

# GLOUCESTER COUNTY ASA

President: Mr Andy Liddle



## GCASA Executive Meeting

**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2017 commencing at 7.30 pm.**

Berkley Suite, Best Western Gables Hotel, Falfield (GL12 8DL, 01454 260502)

## Attendees

### Honorary County Posts:

Keith Smith (Secretary), Andy Liddle (President) Alexander Scott (Administrator), Brian Armstrong (Masters/Open Water), Ian Stuart (Synchro), Phil Jones (Water Polo), Marion Britton (ASA SWR Swimming Committee Rep)

### Club Delegates:

| Club                         | Delegate 1       | Delegate 2<br>(and Delegate 3 if applicable) |             |
|------------------------------|------------------|--|-------------|
| Bristol Henleaze SC          |                  |  |             |
| Bristol Masters SC           | Herbie Adams     |  |             |
| Bristol North SC             | Gerald Staddon   |  |             |
| Bristol Penguin Olympic SC   | Jeremy Dudley    |  |             |
| Bristol South SC             |                  |  |             |
| Brockworth SC                | Steve Bramwell   |  |             |
| Cheltenham S&WP Club         | Ian Stuart       | Phil Jones                                   |             |
| Cinderford & District SC     | Matt Rogers      | Alexander Scott                              |             |
| Cirencester SC               | Peter Bennett    |  |             |
| City of Bristol              | Nicky Booth      |  |             |
| Dursley Dolphins             | Michael Aldridge |  |             |
| Gloucester City SC           | Gavin Phillips   | Andy Osborne                                 |             |
| Gloucester Masters SC        | Brian Armstrong  |  |             |
| Lydney SC                    |                  |  |             |
| Portway SC                   |                  |  |             |
| Sevenside Tritons            | Rachel Roberts   | Keith Smith                                  | Andy Liddle |
| Soundwell SC                 | Rhona Phelps     |  |             |
| Southwold SC                 | Shaun Pellow     | Steve Jones                                  |             |
| South Glos Water Polo Club   | Gerald Staddon   |  |             |
| Stroud Masters SC            |                  |  |             |
| Tewkesbury SC                | Allan Clift      |  |             |
| United Bristol Swimming Club |                  |  |             |

### Past Presidents:

Herbie Adams, Pauline Adams, Marion Britton, Herbie Adams, Ian Stuart, Phil Jones

# Agenda

| Item   | Action   |
|--|--|
| <p>1. Apologies</p> <p>Brian Guy (Treasurer), Neil Harper (Officials), Mark Collins (City of Bristol), Paul Tuffin (Dursley Dolphins)</p>  |  |
| <p>2. Minutes of the 9<sup>th</sup> January 2017 meeting</p> <p>Minutes of the meeting of 9<sup>th</sup> January 2017 were approved with request for future minutes to have page numbers. President signs them off as a true record.</p>   |  |
| <p>3. Matters Arising</p> <p>Brian Armstrong has successfully followed-up Clubs for contact information of medalists of European Masters Championships</p> <p>No Agenda items were put forward to Brian Armstrong from County members for the South West Region Meeting of Masters Swimming</p> <p>The County successfully recruited the needed number of officials to successfully run the 2017 Championships</p> <p>County Secretary wrote to Alan Green (Divisional Lead) and established that a miscommunication was the reason for Bristol GCASA Clubs not receiving an invitation to the launch of Bristol City as European City of Sport. However, Bristol GCASA Clubs are encouraged to engage the Council about participating in the upcoming annual events. These clubs are also encouraged by the County to enquire about whether they can attend 'year of sport' meetings in Bristol City Chambers.</p> <p>City of Bristol and Gloucester City Swimming Club have both received the agreed-upon £500 grant for supporting disability swimming.</p> | <p>County President to draft letter of congratulations</p> <p>Keith to forward Alan Green's original response onto all Bristol GCASA Clubs so they can make contact towards engaging in activities at their own convenience.</p> |
| <p>4. Treasurer's Report</p> <p>County Secretary reads Treasurer's Report in the absence of Treasurer and shares with executive the following points highlighted in the report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ There still needs to be a factoring in of costs of the administrator and county camps</li> <li>→ We are looking at a deficit of around £10,000 next year if we maintain the same level of development grants</li> <li>→ The committee needs to decide at the AGM how much we can run down our reserves next year</li> </ul> <p>The County notes and thanks Brian for a detailed Treasurers Report.</p> <p>The County agrees that the AGM is the time to decide at what level do we want to hold reserves effectively so we can manage our budget sustainably. AGM will see an agreement on contingency limit.</p>   | <p>County Administrator to check past minutes for reference to amounts previously agreed upon.</p>   |
|  |  |

