

**SCOTTISH AMATEUR SWIMMING ASSOCIATION**  
**OPEN WATER SWIMMING COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**DEWARS ICE RINK, PERTH**

**SUNDAY 28<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2000 AT 10:00 AM**

<b>PRESENT :</b>	Doug Milne (DM)	National Convenor
	Brian Bain (BB)	North District Convenor
	Alison Smith (AS)	Midland District Representative
	Ron Taylor (RT)	S.A.S.A. President

**1. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Andrea Gellan.

**2. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting of 18<sup>th</sup> June were accepted.

**3. Meeting with Elaine MacKenzie and Helen Dickie (6/7/2000)**

The discussions with Elaine and Helen were reviewed. Various aspects of administration were discussed including financial arrangements and liaison with the S.A.S.A. office.

There was discussion on the correspondence between Ye Amphibious Ancients Bathing Association (YeAABA) and the S.A.S.A. office on the availability of the S.A.S.A. Dory for their events and the level of charge for its use. The committee confirmed that it would no longer require YeAABA to store the boat at their clubhouse and would find another location for its storage. The YeAABA committee claimed that the funding of the boat had been made on the basis that it would be made available free of charge to all organisations with an interest in open water swimming, subject to its availability. Elaine McKenzie intended to establish if records were available to substantiate this. YeAABA were also asked to provide any records they had on the matter.

The committee confirmed that they had no problem in principal with YeAABA having the boat free of charge provided they were prepared to reciprocate with the use of their boats for Scottish Championship events on the Tay.

**4. Matters Arising**

No correspondence has been received to date from the S.A.S.A. office or YeAABA regarding the clarification of the terms of the award for the Dory.

DM has now arranged for the storage of the Dory free of charge.

**5. Correspondence**

Paul Bush has written regarding the requirements of open water swimming for the use of the new facility at Stirling when it becomes available.

Invitations to attend the A.G.M. in February 2001 have been received by the committee members. It was noted that although members of committees are specifically invited they can only vote as a nominated delegate of their clubs.

Forms were received for the nomination of convenors for election at the 2001 AGM. It was noted that these had to be completed by districts rather than discipline committees.

Nomination forms for S.A.S.A. awards have been received.

Alan Lynn in his role as Director of Development is to host a meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> November related to Aqua 21. DM to attend.

The committee was asked to provide details of their sponsor for inclusion in records.

## **6. Budget Status**

AS presented tables itemising expenditure so far this year. This indicated that there was £312 available out of original allocation of £3000. The current meeting was likely to consume £100 leaving £212 which could either be spent on training or safety equipment.

## **7. Scottish Championships 2000**

The Scottish Championships were run successfully with few problems to overcome. Participation was higher than the previous year but disappointing among junior boys. A number of new sources to provide safety cover had been utilised and in particular the contribution of Stirling Canoe Club at Loch Lubnaig was very welcome. The championships ran at a profit thanks to £500 in sponsorship of Det Norske Veritas (DNV).

## **8. FINA World Cup Swimming Marathon - London**

A team representing Scotland competed successfully at this event on 30<sup>th</sup> September. James Leitch, Brian Bain and Scott Neyedli achieved 6<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> places respectively in the men's event. This equated to 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> places among the British men. Lexie Davison finished 10<sup>th</sup> in the ladies race and 3<sup>rd</sup> among British women competitors. The establishment of a Scottish team which competed well relative to other British swimmers is seen as a significant step forward which it will be important to sustain. It was also felt that Scotland had "established its credentials" within ASFGB swimming with the result that there should now be greater liaison between the ASA and SASA on open water swimming.

AS felt that there was a disproportionate amount of money spent on the trip relative to juniors who had typically received £100 to offset the costs of competing at Coniston Water. BB felt the expenditure was justified given that the senior team were representing their country. He felt that swimmers competing in international open water events should be funded in a similar manner to their counterparts in "pool" swimming provided the budget allowed for this.

## **9. Performance of Scottish Swimmers in events outside Scotland in 2000**

Notable performances for events held outside Scotland were as follows

Sarah Hughes (Lochaber), Naomi Murdoch (City of Dundee), Mhairi Murdoch (City of Dundee) and Heather Cura (Whitehall) were the first four, in that order, in the BLDSA junior Coniston Championship.

Sarah Hughes was 5<sup>th</sup> in the ASA Junior International over 3km at Nottingham on 10<sup>th</sup> June.

Brian Bain (City of Aberdeen) won the ASA 15km championship at Nottingham on 13<sup>th</sup> August.

Brian Bain, competing as part of Caledonia Masters, won the World Masters 5km championship for the men's 40-44 year category at Munich on 5<sup>th</sup> August.

Greta Gall (YeAABA) won the BLDSA women's veterans championship at Coniston.

