

SCOTTISH AMATEUR SWIMMING ASSOCIATION

OPEN WATER SWIMMING COMMITTEE MEETING NATIONAL SWIMMING ACADEMY, STIRLING SUNDAY 19th JANUARY 2003 AT 10:00 A.M.

PRESENT :

Doug Milne (DM)	National Convenor
Andrea Gellan (AG)	East District Convenor
Brian Bain (BB)	North District Convenor
Morag Hughes (MH)	Co-Opted Member

1. Apologies

No apologies were received

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

No record of the previous meeting was available

3. Matters Arising

All matters arising are covered under other items of the agenda

4. Correspondence

The following items of correspondence have been received;

- Letter from Alan Lynn giving details of budget for 2002-2003.
- LEN Circular
- Minutes of Board of Management Meeting 27th October 2002
- Request for Open Water Swimming Report for inclusion in Annual SASA Report
- Notification of meeting on 26th January to discuss Scottish Swimming move to Company Limited status

5. Budget

Notification was received that Open Water had a budget of £7,000 for 2003-2003. This is to include £500 in honoraria and expenses for the position of National Open Water Coach. Money from James Leitch's TAP funding is to be used for his development before he can be allocated money from this budget.

It was not clear if the budget included the carry over (estimated as £2,500) from the 2001-2002 budget. It was noted that if this was the case then the net budget would have decreased this year.

Action : BB to contact Debbie McGuinness to clarify situation on carry-over of budget from last year.

The budget was reviewed in light of the shortfall from our request. This required the removal of funding for junior swimmers to attend an event in France and a reduction in the budget for senior international events.

The following distribution of funds was agreed as a working plan

National Squad Training – 3 weekends at £350 per weekend	1,050
National Squad Competition Expenses	1,000
National Team 4 swimmers plus 2 staff @ £250 each	1,500
National Coach	£500
Scottish Championships (assuming £500 sponsorship income)	£500
Contribution to Grand Prix Prize Fund	£400
Open Water Training Day (income matches expenditure)	£0
Safety Boat Training	£500
Safety Boat Maintenance	£500
Officials Training	£0
Promotion (Newsletters)	£250
Committee Expenses	£800
Total	£7000

It was agreed that the honoraria payment to the post of National Open Water Coach should be on the basis of £50 per day for the training weekends and development course with the remaining £150 made available as expenses.

6. Scottish Championships

Loch Lubnaig 2002

The event was generally successful with the main problem being a smaller number of canoeists than was expected. This resulted in three races having to be swum rather than the planned two.

Loch Rannoch 2002

Rough weather caused the retiral of two of the swimmers in the senior race. There was a good entry for the junior race. This had to be swum with fewer canoes/boats than expected

Dates for 2003

After discussion and taking account of other dates in the calendar it was decided to hold the Scottish Championships on 12th July and 16th August.

Review of Venues & Age-groups

There was discussion on the need to review the structure of the Scottish Open Water Swimming Championships. Issues included;

- Venues
- Race Distances
- Age categories (including masters)
- Safety Provision

It was concluded that the events in 2003 should be broadly along the same lines and at the same venues as in recent years, i.e. Loch Lubnaig and Loch Rannoch, but that the committee should review alternatives during 2003 for implementation in 2004.

Responsibilities

AG agreed to be responsible for the administration of the championships. DM will co-ordinate officials and safety provision

7. British Open Water Swimming Grand Prix

BB briefed the committee on the current position for acceptance of events in 2003. The Scottish Championships at Loch Lubnaig had been accepted in principle as a venue but there was resistance to the proposal to include the North District Championships at Loch Morlich. ASA representatives had suggested an event at Loch Lomond in conjunction with the Great Adventure Race. This posed problems in that a date and venue for the event organised by Nova International would not be confirmed until later in the year. Although this event could be run in conjunction with a West District Championship it appeared too onerous a task to commit to starting a new event at that venue without a confirmed organiser and to also incorporate a leg of the British Grand Prix. It was decided not to pursue this option.

As alternative, it was decided to propose both the East District and North District Championships as venues with the expectation that, at most, one would be accepted.

