

SCOTTISH AMATEUR SWIMMING ASSOCIATION

OPEN WATER SWIMMING COMMITTEE MEETING Ye AABA CLUB HOUSE, BEACH CRESCENT BROUGHTY FERRY DUNDEE

SUNDAY 21st NOVEMBER 1999 AT 2.00 PM

SEDERUNT :	Ian McIntosh (IM)	National Convenor
	Douglas Brown (DB)	Director of Disciplines
	Brian Bain (BB)	North Convenor
	Joyce McIntosh (JM)	Midland Convenor
	Douglas Milne (DM)	Co-opted Member
	Phyllis Sullivan (PS)	Co-opted Member

1. **APOLOGIES** No apologies were received

2. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING/DISCUSSIONS**

It was noted that DM had not received minutes or notification of this meeting. This was not the only occasion on which committee members had failed to receive information this year. It was felt a check should be made on the distribution list held by the S.A.S.A. office to ensure it was complete.

Minutes of Meeting of 23rd May 1999.

The lack of clarity of this set of minutes was commented on. JM felt the S.A.S.A. office staff should have clarified any problems before sending them out. Some time was spent going over various items in the minutes to provide additional information.

Item 5.1 : The reference to "insurance query" related to whether the use of canoes rather than boats in open water events was satisfactory in terms of insurance cover. It was confirmed that it was and that it was likely that a greater number of canoes would be used in future Lubnaig swims.

Item 5.3 : Reference to Loch Morlich should be under a separate item. Reference to transport costs related to the transport of the Scottish Dory between Broughty Ferry and the venue if this was required.

Item 5.4 : First sentence should read "Reduce the cost of Rannoch by £5". This refers to a decision to reduce the entry fee for the Loch Rannoch swim from £35 to £30.

Item 6.0 : Reference to a "permit to compete" related to the need for swimmers competing outside Scotland (but in practice outside Britain).

Item 6.2 : Comments from DB related to the Sports Council's view that in order to attract funding the "minor disciplines" within the S.A.S.A had to demonstrate a good level of performance at British/A.S.A. level. Currently the funding from the Sports council is restricted to pool swimming.

Item 7.2 : Reference to Lanzarote related to a decision to proceed with plans for the training camp in Lanzarote which was expected to require a budget of £1500. The number of swimmers to be selected was not confirmed at that time.

Item 8 : The second paragraph related to discussions Martyn Woodroffe was having with district councils to promote the "minor disciplines". This particularly relates to Water Polo in the short term.

Notes from Discussions dated 11th July (actual date 17th July)

It was noted that no formally convened meeting had taken place on the day and that these notes were recollections of discussions held during the day of the Loch Lubnaig swims.

Notes From Discussions held at YeAABA Club House

It was confirmed that the final set of notes related to discussions held on the 31st July.

Item 1.0 : BB stated that he hadn't been asked to take minutes of the discussions.

Items 2.1 – 2.5 BB disagreed that this was a true record of what had been discussed on the day and that several of the statements made did not represent his comments at the time. In view of the fact that the matters to which the notes related had now been concluded and that there more matters on the agenda to be dealt with, further discussion on this set notes were curtailed.

3. MATTERS ARISING

Item 6.0 – It was noted that the regulation regarding the necessity to have a permit to swim outside Scotland did not seem to be widely known.

Item 6.2 – It was noted that competitors from Scotland had in recent years achieved medal positions at the A.S.A. championships. This might be of assistance in gaining grants for open water swimming in the future.

Item 7.2 – JM confirmed that she had sent a letter to the S.A.S.A. office for distribution to all junior open water swimmers regarding the training camp in Lanzarote. BB commented that he was unaware of any junior swimmers receiving such a letter. This included the two swimmers who were eventually selected.

Item 8 : It was noted that Dundee District Council were looking to reappoint their swimming development officer.

4. BUDGET UPDATE

4.1 Review of Available Funding

Open Water Swimming had used £1958 from the 1999/2000 budget at the end of October.

DB provided a preliminary estimate of the available funding for 2000/2001 which indicated an increase on the previous year. The sum is intended to included income

from entry fees although there was no stipulation of how much income was assumed.

4.2 Provisional Allocation of Funds

Provisional sums of money were allocated to internationals/domestic programme, training and committee expenses. More detailed allocations will be discussed when the figures are confirmed.

5. DOMESTIC PROGRAMME 2000

IM proposed the following dates and times for the various Scottish Open water championships in 2000

Loch Lubnaig 15th July at 11 A.M.

Loch Rannoch 5th August at 10 A.M.

Monifieth/Castle Pier 12th August at 14:00 and 15:20 respectively

BB noted that the date of Loch Rannoch clashed with the Lough Earn swim (Northern Ireland) in which both Colleen Blair and Rachel Skelton (two regular competitors at Rannoch) had indicated an intention to swim. The date also coincided with the World Masters Open Water Championship in Germany which BB, and possibly some other masters swimmers, intended to take part in. Consequently, holding the event on that date might have a adverse affect on the entries.

The A.S.A. age group championships were scheduled for Sunday 13th August and could be considered to clash with the Monifieth/Castle Pier event.

DB pointed out that it was formal for a Scottish National event to defer to an event at a higher level.

It was decided to reconsider dates for the Loch Rannoch and Monifieth/Castle Pier swims.

Agreed revised dates should be submitted to the S.A.S.A. office by 15th December for ratification. Details of tides on the Tay Estuary will need to be checked before a final decision can be made.

IM

For information other key dates in the A.S.A. calendar are

10th June : LEN Long Distance Cup and A.S.A. 5 km Championship. The event also includes a Junior European Competition 1 km and 3 km event for girls aged 15/16 and boys 17/18.