Colleen Blair competed in the various events including the BLDSA Windermere Championship and the Lough Erne Championship in Northern Ireland.

## **10. Report from ASFGB meetings**

BB reported on the main points from recent ASFGB meetings which had an effect on Scottish Open Water Swimming.

The ASA have run a Grand Prix series of events for the last two years. This effectively consisted of the Championships for each of the five ASA districts. Prize money was available for each of the individual swims with additional prizes for the leading swimmers in the overall Grand Prix. The ASA were looking to extend the number of events and BB had suggested that this could include the SASA championship at Loch Lubnaig. This suggestion was well received and BB indicated he would revert back to the ASA/ASFGB with a decision in principal from the SASA open water committee on whether or not it wanted to be included. (See discussion under Open Water Calendar).

The ASA do not intend to run a 15km swim next year. BB pointed out that Scotland ran a Championship at Loch Rannoch over a distance slightly greater than 15km. ASA agreed that they could direct English swimmers interested in competing at that distance to the Rannoch event. Times achieved at Rannoch could be used as evidence for GB selection provided that the event had sufficient qualified officials. Several members of the ASA and ASFGB committee expressed an interest in travelling to Rannoch to officiate. It was also considered that, in time, the event may also double as a British Championship.

The ASA are running a development weekend at Crystal Palace on 14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> April and have identified 30 swimmers to take part. An invitation was extended to Scottish swimmers provided the SASA contributed to the costs of staging the event.

The ASA took a team of junior swimmers to an international meet at Redon in Northern France at the beginning of September. This team was very successful and the ASA are viewing it as a significant step forward in the development of open water swimming. Their intention is to send another team next year and indicated that it would be possible

for a group of Scottish juniors to travel and be accommodated with them. This is something which should be considered for next year.

## **11. 2001 Scottish Open Water Swimming Calendar**

BB tabled a partially completed list of open water events for 2001. This included columns for international events, events in other parts of the UK, Scottish and District Senior Events, Scottish and District Junior events, other Scottish open water swims and significant pool swimming events. Some input had been received from the ASA. In addition a programme of proposed YeAABA events had been forwarded to the committee. There was discussion on the optimum time for the Scottish Championship and District Championship events which resulted in the following dates

### **Scottish Senior Championships**

Loch Lubnaig : 21<sup>st</sup> July 2001  
Senior 3¾ mile (length of loch)  
Junior 3¾ mile (length of loch)  
Juvenile 500 yards (approx)

Loch Rannoch : 4<sup>th</sup> August 2001  
Senior 9½ mile (length of loch)  
Junior swim of approx 3000 metres (possibly 2 widths of loch)

### **Midland District Championships**

Tay Docks 7<sup>th</sup> : July 2001  
Senior Closed Championship (2km)  
Junior Closed Championship (2km)  
Juvenile Closed Championship (2km)

Loch Earn : 11<sup>th</sup> August 2001  
Junior Open Championship (3½ miles)

Loch Tummel : 9<sup>th</sup> September 2001  
Senior Open Championship (6½ miles)

### **North District Championships**

Loch Morlich : 18<sup>th</sup> August 2001  
Senior Open Championships (4 miles and 1 mile)  
Junior Open Championships (2 miles and ½ mile)

It is expected that there will be an East District Championship next year. BB to contact Andrea Gellan to discuss.

It is not anticipated that there will be a West District event in 2001

It was agreed in principle that the Loch Lubnaig senior event should become part of the Great Britain Open Water Grand Prix. This will mean that additional funding will have to be found for the event. The overall prize fund for the Grand Prix is to be £1600 and although no specific amount has been requested by the ASA or ASFGB it was felt

appropriate that the SASA should contribute £200 of this. It is expected that the majority of Grand Prix events will offer prizes in the form of money or gifts to the first three finishers. If this turns out to be the case, it was agreed that we should look for additional sponsorship to provide prizes at a similar level.

There was some discussion on the minimum age for competing in open water events. The ASA have set a minimum age of 12 in the year of competition. Traditionally there has been no minimum age for events in Scotland but it was felt that this should be reviewed. After some discussion it was agreed that swimmers should have a minimum age of 9 in the year of competition and swim in events no longer than 500 metres. This would apply to the Scottish Juvenile championship from 2001 onwards.

The main difficulty in upgrading the event is that it would require an increase in the number of officials present. ASA competitions typically fulfil the requirements for international competition which call for a large number of officials operating in various capacities. At present, open water swimming in Scotland does not have sufficient numbers of officials to provide this level of cover. This problem might be dealt with in four ways;

- Determine the extent to which individuals can double up on duties. DM to review FINA regulations.
- Encourage individuals involved in open water swimming to assist in officiating.
- Encourage officials from pool swimming to assist.
- Invite open water officials from England to assist.