8. 2003 Scottish Open Water Swimming Calendar

Dates for open water events in Scotland were discussed and provisionally assigned as follows;

East District – Lochore Meadows – Saturday 14th June
Forth Estuary Swim – Sunday 7th September
North District – Loch Morlich - Saturday 13th September

9. Scottish National Training Squad & National Team

Squad Selection

BB summarised the process by which the squad had been selected. The cancellation of the planned open water meeting in October had meant that the process had to be undertaken in a series of E-mails and telephone conversations during October 2002.

The following swimmers were selected;

Susan Black	City of Glasgow
Claire McGarvey	REN 96
Jo-Ann McGarvey	REN 96
Laura McGarvey	REN 96
Janet McLean	INCAS
Emma Ross	Aquanaughts Livingston
Katie Sowersby	Scarborough SC
Carol Thain	Hearts
Emma Watson	Fauldhouse Penguins SC
Brian Bain	Silver City Blues
Ross Burgess	East Kilbride ASC
Jamie Forrest	City of Glasgow
James Leitch	City of Glasgow
Derek McGown	East Kilbride ASC
Charles Mills	City of Glasgow

All swimmers accepted their places with the exception of Charles Mills who was replaced by Callum Prentice (Fauldhouse Penguins SC)

Appointment of National Open Water Swimming Coach

BB reported on the process by which Eian Prentice had been appointed as National Open Water Swimming coach. At present Eian had not received paperwork from the SASA office to confirm this appointment which was made at the beginning of November 2002.

Action – BB to contact SASA office to determine reasons for delay.

November 2002 National Squad Training Weekend

BB reported on the first training weekend for the squad which took place at the NSA on 23/24 November. This was well attended by the squad members with only Carol Thain and Katie Sowersby unable to attend. Their places were taken by Craig Forrest (City of Glasgow) and Laura Smith (East Kilbride). The swimmers showed enthusiasm and a commitment to race in a larger number of open water events next year. Eian Prentice's contribution was very positive and he had prepared well for the first weekend particularly considering the short period between his appointment and the training course.

Booked times for the NSA in 2003

Open Water have the following days booked at the National Swimming Academy

- 22nd/23rd March – National Squad Training Weekend
- 12th April – Open Water Development Course
- 24th/25th May - National Squad Training Weekend
- 6th/7th December - National Squad Training Weekend

Child Protection and Team Manager Courses

SASA are running Child Protection officer Courses at a number of locations during 2003. It was decided that it would be advisable for all persons who could potentially become staff for open water swimming teams to undertake one of the courses. In particular, BB, Eian Prentice and Janet McLean should attend one of the courses and other members of the committee and rescue crews should be aware of courses and encouraged to attend. It was believed that there were also some team manager courses which would be relevant.

Action : BB to identify suitable dates and venues of courses

Selection Criteria

BB indicated that he felt that the selection criteria for Scottish National Open Water Swimming teams need to be revised in light of the increase in standards within the discipline. He suggested that minimum standard for selection should be

- Medallist at ASFGB/ASA event
- Winner or runner-up at Scottish National Championships
- Winner at SASA District event.

This was agreed in principle.

Action : BB to draft a selection policy for agreement with the rest of the committee.

Swimathon

At the November training weekend it was decided that the next weekend on 22/23 March should include a 10km time trial. It was subsequently found that this date coincided with the Butlin's Swimathon which for the first year was to include a 10,000 metre endurance event. BB informed the meeting that he was taking steps to register the training session as an "independent" session to allow those swimmers who wanted to use the swim as part of the event. This would hopefully provide some additional incentive.

Potential International Events

BB discussed potential events which may involve Scottish Open Water swimmers at international level.

"Pre-Worlds" Event in Barcelona – Early June. British Swimming is sending a team of those swimmers who competed for Britain in 2002 to this event to give them an opportunity to qualify for the World Championships. James Leitch will also be included in the squad. It is possible that swimmers who qualify as "endorsed" swimmers will also be added to the team if they are funded by some other source. This alternative might allow Claire McGarvey and Susan Black to be added to the team and we may want to consider funding or part funding them.

LEN Cup Events June & August. It has been suggested that swimmers finishing in the top five at the British Championships will become eligible to compete for Britain in selected LEN Cup events in Spain and France. Due to limitations on the ASFGB Open Water Swimming budget it will be necessary for ASA and SASA to provide funding for swimmers who qualify in this way.