## 5. Activity & Reports

### a) County Swimming

Steve Jones (County Championships Organiser) reports on County Blocks 2017. He raised the following points:

- Entry numbers were higher than last year (increase of 20)
- The introduction of consideration times gave organisers the desired flexibility for schedule changes. There was subsequently a reduction in scratched entries across the County.
- Breaststroke and Butterfly times could have been more relaxed as there were not many entries
- While doing distance but short course events at Hengrove saw entries increase by 15, there were substantial increases to the net financial costs. The County could potentially halve the cost by running distance events at GL1.
- Session management of officials mostly worked well except for a few occasions when clubs struggled to provide people. However, a learning point taken is to recruit officials for events based on which clubs have the most entries in each specific event.
- Having one club leading the organisation of County Championships was a success
- Event Scheduling went well. There were not many difficulties and there was impressive support and attendance for the finals. A suggestion for next year is to try preventing late finishes on Saturday by putting these long sessions on early Sunday morning.
- The 15-minute break between heats and finals needs to be extended to 30 minutes to properly allow for the allocated 15-minute slot for withdrawals
- Presentation and medals all went down very well. The structure of doing an event, then presenting, then another event, then another presentation, worked better than waiting until the end for a big presentation. Intend to do it the same way next year.
- Questions were raised over how trophy winners are worked out. While Blocks 2017 took guidance from County Website, County Secretary believes they need review.
- Team events went well. Proposal for next year is to have an earlier cut-off (potentially on Saturday evening) for changes. Dealing with whole team changes on the Sunday morning put pressure on scheduling and resulted in unnecessary stress and mistakes. There was also an issue with compatibility of High Tech files when teams sent in normal spreadsheets. Only when there is a nighttime injury should changes be accepted on the Sunday morning.

Steve Jones then opened the floor to questions & comments from the executive on County Blocks 2017. Questions & comments included:

- Establishing that Sara Part is in the process of locating a batch of missing bronze medals
- Informing the executive that a follow-up meeting will take place on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2017 to discuss what improvements can be made for next year
- Discussion around whether swimmers should swim in age group or championships finals (when their time is fast enough). While this problem doesn't tend to occur, it will be addressed on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2017.
- Finalising how County Trophies (notably the Helen Elkington Trophy and De Lancey Cup) are allocated on point system. See 'Other Links' for agreement of rules
- County agrees and passes motion to implement County Blocks 2018 on same weekends and locations as last year with the only change that the distance events are moved back to being long course.
- This approved move is followed up with another successful motion that

County Secretary to liaise with Steve Jones, Sara Part and Gerald Staddon to finalise County Trophy Criteria

Compatibility issue to be addressed in follow-up meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2017.

Age Group / Championship Final issue to be addressed in follow-up meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2017

Sara Part to book pools for next year's County Championships

- gives the go-ahead for the booking of pools for next year's blocks
- Discussion around whether County should sponsor distance meets in the Autumn to try and increase entries. However, County concludes that there is enough opportunity to register times and encourages clubs to continue to invite other clubs to distance meets. The conclusion is that most clubs offer opportunity to register times and swimmer do find ways to do so.
  - County records its thanks to Sara and Steve for doing a good job with this year's blocks.

