

SCOTTISH AMATEUR SWIMMING ASSOCIATION

OPEN WATER SWIMMING COMMITTEE MEETING NATIONAL SWIMMING ACADEMY, STIRLING SATURDAY 29th MAY 2004 AT 10:00 A.M.

PRESENT :	Brian Bain (BB)	National Convenor
	Andrea Gellan (AG)	East District Convenor
	Morag Hughes (MH)	North District Convenor
	Alistair Forrest (AF)	West District Convenor
	Doug Milne (DM)	Co-opted Member
	Eian Prentice (EP)	Co-opted Member

Prior to starting the meeting, those presented noted the sad passing of Ian McIntosh, former National Open Water Swimming Convenor, who died suddenly on 24th May. Ian's service to the discipline of Open Water Swimming was recognised when he became a life member of SASA in 2000. His contribution to Ye Amphibious Ancients Bathing Association was immense and covered a number of decades during which time he was responsible for organising countless open water events.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Helen Murray, Margaret Dougal, Lorraine Donnachie and Alan Spalding.

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;

- Letters to committee members requesting them to sign the SASA code of ethics.
- Minutes of Board of Directors and Council Meetings.
- Letters informing of the resignation of Paul Bush as Chief Executive officer and the subsequent appointment of Ashley Howard.

EP informed the meeting that he had decided not to sign the code of ethics since he felt the requirement to maintain confidentiality was too restrictive and could prevent a committee member from discussing relevant issues with persons outwith the committee. It was suggested that the wording relating to the degree of confidentiality be clarified.

5. Budget

BB tabled a breakdown of the budget position to date. Generally, expenditure had been lower than budgeted for due to the cancellation of one of the National squad training days. The greatest amount of expenditure would occur in July and August when we stage the Scottish Championships and fund/subsidise swimmers competing in England and abroad.

It is envisaged that open water will utilise its whole budget in 2004 but without exceeding it.

6. Scottish Championships

BB tabled the current version of the planning document for this year's Scottish Open Water Swimming Championships. The document is being progressively updated as the organising sub-committee complete their actions.

AG has purchased 6 sets of caps numbered 1-10 in each of 9 colours (540 caps in total) at a discounted price of £388.

The Loch Rannoch event has been moved to 21st August to avoid a clash with the French National Championships at which we hope to have some swimmers competing.

7. Scottish National Training Squad & National Team

Potential International Events

BB outlined the potential events at which a Scottish Team could compete this year. Progress was already being made in arranging for members of the national squad to compete at the Dutch national championships. This would not be regarded as a national selection.

The other main opportunity appears to be the French National Championships which are taking place at St Affrique (10 Km – 1st August) and La Mure (5 km and 25 km – 14th/15th August). Scottish swimmers may be selected as part of the GB team competing at the LEN cup event in St. Affrique which coincides with the French Championships 10Km but it would be permissible to have swimmers representing Scotland at the same event. The 25 Km event two weeks later represents the best opportunity for swimmers to obtain experience in a recognised event at this distance. The size of teams representing Scotland at these events will depend largely on the number of Scottish swimmers selected for the LEN cup event and the contribution SASA has to make to support them. Funding will have to be deducted from the overall budget.

The national squad will also be competing at the GB Championships, the ASA Championships and ASA district events.

Funding : A budget in the region of £4,000 is available to support participation in events in England and abroad. In broad terms the split for this is likely to be

approximately, £600 for events in England, £700 for the Dutch Championships, £1800 for the team to St Affrique and £900 for La Mure.

Squad Kit

SASA has reached a new agreement with Speedo for the supply of national team kit. However, this will not be available until September. In the meantime some kit has been found for the five new members of the squad. This includes poloshirts sponsored by DNV. Additionally a set of SASA poloshirts have been sourced and will be distributed to the current squad.

