

Open Water Committee Meeting Minutes

Saturday 26th May, 2012 at 10am
At Loch Venachar and Callander

Brian Bain (BB)	Chairman
Les Rodger (LR)	Technical Officials Co-ordinator
Jim Gallacher (JG)	Safety Co-ordinator
Elspeth Black (EB)	Team Manager
Lynne Deans (LD)	Domestic Events Co-ordinator
Allan Fletcher (AF)	Board Representative
Jennifer Ewen (JE)	North District Convenor

Item No.		Action
1.	Apologies for Absence:	Gillian Innes (GI), Joyce McIntosh (JM), Carole Gallacher (CG), Andrea Gellan (AG)
2.	Declarations of Interest:	LR - Ishbel Rodger's parent, JG - Leigh Gallacher's parent, JE – Sophie Ewen's parent, LD – Mark and Scott Deans' parent.
3.	Chairman's Address:	<p>BB welcomed everyone to meeting and informed everyone that himself, LR, JG, and LD had visited the venue of this year's Scottish OW Championships earlier in the morning and that the remaining committee members were welcome to visit after today's meeting.</p>
4.	Minutes of Previous Committee Meeting held on 24th March, 2012:	<p>Minutes proposed by LR and seconded by EB.</p>
5.	Progress of Items on Action List:	<p>The action sheet was reviewed and updated. There are number of actions which have been outstanding for some time and members of the committee were urged to deal with this.</p>
6.	Correspondence:	<p>Any correspondence will be dealt with under various items on the agenda.</p>
7.	Budget:	<p>Expenditure is in line with expectations and there are no issues at present.</p>

8. Governance and Development:

Development Plan:- comments and responses have been gathered and these will be sent back to Richard Gordon. **BB** to contact Richard Gordon to arrange meeting to discuss Development Plan after open water season finishes. This effectively means that the new development plan will not strictly apply to this year's activities. **BB**

Temporary membership:- temporary membership is now available to swimmers.

There is meeting between the discipline chairs and members of Scottish Swimming Professional staff planned for Saturday, 2nd June in Edinburgh.

9. Mass Participation Events:

The issue of mass participation events and compliance with FINA rule GR4 has been the subject of much correspondence with Scottish Swimming and British Swimming's legal department. British Swimming have confirmed that this is a matter for the home nations to deal with in terms of finding a mechanism which can be used to avoid the situation of registered swimmers breaching the rule.

Elaine MacKenzie has advised that we should use the "One-Off Approval" process give in regulation R5.1.6. Although **BB** does not consider this to be an appropriate mechanism for complying with the FINA rule it would appear to be the mechanism which the professional staff consider to be appropriate.

Actions : **BB** to continue contacting organisers of events and ask them if they wish to apply for approval and forward such requests to Ashley Howard. **BB**

10. Domestic Events Co-ordinators Report:

See attached report.

The open water calendar for 2012 has now been posted on the web site and all entry forms are available.

The longest distance in each district championship and the Scottish championships will be part of the Grand Prix series as before.

Post Meeting note : Scottish Swimming are now looking at the introduction of an electronic entry system for all disciplines.

Actions :

LD to take delivery of medals for Scottish Championships. **LD**

LD to try and enlist some new volunteers to help with Scottish Championships. **LD**

LD to source venues and prices for holding a 5km indoor event. **LD**

11. National Squad/Team:

See attached report.

After some discussion, eight swimmers were selected for Development Squad trip to France in July with a further 4 to be selected after the West District Championships on the 23rd June.

Actions :

EB to contact the initial eight swimmers selected.

EB

BB to draft information sheet for district convenors to obtain district funding for development squad trips.

BB

12. Technical Officials

See attached report.

LR to contact OW referees regarding availability for this season's events.

LR

13. Safety:

See attached report.

JG to organise safety boat cover and canoe cover for this year's events.

JG

14. District Reports:

West District : no report

North District : see attached report.

Midland District : no report.

East District : see attached report.

15. Communication:

BB has sent information to those with E-mails on the membership list (approximately 350). This needs to be updated as entries are received for the various events during the season.

Actions : Mail list to be updated from entry forms.

**CG, LD,
JE, AG**

Domestic Events Coordinators Report

The 2012 Domestic calendar has now been confirmed and is on the website along with all relevant entry forms.

Arrangements and planning are ongoing for the Scottish Championships which are being held at Loch Venachar this year. The committee will get a chance to see the new venue at our next meeting and will be updated regarding progress of the event organisation.

