

SCOTTISH AMATEUR SWIMMING ASSOCIATION

OPEN WATER SWIMMING COMMITTEE MEETING DEWARS ICE RINK, PERTH

SUNDAY 19th MARCH 2000 AT 10.00 PM

PRESENT :

Doug Milne (DM)	National Convenor
Andrea Gellan (AG)	East District Convenor
Pam Short (JM)	Midland Convenor
Brian Bain (BB)	North District Convenor
Margaret Hodgart (MH)	West District Convenor

1. Apologies

Douglas Brown intimated his apologies for being unable to attend.

2. Introductions

DM welcomed the new members of the committee. The various members each introduced themselves and gave an account of their involvement to date in open water swimming.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of 16th January were accepted.

4. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising which would not be covered under other items of the agenda.

5. Correspondence

- Committee members had received a letter regarding provision of medical cover at swimming events. It was noted that the nature of open water events and the fact that they were sometimes held in remote locations meant that requirements were different from indoor events. DM to respond to letter. DM emphasised the need to have someone undertake a handling course for the S.A.S.A. Dory and for the committee to look at providing safety training for crews and handlers.
- The S.A.S.A. have received an invitation to send representatives to compete in the Faros Marathon (Croatia).
- The S.A.S.A. had received a letter from Ian Hunter (YeAABA) expressing concern that the note "No previous experience required" which was added to a list of open water events distributed to masters swimmers may encourage an

increase in participation which would have implications for the adequate provision of safety cover. The letter had previously been responded to by the Secretary of Midland District. The matter was discussed and BB, who had prepared the list, emphasised that the reference to "no previous experience required" was simply to encourage suitable swimmers who had not previously taken part in open water events to consider doing so. There was no intention to persuade swimmers who lacked sufficient ability to take part.

6. Budget

The committee were advised of the available budget for the 1999/2000 financial year. New members were provided with expense claim forms.

It was suggested that the committee make enquiries about the possibility of setting up an account for open water swimming. DM to seek advice from the office. There is also an intention to keep a better track of expenditure in the coming year.

7. Scottish Open Water Swimming Championships

Loch Lubnaig

BB to contact Standing Waves Leisure of Strathyre regarding the hire of canoes. Permission for launching boats will have to be obtained from the land owners who will have to be identified.

Monifieth/Castle Pier

DM has written to YeAABA on the 3rd March to enquire as to the possibility of hiring boats and facilities for this event. A response is expected after the next YeAABA committee meeting.

Loch Rannoch

BB to contact Rannoch Hotel to make provisional booking for their available boats. Primary responsibility for organising the events would be as follows

Loch Lubnaig – Doug Milne
Monifieth/Castle Pier – Pam Short
Loch Rannoch – Brian Bain

Efforts will be required to identify sources of boats and safety cover. PS and BB to look at alternatives

BB advised the committee on discussions he had had regarding sponsorship of the Scottish Championships by Kitcheners (Aberdeen) Ltd., a kitchen installation firm. Their proposal is to sponsor the championships at £500 per year for 2000 and 2001. The proposal was accepted. BB to make arrangement for payment of sponsorship and for promoting the firm's involvement.

DM and BB to look at the production of entry forms and certificates for the championships. DM to ask Ian McIntosh if he can provide copies.

8. Training Day

BB advised the committee that Tolcross Leisure Centre had been booked for this event after an application for the Olympia Centre had to be rejected – seven lanes are available. Costs of staging the event will be £500 for the services of Robin Brew, approximately £220 for the hire of facilities at Tollcross and an additional £200 for Robin's expenses. It was agreed to charge swimmers £12 for attendance at the course.

Ideally 30 swimmers should attend the course and given that the date was during the Easter weekend it was decided to invite 45 swimmers in the expectation that a significant number would not be able to attend. BB to liaise with the S.A.S.A. office regarding the distribution of invitations.

9. National Training Squad

The possibility of establishing a national training squad was discussed. The immediate intention is to select 12 swimmers for a weekend course at the end of May. The event would again be at Tollcross and would utilise 2 lanes already booked by S.A.S.A. for use in a Masters training course. It was decided to progress this. BB to discuss with Donald Muirhead (National Masters Convenor).

10. Scottish National Team

There was some discussion on potential events for national representation. Potential events were identified as the Faros Marathon and the FINA world cup event scheduled for London on 30th September. BB to investigate alternatives.

There was potential for junior swimmers to compete in the international event for 14/15 year olds scheduled for Holme Pierrepont on 10th June.

11. Communications

- ❑ There is an intention to produce a newsletter containing various items including calendars of events and a request for entry forms.
- ❑ DM suggested making a short presentation at district meetings to promote open water swimming. Convenors to discuss with their districts.
- ❑ BB to organise information for the June edition of Swimming 2000.
- ❑ BB advised the committee that there was a possibility of open water swimming being included in a web site being set up for Scottish Masters swimmers.

12. Development Plan

BB tabled a draft of some sections of the development plan for comment and discussion at the next meeting

13. Co-opted members

It was decided to invite Alison Smith (Whitehall A.S.C.) Alan Spalding (YeAABA) to become co-opted members of the committee.

14. ASFGB

BB to attend meetings of the ASFGB open water swimming committee. The next meeting is scheduled for 26th March.

15. Dates of meetings in 2000/01

Dates for committee meetings in the coming year are as follows

- 22nd April – Tolcross
- 18th June – Perth
- 8th July – Strathyre
- 29th July – Kinlochranoch
- 22nd October – Perth
- 28th January - Perth

16. Any Other Business

- PS offered to produce flag alphas for sale to swimmers in the coming season.
- DM has requested the transfer of all relevant documents from the Ian McIntosh the previous national convenor.
- Calander of Events : There was discussion on the means of determining dates for events for 2001 onwards. It was agreed that there was a need to develop a policy which was fair to all organising bodies and allowed for swims organised by others be included the method/policy can be included in the development plan.
- PS will raise arrangements for the storage of the S.A.S.A. Dory with YeAABA.
- It was agreed that the committee should look at the possibility of providing a “taster” day to give swimmers considering taking up the discipline some experience prior to competition.