

SCOTTISH AMATEUR SWIMMING ASSOCIATION

Draft Minute of the Meeting of the Swimming Committee held on Sunday 26th May 1991 at 10.45am in the University of Edinburgh Staff Club.

Attending : Mr. D. Brown (Convener) Mr. W. Charles (Ex-officio)
 Mr. Dashwood-Brady (East) Mr. H.H. Smith (Director of Swimming)
 Mr. S. Davidson (Midland)
 Mr. J. Phillips (North) Mr. D. McGowan (by invitation)
 Mr. T. Nelson (West)
 Mrs. F. Smith (Co-opted)
 Mr. K. White (SSCA)

Apologies : Mr. G. Philp (President), Mrs. J. Cochran (Vice-President),
 Mr. W. Black (General Secretary).

The Meeting observed a minute of silence in respect of Mr. Douglas McIntyre who, until his recent tragic death, had been a member of the National Squad Coaching Staff.

Members noted that the Swimming community had been well represented at his funeral.

1. Minutes of the Meeting of 24th March 1991

The Minutes of the Meeting of 24th March 1991 were approved without amendment on a motion proposed by Mr. Phillips and seconded by Mr. Nelson.

2. Matters Arising

Page 1 : 2(a) Edinburgh Meet Accreditation

It was noted that the Accreditation Application for 1992 had already been made to the East District and approved.

Members considered the wider issues raised previously of tighter conditions for Accreditation approval to provide a more effective sanction for the Association. However, with the possible exception of legal clarification on rights to inspect the financial accounts of meets to ensure that only legitimate payments had been made (eg for swimmers' expenses), the Meeting did not propose any changes to existing provisions.

Page 1 : 2(a) National Staff Seminar 1991

It was confirmed that the Seminar would take place on Saturday 31st August at Cramond Campus with the SSCA Seminar being held on Sunday 1st September. It was agreed that the Staff Seminar would be based on 'Workshop Sessions' and that a Working Group of the Director, Mr. McGowan, Mr. Lynn and the Convener would deal with the necessary preparation of material.

Page 2 : 2(b) Edinburgh District Council

Mr. Charles (Treasurer) confirmed that no response had been received from EDC to the SASA payment without conditions ; it was not known if EDC had presented that cheque for payment.

Page 2 : 2(b) Rankings

The Convener noted that no progress was being made on this matter which is only one of many which is exposing the weakness of the Association in not having technical expertise on the site of the main administration of the Association. Mr. White indicated that the SSCA held a similar view. While some elements might be delegated away from the SASA Office (eg the East District initiative on rankings) the Meeting was of the view that the real need was for technical expertise on site and to ensure co-ordination of activities through that Office.

Page 3 : 3 Correspondence (Tait & McLay 91.063)

The Director of Swimming advised the Meeting that he had contacted the firm as requested and had been advised that they would be briefing their client within a few weeks and would contact us again.

Page 3 : 5 Budget

The Convener advised that the computer printout for Swimming contained some obvious anomalies (eg Water Polo costs for Ulster Games) which would have to be sorted out with the Treasurer. Subsequently, a meeting between the Treasurer and the Convener was provisionally identified for the first week in July.

Page 4 : 6 International Reports

The Convener apologised for duplication of some Reports and the late issue of others. The problem stemmed from a lack of clear procedures and would

2. Matters Arising (Continued)

be taken up at the Staff Seminar on 31st August and subsequently with Office staff.

Mr. McGowan drew attention to the increasing importance of the coaches' Reports because of the value of the technical information which they contain.

Page 4 : 7/8 Domestic Programme/Venues

The Convener advised that the formal request for use of Glenrothes for the Inter-District had now been sent by the Office - no problems were anticipated.

The Director advised that negotiations were still underway with Dunfermline in respect of the Sprint Meet.

Although it was noted that there may be problems in obtaining use of Bon Accord Baths in Aberdeen in 1992, it was decided that letters should be sent to Johnstone (Club Team), Bellshill (Inter-District), Larkhall (Sprint) and Aberdeen (Winter Championships) for the 1992 events. It was also decided to propose the equivalent dates as for 1991 on a provisional basis with positive confirmation to those authorities by the start of December 1991.

ACTION : Mr. Charles to initiate in SWSA Office and to discuss where necessary with Convener.