Other County Swimming issues raised:

Three County Development Camps are planned throughout this year with Marion Britton as team manager and James Richards as Head Coach. Invitations have been sent out and the staff are in place. First camp takes place on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2017 at the Badminton School, Bristol. The executive welcomes this news and notes it is the first camp for some time.

James Richards will be the lead coach and organizer for both the Three Counties Competition and the Inter-County Championships.

b) County Masters Swimming

Brian Armstrong adds to his manager's report that:

- South West Region Masters Championships will be short instead of long course at Horfield. Will clash with dates of Gloucester County Masters competition. Brian currently liaising with interested parties about when and where it is run.

c) County Open Water

Brian Armstrong adds to his manager's report that:

- Weymouth is the intended venue for the South West Regional Championships and is scheduled to take place on June 24<sup>th</sup> 2017
- This is their preferred location as they wish to avoid the temperature dropping too low for event to go ahead
- However, they are struggling to get the minimum number of safety boats for the event and so there is a possibility that the venue may be changed to Devon
- Wiltshire have declared they have "no interest" in including the Gloucestershire Championships with their event despite it being more cost effective. They have not yet given a reason for declining a cooperation.
- However, there is promise for working with commercial events such as LPS Events

d) County Swimming Officials

Due to Neil Harper's absence, there is nothing to add to his report.

e) County Synchronized Swimming

Ian Stuart has nothing to add to his report.

f) County Water Polo

Good news from Cheltenham Swimming and Water Polo Club; they produced a champions' performance to defeat City of Manchester 18-9 in the final match of the Super 5s programme at Gloucester. They retain their championship title of the British Water Polo League.

#### g) County Para Swimming

Due to Josh Pattison's absence, there is nothing to add to his report. However, the County wishes to place on record their thanks for the good work being done by Josh for the purposes of disabled Swimming.

#### h) South West Regional Updates

County Secretary Keith Smith reports on a lot of changes:

- From 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017, ASA will be known as Swim England
- Rebranding was to better market the work they do and attract sponsorship
- Swim England are in the process of becoming an incorporated company from their October Council meeting onwards. This will allow them to enter into contracts and protect their officers from being sued.
- What is not clear is how the governance of ASA (Swim England) will change. At the moment there are two boards – the Group board and Sport board – but they will need to create a new board for the new company structure. If the old boards remain, this new board – the company board – will be above them. While its structure is not yet known, it is unlikely there will be space for all the regions to be represented on it. This will be voted on at the upcoming ASA Council meeting.
- Swim England (ASA) previously relied on Sport England for funding through two streams; talent pathways in all aquatic sports and participation, healthy living, etc.)
  - For the talent pathways, Swim England are likely to continue to receive funding
  - However, for participation, Sports England are setting up separate funds for other organisations in the community to apply for
  - The consequence of this is that from 1 April 2017, Swim England no will longer receive this funding at previous levels. This funding largely went on staff wages which means that Swim England staff are now at risk
  - It is unclear who can bid for the new Sports England funding. We only know that the National Governing body cannot, it is unlikely that the Region but possible that both County and Clubs can.
  - For more information, see Sports England website
- In terms of consequences to the South West Region, The SW ASA will take on some of the costs and responsibilities previously covered by ASA. For example, staff that previously answered to the ASA will now come under the direct line management of ASA SW region. SW region will keep officials and staff although it will be at significant cost to them. This is one of the reasons why they have been building up such solid financial reserves.
- The ASA SWR's focus continues to be to invest in volunteers
- Moreover, a Club Development Committee has just been established (a constitutional part of ASA SWR) which absorbs the job of Swim 21 Panel and adds additional services to its remit. They are to be a resource tool for clubs which provide services such as governance best practices, advice for accreditation, etc. They will soon be launching a survey for clubs to fill in a form on what they most need support in; the committee will gather this data and structure a pathway for responding to these needs.

The County notes that these are times of significant change and – for the moment – the impact on County and Clubs is still unclear.

