All Time Best Data. BO had produced some initial times based on 65% and 70% and after discussion it was agreed to use 65% for the Bagcats for all events except the 800M and 1500M events, which would be based on 70%. It was agreed that the Youth Times should still be retained at 60% at present.

BO agreed that he would wait for the 2007 statistics if possible but would publish the two sets of QT's on the website in October.

BO said that currently we accept entry times made at level 1, 2 and 3 licensed meets with the exception of the 800M and 1500M events. However now that times from level 4 licensed meets are being included on the National Rankings should we also include these? RH suggested that we change the wording to "made at a Licensed meet" and this was agreed.

07/15/3 The length of events was discussed and it was agreed that they must be limited in the interests of the volunteers on poolside. It was agreed that the number of heats for the distance events be restricted to 6 heats for the 1500m and 10 heats for the 800m and BO explained how this could be done equitably for all age groups. A reserve list will also be published making it clear that swimmers on the reserve list could take the place of any withdrawals if they wished to attend the Championships for this chance to swim. It was also agreed that times from Time Trials etc. would only be accepted for the 800m and 1500m events.

07/15/4 The event programme was also discussed and it was agreed to make the warm up before distance events longer in the interests of swimmers. This will also afford Officials a longer break.

07/15/5 The position of swimmers with birthdays between the Regional and National events was discussed and it was agreed that 11 year Boys who will be 12 before the Nationals and 10 year Girls who will be 11 before the Nationals should be allowed to swim as they would not be able to gain a National Time before the event.

07/15/6 Entry Costs. These were discussed and it was agreed that the individual entry be kept at £6 for 2008 but that the entry for 800M and 1500M events be increased to £10.

07/15/7 Bagcat Scoring. BO pointed out that at Nationals only the heat time is accepted for Bagcat points while in the Regional we use the best time of the heat or final. It was agreed that we should continue using the best time from heat or final.

07/15/8 Heats and Finals. It was agreed that we should continue to have heats and finals for all events up to 200m and that finals should also be introduced at these distances for 10 year swimmers.

07/15/9 Registration for Finals. The system of withdrawals from finals was discussed where the finalists are announced and swimmers have 30 minutes to withdraw without penalty. It was suggested that so that we do not have problems finding reserves we announce the finalists and they have 30 minutes to confirm that they are swimming, if they do not do so the reserve will be put in their place. Also Reserve swimmers should be reminded that they are required to report to the Clerk of the Course at the time of the finals in case someone drops out. It was also agreed that there would only be two reserve finalists announced and that should three or more people drop out we should swim with empty lanes.

07/15/10 National Programme. It has been suggested that Regions adopt the National Programme, this was discussed and it was agreed that we should not do this but keep our finals in the same session as the heat as this was better for swimmers and also audience attendance.

#### 07/16 Inter County Conditions

07/16/1 Age Groups. Some Counties had misread or misinterpreted the age group condition and this was discussed and it was agreed that although the TSC considered the conditions clear we should add the words to condition 7 "swimming out of age group is not allowed".

07/16/2 Referee. The conditions do not state any requirements for the appointment of Referees although it had been in the minutes that an independent Referee was suggested where practical. It was agreed to override this minute and leave the selection of Referees to the discretion of the host County.

#### 07/17 Licensing Update

RH said that the income from Level 3 and Level 4 meets were not very high and wondered whether we should collect this money or leave it with the clubs. This was discussed and it was agreed that as this charge is set Nationally we have no choice but to continue collecting it.

DR asked if RH kept an eye on qualifying times as it seems some clubs are setting upper qualifying times faster than National Qualifying times for Level 2 meets and this should not be allowed. RH replied that he does monitor qualifying times but does not check every time due to the amount of work involved.

IC said that many level 2 meets have 50M events for Bagcats Swimmers, which does not comply with the requirements of LTAD. It was agreed that this does happen for financial reasons but there is nothing in the Licensing Conditions that can be used to stop this practice.

RH said that there is a big increase in the number of level 3 and 4 meets including club championships and this is being done to get swimmers times on the National Rankings.

#### 07/18 Records Update

DR said that the number of record claims is decreasing as is to be expected once the level of Records stabilizes at the level of swimming in the Region. He said that he had five claims from the Youths Championships and one from the Regional Inter Counties.

DR said that all the Championship best times are up to date and agreed with BO how he needed them presented for inclusion in the Bagcat Championship programme.

#### 07/19 Date of Next Meeting.

It was agreed not to set a date but to call a meeting when required.