All district championships and the national championships will be included as usual in the Grand Prix this year.

Decision regarding holding a 5 km indoor event will have to be made at next committee meeting.

Lynne Deans

Team/Squad Manager Report

Action Points per BB's List of 20 May 2012:-

1. Compile list of team managers and coaches – this has been only partially successful. We have a list but not a great deal of positive response. I am delighted that Alison Low has agreed to be coach for the team at the French Nationals next month and that Alistair Calder and Maggie Donnelly have agreed to be staff for the July trip.

I have once again asked Ally White if he can recommend or assist in any way. He had suggested John Dougall but so far I have no response from him. There were a number of coaches who attended the training days who expressed an interest and that is to be encouraged. I will keep plugging away.

2. The 22 April training day, while long (although not as long as anticipated due to my error in the final session pool booking!) went very well and we had positive feedback from the participants – swimmers, coaches and parents. I would recommend something similar next year. The introduction of the physio was a great success.
3. Late season team event. Cyprus in October would appear to be the best option. I will up-date with more details at the meeting.
4. Faros marathon. We will be considering which swimmer should go forward over the next weeks.
5. Brian is team manager for the French Championships in June. Team selected and accepting are Mark Deans, Helen McRoberts, Camilla Hattersley, Rebecca Smith and Ishbel Rodger. Brian has organised everything. I am grateful to him for doing so as I left for Australia on 23 April and was of no use to anyone for the next 3 weeks.
6. Development squad. 12 swimmers will be selected. Brian and I have almost completed the selection of the first 8 and the remainder will come from results at the West District Championships. I have been in touch with the French connection (organised by Brian) re accommodation. Flights and travel arrangements still in course. Probably leaving 6 July and returning 16 July.
7. ASA regions – I am not convinced we will have much take up for this but do think we could at least encourage the swimmers who do not gain selection for the development squad to enter these races. I intend to circulate the swimmers who were at the training day and others interested to urge them to do so and coordinate travel plans if they wish.

I am finding that my work commitments, and my own coaching commitments, are becoming increasingly heavy so any help I can get from others will be welcome. Brian does a huge amount already for which I am eternally grateful – but if any committee member could assist especially with making lists on the pc that would be great – Brian will confirm how useless I am at this! I am a pen and paper person.

Open Water Officials Coordinator's Report

The flyer which was produced by British Swimming has now been sent to the four District STO Convenors in PDF format. I have confirmation only from West District that it has been circulated to their pool STOs. I have no idea whether or not the other three have circulated it.

I now have a copy of the OW1 training presentation from British Swimming and a copy of the experimental OW2 draft presentation (it has not been delivered south of the border yet either).

The OW1 Training Presentation was delivered on 19th May to seven members of YeAABA, who are now looking for mentoring and signatures. Should you know of anybody interested to OW1 training or indeed OW2 training, please let me know, since now have all the information we need to deliver the training. It will be important to assist all candidates to gain experience and mentoring and this should not be confined to their own District. In the context of these seven, this may involve STOs from other Districts attending YeAABA meets and candidates attending other Districts (for example YeAABA appear to have no events which use turn buoys).

Standard forms have been re-examined, updated and are now available.

Les Rodger

OW STO Co-ordinator

Safety Coordinator's Report

Radio communications (VHF licenses)

I have completed my SRC radio course. This will allow for communication with safety personnel who already use this form of communications.

All other volunteers will continue to use the non-licensed radios.

Whistles

I have purchased 12 more whistles to be issued to the canoes.

Zoom binoculars

I have purchased zoom binoculars to test. These will be stand mounted.

RLSS

I have requested support from the Royal Life Saving Society. I have spoken with Maggie Archibald who is their West Scotland conveyor. Maggie has passed our details to Alison Wilson is the liaison between the RLSS and The Great Scottish Swim.

Safety cover

West District

- Red Cross - booked
- Safety boats - we will be using the Strathclyde Park boats crews.(x2)
- Canoe cover – have contacted the following canoe clubs for support
 - Monklands – based at Strathclyde Loch – will support but numbers not yet known
 - East Kilbride – cant help
 - Cumbernauld & Kilsyth - TBC
 - Strathkelvin – TBC
- Water Quality – tested by venue.
- Risk Assessment – outstanding.
- Radios – non VHF radios will be hired from Scotia Radio who will set up our own dedicated user group.