8. ASFGB Open Water Swimming

GB Open Water Swimming Teams

Policies are in place for British teams to the European Junior Championships, the LEN cup and the World Championships. Realistically, Scottish swimmers will have an opportunity to qualify for the team to compete at Saint Affrique if the finish in the top three at the British Championships. SASA may have to pay the majority if not all of the costs of the Scottish swimmers in the team. Eian Prentice has been selected as coach to the team and his costs will have to be met by the SASA open water budget.

Post meeting note : ASFGB subsequently decided to fund staff for Saint Affrique.

Entry of Scottish Swimmers in the FINA World Cup Event in Dubai

James Leitch and Susan Black were invited to compete in a FINA World Cup Event in Dubai and applied to be endorsed by GB. When rejected they entered under Scotland since the organisers had indicated that this was acceptable. GB subsequently withdrew the swimmers leading to a large amount of correspondence between the swimmers, BB, Elspeth Black and David Sparkes on issues surrounding these decisions. The swimmers were unable to gain permission to compete and lost the cost of their flights.

The issues surrounding this matter were discussed and members expressed their concern at how it had been handled by ASFGB. Concern was also expressed that the Chairman of the SASA Board of Directors had apparently supported ASFGB's decision without consulting with the swimmers or BB.

BB was asked by the committee to pursue the matter with the view to obtaining an apology from ASFGB.

It was suggested that if ASFGB/ASA continue to place barriers in the way of the development of Scottish Open Water Swimming that we should consider reducing our support for events in England in preference for increased support for domestic competition and a limited number of foreign events.

Post Meeting Notes :

- 1) It was subsequently discovered that the contents of the document which David Sparkes had relied on as the basis of ASFGB's rejection (Appendix 2 of the ASFGB Board meeting of 28th September 2002) did not contain the criteria he had

stated but were identical to the criteria published on the British swimming web site and with which the swimmers complied.

- 2) The swimmers were subsequently reimbursed with the cost of their flights. 50% of the reimbursement was from the ASFGB Open Water budget and the remaining 50% from an SASA budget other than the Open Water budget.

9. Revision of Open Water Regulations

Status Update

The Open Water regulations have been redrafted and these were approved by the Board of Directors at their meeting in March.

Licensing

The revised regulations make reference to the future requirements for licensing of open water competitions in Scotland which the OW committee are required to formulate. The meeting discussed the requirement and were generally of the view that licensing was unlikely to serve a useful purpose in open water events. Before proceeding further, clarification on the need for licensing should be sought from the editorial board.

Action – BB to contact Ed Adam for further details.

10. Qualification of Open Water Swimming Officials

Approximately 15 individuals have been identified as being interested in becoming open water swimming officials. Of these six attended a training course on Sunday 23rd May and they, plus one other, will be sitting an examination on 30th May. There is one candidate for the open water referee's examination and six for the open water judges' examination.

BB acknowledged the assistance of John Bruce is preparing the examination papers.

11. Open Water Safety

Transfer of Launch Ownership

The launch has now been transferred to the ownership of the Dundee Sea Cadets. Organisers of events requiring assistance from the Sea Cadets in proving craft and personnel for safety cover should contact DM directly.

Safety Regulations

The regulations/guidance from the ASFGB open water safety project have not yet been issued and are unlikely to be during the 2004 season. It had been originally envisaged that these would be available prior to the 2003 season. Concern was expressed at the continued delay in providing this document particularly since SASA had not advanced any plans for formalising its own safety procedures in expectation that the ASFGB would provide suitable guidance.

It was agreed that if the ASFGB guidance was not forthcoming by the end of 2004 then we should consider preparing our own document. AF offered to undertake this task if it became necessary.

12. Communication

Open Water Newsletter

The May 2004 newsletter was issued together with entry forms for Scottish events in the 2004 season.

SASA Web Site

Information on the Calendar of events has been placed on the SASA web site. Entry forms are available for downloading.

It is envisaged that the web site will be revamped this year and BB has been in discussion with Julie Pearson on this issue.

13. Great Adventure Race

BB has been in touch with Nova International regarding the date and venue of a "Great Adventure Race" this year. At present there are no definite plans but they hope to run an event in Scotland which includes open water swimming.