This increase in the number of officials is likely to increase the cost of staging the event.

## **12. 2001 Budget Proposal**

A draft budget proposal developed by DM and BB was discussed. This was amended and the revised version is attached. The proposal calls for deficit funding in excess of £6000 to support the committees plans to develop the discipline. This is a very large increase on the funds previously made available. It was felt that in order to secure this level of funding discussions with the SASA CEO and Treasurer would be necessary to justify our requirements. This may be done in conjunction with discussions on the development plan.

Post Meeting Note – Since the meeting DM has been contacted by Stuart Martin who indicated that the budget for next year would at least match that for this year but would not greatly exceed it. Surplus money from this year could be carried on into next year.

## **13. Open Water Development Plan**

BB had distributed copies of the current draft of the development plan prior to the meeting for review. The general intent of the document was accepted but some adjustments are required to reflect changes in some areas discussed previously in this meeting. BB to update and redistribute. It was felt that a meeting with one or more of Paul Bush, Martyn Wodroffe and Alan Lynn would be beneficial to discuss the plans contained in the document.

## **14. Scottish Team Selection Policy**

BB tabled a suggested selection policy for the selection of future Scottish open water teams. This was discussed and agreed to be put forward to the Board of Management for their consideration and input. A copy of the policy is attached to these minutes.

## **15. Communications**

- **Newsletter**

BB distributed draft copies of the next issue of the newsletter. A number of items need to be added to this and BB asked for any additional material to be forwarded to him. AS to provide reports on Midland District Swims.

BB also distributed copies of the mailing list containing the names of those to whom the newsletter was to be sent. He requested that this be reviewed and be made aware of any additions or deletions to be made.

- **Presentation to District Meetings**

Andrea Gellan is producing a presentation on open water swimming as part of the East District Roadshow. The material may be of use in other presentations.

- **Swimming 2000**

We are currently getting good coverage in the magazine. However, some of the material is not laid out in the way we would necessarily prefer it to be. AS noted that the inclusion of results from Loch Tummel interfered with her wish to have a fuller report in the following issue. BB to discuss with Bill Black how we can check the material in the form it will appear before it goes into print.

- **Internet Web Site**

Open water Swimming has a section within the Scottish Masters web site. BB to check information contained within it since some may now be out of date. BB also to check how we can get information included in the main S.A.S.A. web site.

## **16. National and District Convenorships Nominations for 2001**

DM, BB and AS all intimated their intention to stand for re-election to their respective convenorships. It was decided to check the intentions of the other two committee members.

Post meeting note – Andrea Gellan has confirmed her intention to stand for re-election as East District convenor.

## **17. Any Other Business**

- **Commander Gerald Forsberg** : It was noted with regret that Gerald Forsberg had died a few days earlier.
- BB reported that during the summer the ASFGB committee had decided to issue invitations to trial for the GB open water team to swimmers who had finished in the top 16 in men's 1500 and women's 800 freestyle at the Olympic trials but excluding those who made the team. Something appears to have gone wrong in the distribution with the result that many swimmers didn't receive the invitations. BB established, with the help of Martyn Woodroffe, that Andy Jameson and Chris Whitcome (both City of Aberdeen), who were 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> respectively in the trials, were the only Scots in this situation and should have received an invitation. BB

contacted the two swimmers and discussed the possibility of them taking part in trials. Neither had received an invitation and, after some consideration, both declined the opportunity. However, both have asked to be kept informed of open water events and may consider taking part in future.

- It emerged during the meeting, that some members of the committee were not in possession of a copy of the S.A.S.A. Constitution, Bye-Laws and Regulations. DM to contact S.A.S.A. office to determine if all members of the committee should be in possession of a copy.
- Recently, the S.A.S.A. were given the opportunity of putting forward an official to be included in Great Britain's nominations for the FINA open water officials list. DM was proposed by BB, and his nomination was discussed at an ASFGB meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> September. It was acknowledged that DM's CV demonstrated a high degree of qualifications and experience. However, it lacked experience at higher level open water events. As a result it was decided not to include DM on the list on this occasion but to consider him as "under training" for inclusion in the list in two year's time. It was likely that DM would be invited to officiate at A.S.A. and A.S.F.G.B. events in the coming years and it was expected that he would be the referee at the majority of Scottish Championship events.
- Safety Equipment : It was decided to utilise the budget remaining for this year on acquiring safety equipment. It was likely that we would have sufficient funds for 4 lifejackets. DM to progress.
- We have an offer from the ASA to become involved in their open water officials qualification programme. It was decided that we should investigate the possibility of DM and AS attending an ASA course next year with a view so setting up a similar scheme in Scotland. DM to progress.
- Nancy Riach Medal : The committee decided to nominate BB for the award.

**Date of Next Meeting** : To be decided following distribution of draft development plan.