Page 4: 9. Multinations (LEN)

The Convener drew the attention of the Meeting to four main points associated with this event. First, that we had made a provisional commitment to host this event in 1992 and had withdrawn that offer. Second, that we now had a provisional commitment to host the event (one fixture) in 1993 and to compete in the Lisbon fixture in 1992. Third, that this event is important because, like the 8 Nations at Senior level, it provides Scotland with opportunity to compete as a full National Team at Youth/Junior level and, as such, is favoured by the Scottish Sports Council. Fourth, that in the view of the Convener, we could not compete in 1992 and then withdraw our hosting 'obligation' for 1993 at the 1992 LEN Conference.

The Meeting agreed to recommend to Council that :-

- (a) Specific sponsorship should be sought to support the hosting of this Meet ; ideally some £6,000 to £7,000.
- (b) That television interest should be stimulated and obtained to support sponsorship.
- (c) That the sponsorship for such a special event might best be obtained through an agency working on a % of sponsorship achieved basis.
- (d) That the Swimming Committee will re-consider the matter in December 1991 once the financial status has been clarified.

Page 5: Statement of Logic of Year Programme

The Director of Swimming agreed to retrieve his original statement and to revise it as appropriate for the 1992 Programme Guide which the Committee should be considering in August/September 1991.

ACTION : Director of Swimming.

3. Correspondence

The following items of correspondence were considered in detail :-

91.093/91.179 : These items related to the matter of the attendance of the Director of Swimming at the World Cup Final. Members were clear in their recollection of the meeting of 24th March that no objection had been made to the proposal agreed by the Swimming Committee - in addition, no formal communication had been received from Council rejecting that proposal.

However, the Committee expressed serious concern about the issues arising from the matter.

- i) The Director of Swimming noted that he had not received any written communication from Council on the matter and advised that his contract with the Association included responsibility for the nomination of 'staff' to Meets.
- ii) Mr. White noted that the Wave Programme proposal had been approved

by Council and that an essential element of that programme is the direct involvement of the Director of Swimming.

- iii) Members agreed that the Wave Programme required the 'hands-on' involvement of the Director of Swimming.
- iv) Members noted the current staffing difficulties at the SASA Office but were of the view that the appointment of a Technical Assistant would do much more to alleviate those problems than to prejudice future developments by diversifying the role of the Director of Swimming.
- v) Members also noted that no one person could satisfy the needs of swimming (technical) leadership at the top level and satisfy the developmental needs at grass roots level - the example of the SRU was cited in the latter instance with their appointment of regional development officers.

Arising from the above considerations, the Meeting asked the Convener to convey to the Executive Committee the following :-

- (1) The deep concern of the Swimming Committee that such problems should have arisen from a recommendation made by the Swimming Committee ;
- (2) That, in the view of the Swimming Committee, little advancement if any will be made in Scottish Swimming unless there is a major review of the structure and that revised structure provides for swimming (technical) leadership at the highest level.
- (3) That there is a clear need to redefine the role of the current post of Director of Swimming ; that role might be better based on a post of 'Chief Coach' or 'National Squad Chief Coach'.
- (4) The Director of Swimming indicated to the Meeting his willingness to negotiate with the Association on the establishment of such a post and on his undertaking of such a role.

ACTION : Convener to advise the Executive Committee immediately of these recommendations/views.

91.108 : 8 Nations Selections : The Meeting homologated the actions taken since the meeting of 24th March. Mr. White advised that the SSCA had given consideration to the problem of preliminary identification of swimmers for the Ulster Meet 1992 and the 8 Nations Meet 1992. Mr. White was asked to advise the SSCA that the Committee would welcome their views for consideration prior to the establishment of selection criteria for 1992. (includes items 91.126/91.131)

91.112 : Non-use of EDC Pools : The Meeting hoped that a resolution of the differences between the Association and EDC could be achieved in order to clarify the availability or otherwise of the RCP in 1992 and beyond.

91.141 : Service to the Press : Mr. McGowan and the Convener expressed concern that the Team Selection for the 8 Nations had been available to Mr. Wallace since receipt of the circular dated 22nd March. Mr. Charles noted that as late as 15th April, changes were still being made. The Convener agreed that there had been ongoing discussions regarding that selection but pointed out that...