9th July : A.S.A. Masters 5 km Championship

13th August : A.S.A. 15 km Championship

9th September : World Cup 10 km - London

There was some discussion on entry fees for the Scottish Championship events. This concluded with entry fees remaining the same as for 1999 with the exception of Loch Ranoch which is to be reduced from £30 to £25.

6. International

6.1 International Team for 2000

Decisions on a Scottish National team to be left to the new committee.

6.2 National Training Squad

There was much discussion on the possibility of forming a National Open Water Training squad. The following conclusions were reached

- The committee should seek to form a combined senior/junior squad of approximately 12.
- Selection would primarily be based on performances over the 1999 season.
- It would be necessary to formalise the selection standards as far as was practical given the effect of varying conditions.
- There was potential for “elite” performers to receive additional support and training, possibly with Chris Martin.
- In order to progress towards a National Squad, it was proposed to have a training day early in the new year for the more prominent senior and junior open water swimmers. This course would not be classed as a national squad and this would be made clear to participants.
- BB would contact Robin Brew, who had indicated an interest in coaching at such an event, to check his availability. **BB**
- The event could be subsidised by up to £200 of open water funds
- JM and BB would confer on lists of swimmers with a view to finalising a list. **JM & BB**
- The majority of the members of the committee would be in attendance to provide support.

7. OCTOBER TRAINING CAMP IN LANZAROTE

BB reported on the training camp held at Club La Santa in October.

The party consisted of Scott McKenzie (Dundee Arnhall), Naomi Murdoch (City of Dundee), Brian Bain (City of Aberdeen Swim Team) and Barbera Brown (YeAABA). Travel to and from Lanzarote was via a return flight from Newcastle. Transport to and from Scotland was by rail.

The Club La Santa complex proved to be an excellent venue for a training camp. The main pool provides eight 50m lanes and there are a wide variety of other sports facilities available at no extra cost.

Accommodation was provided in adjacent apartments which were basically furnished but comfortable.

All four participants were enrolled in a Masters training camp run by former Scottish internationalists Robin and Paul Brew and assisted by three other staff. This provided two sessions per day, each of two hours duration. There were approximately 35 swimmers on the course which used six of the eight lanes. The pool sessions were complemented by lectures on technique and some land training. As a result of our presence on the course an additional open water session was arranged which was attended by about two thirds of the swimmers on the course. Robin has extensive experience of open water swimming within triathlon and was able to provide some useful tips regarding turning round buoys.

Scott and Naomi trained in the second fastest lane and applied themselves very well. Although being at least ten years younger than any of the other swimmers on the course they mixed well both socially and in the training sessions. Their behaviour throughout the week was very good. They both got a lot out of the course and will hopefully have been encouraged to continue their progress within the discipline.

Although, there is no doubt that the training camp was successful, BB expressed his disappointment that more swimmers were not included. Given that the cost of chaperones and accommodation were already covered, each additional swimmer would have only added travel and training course costs. The additional funding could have been met by relatively modest increased contributions from the participants.

The cost to the S.A.S.A. of more than £2,200 equated to more than the 1999 open water budget. A similar training camp in the future is a possibility. However, BB felt that the detrimental effect on other possible areas of expenditure would also have to be considered.

8. OPEN WATER DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Some items on the proposed table of contents distributed at the previous meeting were discussed briefly. BB emphasised that the inclusion of an item should not be taken as indicating that he would be proposing radical changes in that area. It was agreed that the development plan should be the subject of a meeting called specifically for that purpose. This was arranged for 16th January. It was agreed that if convenors were elected to represent the East and West districts that they should be invited to attend and contribute to the discussions.

9. REVIEW OF OPEN WATER REGULATIONS

It was agreed that the existing regulation be reviewed by IM and BB and that they would meet to discuss this outside of a committee meeting.

10. A.O.B.

10.1 District Convenors for 2000.

JM informed the committee that there was a possibility that Margaret Hodgart of Maybole would be prepared to stand as a convenor for the West district. It was also identified that Andrea Gellan (Carnegie A.S.C.) might be prepared to stand as East District Convenor. BB agreed to contact her to suggest she considered standing.

BB

10.2 A.S.F.G.B. Meetings

Alan Spalding attended the A.S.F.G.B. meeting in September as substitute for IM. It was noted that the A.S.A. 25km championship was to be replaced with a 15km event. It was not clear how the A.S.F.G.B. would select swimmers for 25km swims at international events.

IM

IM would attend the next meeting of the A.S.F.G.B.

10.3 A.S.A. Newsletter

BB showed the committee the first edition of the A.S.A. open water swimming newsletter which had been sent to him as a result of his participation in A.S.A. events. It was agreed that it would be useful if Scottish Open Water swimmers could be included in the distribution list and that the newsletter might provide a useful means of publicising Scottish events to swimmers in the rest of Britain. BB agreed to contact Wendy Coles of the A.S.A. to discuss the matter.

BB

10.4 Support for Swimmers at B.L.D.S.A. Conniston Water Championship

BB requested information on how much subsidy was to be given to be selected swimmers who competed at the B.L.D.S.A. junior championship at Conniston Water as discussed at the previous meeting. IM informed the committee that the additional expenses of the Lanzarote trip had meant that no money was available to offset the costs that the swimmers had incurred.

10.5 Scottish Championship Forms

BB drew the committees attention to the fact that a competitor had swum breaststroke in what was effectively a freestyle event in the Scottish Juvenile championship because the entry form had led him to believe that that breaststroke was a separate event. It was agreed that the form should be altered to avoid such a misunderstanding in future.

The next meeting will be held at Ye AABA club house at 2 P.M. on 16th January, primarily for discussion of the development plan.