Endorsed Swimmers - Swimmers who competed for Great Britain or who finished in the top three at the British Championships are endorsed to self-fund themselves to compete in international events such as the FINA World Marathon Series for twelve months after qualifying. Currently the group of swimmers covered by this includes Claire McGarvey (to 15/6/2003), Susan Black (to 31/8/2003) and James Leitch (to 28/9/2003). James will have to fund himself from his TAP award but we may want to consider partially funding Claire and/or Susan.

Other Internationals : A number of other events are available at international level below LEN Cup standard which we could consider sending a team to. It is considered important for the development of Scottish open water swimming that we are represented by a national team at one such event this year. BB has some details of events which fit in with the British Calendar, in particular an international event in Belgium on 9th/10th August may provide a good opportunity

Actions : BB to check whether Claire McGarvey and/or Susan Black can be added to the team for the Pre-Worlds.

BB to clarify with the ASFGB committee which levels of international competition they will allow a Scottish team to enter.

BB to make contact with organisers of Belgian International event.

10. Open Water Training Day – 12th April 2003

The whole pool has been booked for two two-hour sessions for the course which will be organised by MH and coached by Eian Prentice. An attendance fee of £10 was agreed.

Action : MH and BB to distribute application forms with the next newsletter.

11. ASFGB Open Water Swimming

BB reported on decisions taken by the ASFGB TOWSC since the last SASA OWSC meeting.

- Selection criteria for the World Championships in Barcelona in July 2003 were issued in August 2002. However, these are likely to be replaced by alternative criteria to be issued shortly.
- An endorsement policy for swimmers wishing to self fund themselves to compete in international events has been prepared but not yet formally issued. However, this was cited in a letter from the secretary of the ASFGB TOWSC to BB which stated that the proposed Scottish team to compete in the FINA Marathon World Cup in Alexandria on 2nd October 2002 did not comply with the endorsement criteria. SASA were asked to reconsider the composition of the team or withdraw from the event.
- A British team was selected to represent Britain at a 10km FINA World Marathon event in Atlantic City on 7th September. Selections were based on performances at the British 10km championships on 31st August. James Leitch won the British Championship but was not eligible having already competed for Britain in 10km that year. Susan Black had a good swim in finishing second in the women's race and was proposed for selection by BB. However, her nomination was rejected on

the basis that her time was not fast enough. BB noted that her time was better than a selected male swimmer when compared against male and female times for 10km given in the World Championship selection criteria issued a week earlier.

- The dates for the 2003 British Open water swimming championships have been fixed as 21st/22nd June in Albert Dock. This coincides with the Scottish National (indoor) Championships and presents a dilemma for some swimmers as to which event to attend. BB noted that decisions on the date, venue and composition of events had been taken outwith committee and SASA had not been consulted.
- BB raised the above points at the meeting of the ASFGB TOWSC on 7th December as being detrimental to the development of open water swimming in Scotland.
- Proposals for a Great Britain Open Water Training Squad have been postponed for 2003.
- The British 5km Indoor Championship will take place in Sheffield on 19th March. This will form part of the selection process for the 5km event in the World Championships. Swimmers are required to provide an entry time from which the fastest ten will compete in the final. Scottish swimmers will have an opportunity to obtain a qualifying time at the Scottish Swimming Marathon on 15th February. This event is organised by the SASA Masters committee and has been arranged for a date which clashes with District Championships. This may result in us having to provide an additional time trial for swimmers unable to compete on the 15th February. BB suggested that the committee should seek to work with the masters committee to revise the format of the event for future years to ensure that it was acceptable as a qualifying competition for the British Championships. Alternatively we should work with the swimming committee to establish an alternative event.

12. Revision of Open Water Regulations and Plans

Creation of S.A.S.A. Rules of Open Water Swimming

The current intention is to liaise with the ASA TOWSC to form a set of rules, based on FINA which can be adopted by both ASA and SASA.

Revision of S.A.S.A. Open Water Swimming Regulations

Deferred to a later meeting

Revision of Open Water Development Plan

Given the changes in the status of Open Water Swimming in Scotland since the current development plan was issued in 2001 it was considered that it should now be reviewed.

Action : BB to revise the Development Plan and submit it for discussion at the next meeting

13. Sponsorship & Grant Applications

Meeting between Sarah Birrell and DNV

BB reported that Sarah Birrell had had a meeting with himself and Joyce Dalgarno (DNV Marketing co-ordinator) in DNV's Aberdeen offices prior to her leaving SASA. The meeting looked at ways in which DNV and SASA could continue to work together.