- (a) the official notice of selection had been sent to Mr. Wallace on 22nd March ;
- (b) Mr. McGowan and himself were still receiving telephone calls from members of the Press in mid-April because no release had been issued ;
- (c) The second 'release' on 15th April dealt with changes to the Team due to illness/withdrawals/substitutions - a normal situation.

91.161 : Mr. McGowan and the Convener confirmed that a set of 8 Nations Results had been sent to Mr. Bush.

91.167 : Milngavie & Bearsden ASC : The Meeting considered the letter of 22nd April from Mr. J. Ramsay Morton (Secretary). The last paragraph of that letter was noted in particular and the Committee sought through explanation of the circumstances to identify the issues of principle for the future. Points noted included the following :-

- (a) That the swimmers had been aware of the possibility of selection for the World Cup Final from as early as the Milan/Bonn Meets with performance at Sheffield being significant. The swimmers were advised at Sheffield by the Director of Swimming of their selections.

Because of the previously noted problems associated with the Director of Swimming's participation in the World Cup Final, he was unable to advise the swimmers of the full arrangements. That matter was not resolved until the following Tuesday at the Easter Swim School and the Director of Swimming subsequently telephoned parents and advised of the arrangements for travel. Accommodation was not known at that time.

- (b) Swimmers were advised of the initial hotel accommodation on assembly at Gatwick and could have informed their parents from there or from Vancouver on arrival : parents could also have obtained that information from the SASA Office.
- (c) The Director of Swimming confirmed that he had accepted an invitation from Mr. Clive Rushton to stay over in Canada on swimming business prior to arranging the flights. For the return journey, the Director had taken the swimmers from Victoria to Vancouver and there put them on the plane for Gatwick.

The Convener expressed concern that this arrangement should have been made without prior consultation or agreement resulting in a situation where swimmers on official business of the Association were allowed to travel unsupervised.

The Committee gave careful consideration to this matter and noted that :-

- (i) That the Team Manager/Coach should under normal circumstances travel with the Team ;
- (ii) That any exception should have the prior approval of Swimming Committee or be the result of an emergency situation.

The Director of Swimming agreed to the above guidelines.

91.175 : Hind Sponsorship : Mr. McGowan advised the Committee that, at the 8 Nations Contest, the Scottish Team was the 'poor relation' in terms of Team Kit. Ireland, also sponsored by Hind, had additional kit specific to the Contest - Scotland did not even have sufficient hats or costumes. The Director advised that Hind had promised a better deal for Scotland for the next two years (1992/93).

91.187 : Reciprocation : The Committee noted the decision to offer reciprocation in terms of hosting (4 + 1) to Sweden for the National Open Championships. The Committee recognised that as a nation we must be seen to offer hosting in response to hosting received from other nations ; the problem centred on the classification of meets and other nations would not normally offer hosting for their National Championships.

Mr. McGowan offered to discuss with the Association the possibility of sharing reciprocal hosting as a cost between Cumbernauld and the SASA for the Cumbernauld Meet, thus responding to other nations without offer for National Championships. The Committee agreed to establish a Working Group (Mr. Charles, Mr. McGowan, Mr. H.H. Smith, Convener) to investigate this possibility.

91.191 : LEN Conference : The Committee noted the comments of the Convener and recognised the importance of using the opportunity to promote Scotland as a separate entity. Equally, it was recognised that entries to the LEN Calendar had to be made under the GB listing.

91.193 : Co-opted Members : The Convener was asked to establish the voting rights of co-opted members. The Committee noted that two co-option places were still available.

91.224 : 4 x 200m F.R. Trophy (Women) : Mr. Charles sought the assistance of all present to locate the missing Trophy - according to the records, that should be held by City of Dundee.

4. Reports

a) Report to Council (24th March)

The Committee noted with gratitude the reported offer by a Midlands District Club to donate a % of income raised to the Games Fund - an offer which could generate £600 in a year.

The Committee also supported a suggestion that the National Championships Organising Committees be asked to circulate donation boxes amongst spectators for the Commonwealth Games Fund.