I will be visiting the venue with Carole Gallacher over the next few days

Scottish

- Red Cross – needs to be confirmed with Red Cross. We are requesting particular Red Cross staff however needs to be confirmed.
- Safety boats - we will be using Venachar Sailing club rescue boats.
- Canoe cover – have contacted the following canoe clubs for support
 - West Lothian – supported us last year.

- Stirling University – closest club to Loch Venachar
- Water Quality – TBC but current understanding is that Scottish Swimming need to carry out the test.
- Risk Assessment – outstanding
- Radios – to be decided following the West trial of hired equipment.

Forth

- Red Cross - arranged
- Safety boats – Doug Milne
- Canoe cover – Fife Sea Kayak.
- Water Quality – N/A
- Risk Assessment – TBC
- Radios – TBC

East - TBC

- Red Cross - arranged
- Safety boats – TBC – possibly Doug Milne
- Canoe cover – Fife Sea Kayak.
- Water Quality – TBC
- Risk Assessment – TBC
- Radios – TBC

North

- Red Cross – TBC Red Cross swift water rescue team?
- Safety boats – TBC Red Cross swift water rescue team?
- Canoe cover – TBC
- Water Quality – Tested by venue
- Risk Assessment – TBC
- Radios – TBC

Contact list

Canoes

Sourced from the Scottish Canoe Association. (Attached) I have contacted a selection of the clubs.

Safety boats

WIP

East District Open Water Report

District Open Championships

This will take place on Saturday 8th September.

Please Note that there is a change of venue for the event this year. It will take place at the National Water Ski Centre at Townhill Loch in Dunfermline. The OW license for this meet has been granted, and entry forms are available for download in the Open Water section of the Scottish swimming web page, and soon on the new east district web page.

Due to the location and date this event, it will be included in the Dunfermline District Sports Council Sports for All week programme.

For the first time, temporary Scottish Swimming memberships will be available for this event. Swimmers not affiliated to Scottish swimming will be able to apply for a temporary SASA membership, at a cost of £15 (made payable to SASA), and be covered for this event as non-district swimmer.

River Forth Swim

Due to a major regatta at Port Edgar this event has had to move to from Sunday 9th September to Friday 7th September at 18.30. Again this event is sponsored by the Dunfermline District Sports Council as part of Sports for all Week.

The OW license for this meet has been granted, and entry forms are available for download in the Open Water section of the Scottish swimming web page, and soon on our new district web page. For the first time, temporary Scottish Swimming memberships will be available for this event. Swimmers not affiliated to Scottish swimming will be able to apply for a temporary SASA membership, at a cost of £15 (made payable to SASA), and be covered for this event.

This year estimated entry times are required to enter this event and a cut off time of one hour will be applied to the swim. Any swimmer not completing the swim within this time will be removed from the water.

Open Water Training

I am at present in communication with the Water Ski Centre at Townhill Loch to set up training sessions. This will probably start in mid June and be Sunday mornings 9.30-10.30. This will be open to SASA registered swimmers only (for insurance). Showers and changing facilities will be available at the Ski Centre. (Also looking into the possibility of having a fun session with ow training first followed by water bumping/ skiing and barbeque)

Sea training is has started at Silver sands beach Aberdour on Tuesday evenings at 6 pm. Already the water has warmed up in the last few days and there has been a regular attendance of swimmers. It is hoped to get access to the new shower and changing facilities there.

Open water training is available under the auspices of other organisations, for example the Triathlon section of the Edinburgh Road club and include venues such as Portobello beach, Gullane, Threipmuir reservoir, St Mary's Loch and Lochore Meadows (every Wednesday from 23rd May).

District Competition Trip

Details still to be determined

North District Open Water Report

Our information and training day is on the 9th of June on the River Dee, starting at 4pm. The venue is Aberdeen Boat Club, which will provide facilities for the presentation/discussion, changing and showers.

Wet suits can be worn for the session as the water will probably be a little cooler.

There will be no charge for attendance since the event is funded by SASA North District.

As to date I have not had any officials contact me regarding Open Water officiating.

So far no details regarding safety cover for the Open Water Championships.

I have received 2 entries to the North District Championships at Loch Morlich on the 11th August.

The OW license for this meet has been granted, and entry forms are available for download in the Open Water section of the Scottish Swimming web page. For the first time, temporary Scottish Swimming memberships will be available for this event. Swimmers not affiliated to Scottish swimming will be able to apply for a temporary SASA membership, at a cost of £15 (made payable to SASA), and be covered for this event.

Jennifer Ewen
North District Convenor