Sponsorship for 2003

It was agreed to approach DNV with a view to continuing the sponsorship of the Scottish Open Water Championships for a further year. Eian Prentice has also suggested some ways of obtaining sponsorship which the committee may wish to consider.

Grant Applications

MH suggested that members of the national squad may be eligible for grants through their local sports councils.

DM has requested we SASA look at replacing or refurbishing the rescue boat and this may be dealt with by means of a grant application.

Actions : BB to liaise with DNV with a view to obtaining sponsorship
BB to write to squad members suggesting they investigate the possibility of awards from their local sports councils.

14. Qualification of Open Water Swimming Officials

ASFGB Safety Officer training

DM reported on the attendance by himself and Donna Milne at the ASFGB's open water safety forum in November 2002. Three groups have been formed to draft proposals for aspects of the safety provision at open water events. DM is a member of the equipment sub-group.

These sub-groups will report back to Mike Hemmings, ASFGB TOWSC secretary, who will put the final document together. It is expected that this will be issued in April.

DM suggested the committee may want to consider purchasing strops to assist in taking swimmers into rescue boats.

SASA Open Water Officials

It is not going to be feasible to have open water officials examinations in 2003. The current intention is to identify a number of officials who are prepared to assist in 2003 with the intention of gaining a formal qualification based on common ASA/SASA rules in 2004.

15. Communications

Open Water Newsletter

It is intended to issue newsletters in February and May. February newsletter should be issued in week beginning 17th February.

Action : BB to co-ordinate input produce final document, print copies and distribute. MH and AG to prepare articles

Open Water Database

BB had previously distributed copies of the current mailing list with approximately forty names highlighted as potential deletions. Committee members were asked to provide names and addresses of anyone else they thought should be included.

Action : BB to update mailing list in preparation for issue of newsletter and development course application form.

SASA Newsletter

Swimming 2000 is being replaced by a smaller newsletter which will be distributed to all SASA members. It is expected that space will be provided for articles on open water but space is likely to be very limited.

Action : BB to discuss inclusion of open water swimming information with SASA office.

Article in “Swimming” Magazine

BB reported that he had been contacted by Swimming Magazine to prepare an article on the progress of open water swimming in Scotland.

SASA Web Site

It was noted that we need to make better efforts to use the SASA web site to promote open water swimming.

Action : BB to contact SASA office with a view to updating the web site with information produced for the newsletter.

Splash Mail

Coverage in splash mail of open water swimming has been good on occasions but some articles prepared specifically for this service had not been issued.

Action : BB to discuss with Paul Bush if there are specific reasons for not issuing some of the submitted articles.

16. Composition of Committee following SASA AGM

There was discussion surrounding the composition of the committee for 2003-2004. Since nominations were made at District AGMs in December, DM had learned that there was a good possibility of him undergoing surgery in 2003. This may prevent him from actively fulfilling the role of National Convenor for a period during the year. With this in mind the committee agreed that BB be nominated to take over the post of National Convenor. BB will propose that MH takes over as North District convenor. BB also indicated that he would want to co-opt DM back onto the new committee along with Eian Prentice. This was agreed by the rest of the committee.

Action : DM to notify to parties concerned his intention to step down from the national convenorship.

17. SASA Award Nominations

Denis Sullivan Memorial Trophy

In the absence of a meeting at the end of 2002, BB had proposed James Leitch, Claire McGravey, Laura McGarvey and Susan Black as candidates for the Denis Sullivan Memorial Trophy. It was unanimously agreed following a series of telephone calls, that James be awarded the trophy for a second year.

Other Awards

It had been proposed and agreed that James Leitch would also be proposed for the Nancy Riach Memorial medal. BB had subsequently nominated him on behalf of the committee.

18. Any Other Business

University Project on Open Water Swimming by Colleen Blair

BB reported that Colleen Blair had completed a project, as part of her course at Liverpool's John Moores University, on open water swimming in Scotland. As part of this project she had sent out questionnaires to swimming clubs in Scotland to ascertain the degree of knowledge in Open Water Swimming. The exercise should also have generated a list of coaches interested in receiving information on open water swimming.

Action : BB to contact Colleen to obtain list of interested coaches.

Great Adventure Race

James Leitch and Claire McGarvey's involvement in Channel 4's "Great Adventure Race" was broadcast on 18th January. BB has a recording of the programme on tape.