4. Reports (Continued)

b) Information Up-date (14th April)

This Report was approved.

c) Information Up-date (27th April)

This Report was approved.

d) Supplementary Report to Council

This Report was approved.

e) Lactate Testing

Mr. Davidson presented his Report and identified the requirement to formalise the roles of Drs Howat/Robson and their fees. In discussion it was noted that Mr. Davidson, Mr. H.H. Smith and the Convener should combine to draft the 'remit' and that the sum of £300 each plus approved expenses be offered. It was also noted that this sum was already contained in a provision for this purpose.

Mr. Phillips questioned the value of such testing unless the information obtained is related to the coaching input to the swimmers tested. The Committee agreed that a 'corporate' approach is needed and that this might well be re-emphasised through seminars to coaches.

This Report was approved.

f) Len Calendar (part Report)

This part-report was noted.

5. International Programme

Additional Reports were tabled from Mr. Lynn (8 Nations : combined coaching report) and Mr. Figgins (Luxembourg Meet).

The Committee considered and approved the following Meet Reports noting that swimmers' times were now available for all :-

Milan and Bonn	Ulster Games
Malmo and Rostock	
Thames Valley	
8 Nations Contest	
Luxembourg	

In respect of the 8 Nations Contest Report, Mr. McGowan pointed to the need to shift priority onto senior swimming and, in particular, to the building of the mens' Team. The positive role of the Director of Swimming was noted and the fact that the Team overall achieved the objectives identified by finishing 3rd, just behind the second placed nation. The Convener thanked the Association for the opportunity to be with the Team and congratulated the Staff on their hard work and the excellent job done for the Team.

It was noted that the only outstanding Report (World Cup Final) would be circulated by the Director of Swimming within the next week.

6. Wave Programme

The Director of Swimming confirmed that the paper circulated to the Committee had been sent to the Sports Council with a covering letter. The Committee welcomed the clarification of activities to budgets (Wave or Core) which could now be made.

Consideration was given to the extension of opportunity to participate in the training weekends in June/July at East Kilbride. Following careful consideration of issues arising, it was agreed that :-

- a) Jean Hill and Ruth Gilfillan be invited to participate assuming satisfactory levels of performance at the National Championships : costs to be met from Core Funding.
- b) That Jonathan Kerr and Peter Henry be invited to participate assuming satisfactory levels of performance in the National Championships : costs to be met in full by the individuals.

7. Domestic Programme

(a) National Open Championships

The Convener advised that he had received the ranked list of entries from Mrs Brockie on the previous day. The Convener tabled summaries of those entries together with a note of suggested cut-off times. The Committee expressed concern that the reduction from 8 to 6 lanes appeared to result in the potential exclusion of many home swimmers ; in addition, the timing proposed by the Convener appeared to be conservative. As a result, the

Committee asked the Convener and the Director of Swimming to revise, where possible, the numbers of heats and to try to extend opportunity wherever practical.

(b) National Age Group Championships

The Convener advised the Committee that he had prepared an 'Eratta' sheet to be circulated to correct errors which had appeared in the official Meet Information. The Convener expressed concern that these errors should have appeared (i) in the events and (ii) in the Consideration Times. This latter situation (more than 30 changes from the Annual Programme Guide) was a particular puzzle as the Convener had been careful to use the published times from the Annual Programme Guide and the only changes which should have been made were those for a separate 15 years group. In fact, changes had been made over all age groups.

In discussion, it emerged that the most likely explanation was that potential adjustments for the Consideration Times had been recorded on disc and that those times had been retrieved, adjusted and published without checking.

Note : discussion on the remaining Domestic Programme items was suspended to the next meeting.

8. Other Business

(a) Junior Olympics (July : Belgium)

Mrs Smith offered to collate times submitted by the District Conveners for swimmers with potential for selection :-

Boys 76/77+ Girls 78/79+
 100/400m Free
 100/200m other strokes
 200m I.M.

Times can be short or long course but must be clearly identified as either.

(b) National Championships 1992

The Director of Swimming asked that thought be given to a change in the 1992 Championships Programme to allow for better preparation/competition prior to Olympic Selection.

Essentially, the proposed change is to hold the National Age Group Championships in mid-June and the National Open Championships at the start of July.

9. Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed that a short meeting be held on Sunday 16th June at East Kilbride (probably at lunchtime) ; details to be notified by the Convener.

Douglas C.J. Brown
 Swimming Convener
 27th May 1991