



GLOUCESTER COUNTY ASA

President: Brian Guy



MINUTES OF GLOUCESTER COUNTY ASA EXECUTIVE HELD AT THE GABLES, FALFIELD, GLOS ON MONDAY 15th SEPTEMBER 2014

Attendees:

Hon County Posts:

Brian Guy – President, Karen Bailey – Treasurer, Alan Giles (Open Water)

Club Delegates:

Club	Delegate 1	Delegate 2
Bishopsworth SC	Grace Williams	
Bristol Central SC	Nicky Booth	
Bristol Henleaze SC	Brian Guy	
Bristol Masters SC	Herbie Adams	Pauline Adams
Bristol North SC	Janet Staddon	
Bristol Penguin Olympic SC	Jeremy Dudley	
Brockworth SC		
Cheltenham S&WP Club	Ian Stuart	
Chipping Camden		
Cinderford & District SC	Matt Rogers	
Cirencester SC		
City of Bristol SC	Nicky Booth	
Dursley Dolphins		
Gloucester City SC		
Gloucester Masters SC		
Harlequins WPC	Gerald Staddon	
Lydney SC		
Portway SC		
Sevenside Tritons		
Soundwell SC	Darren Stone	
Southwold SC	David Lowther	
Stroud Masters SC		
Tewkesbury SC	Allan Clift	
United Bristol Swimming Club	Brian Guy	

Past Presidents

Marion Britton

Frank Keeble

Item	Action
<p>1. Apologies: Sheila Bryant (Severnside), Neil Harper (Officials), Keith Smith (Secretary) Dave Beaumont (C.O.B.), Mike Hynd, David Cousins (Bristol Penquins), Marcus Lee (GCSC), Richard Tomlinson (County Championships)</p>	
<p>2. Minutes of Meeting 10th March 2014: Minutes accept.</p>	
<p>3. Matters Arising from 6th January 2014: None</p>	
<p>4. Correspondence None</p>	
<p>5. Treasurers Report</p> <p>David Bishop had supplied an account summary for circulation prior to the meeting. The committee welcomed Karen Bailey to the meeting and formally voted Karen on to the role of Treasurer. The Treasurer reported healthy accounts Brian Guy, President would like to take this opportunity to thank David for his time and contribution in the role of Treasurer for the GCASA.</p>	
<p>6. County Championships 2014 Richard Tomlinson was not available for the meeting but had supplied documentation on the Blocks 2014 review meeting and proposals for review and sign-off for Blocks 2015. The committee would like to thank Richard and his team for the work put in on the management of the Blocks and welcomed the input from the clubs and increased visibility of the Blocks planning and execution. <i>Report supplied as appendix 1 to the minutes</i></p>	
<p>7. Activity and Reports</p> <p>a. Swimming – Blocks 2015</p> <p>Richard Tomlinson had supplied proposed Blocks 2015 documentation for circulation. <i>See attachments.</i> The only topic for discussion was with regard the “date as of”. It was agreed, as the ASA will not be making a decision until the 1st week in October as to whether the date will be 31st March 2015 or 31st December 2015 for County dates, that the date would remain as the 31st March 2015 with agreement to change to 31st December 2015 if the date is changed. If 31st December is the agreed date consideration times would be supplied.</p> <p>b. Open Water – Alan Giles</p> <p>Alan reported, although Henleaze are no-longer part of the ASA, that as this year, they are very happy to run open water sessions evenings and weekends (by prior agreement) for clubs and swimmers wishing to partake in open water swimming. Alan will continue to work with SWR Open Water team to promote and facilitate open water opportunities. This year was the first time in 52 years that water polo had taken place at Henleaze Lake and was enjoyed by all those that took part.</p> <p>c. Swimming Officials – Neil Harper</p> <p>Neil Harper was unable to attend the meeting and had notified the administrator that there was nothing to report.</p>	<p>Richard Tomlinson</p>

<p>d. Synchronised Swimming – Ian Stuart</p> <p>Reports had been received and previously circulated for both Cheltenham and Bristol Central Synchronised Swimming clubs. <i>See Appendix 2. Bristol Central Synchro has achieved Beacon status.</i></p> <p>e. Water Polo – Phil Jones</p> <p>Nothing to report.</p> <p>f. Disability – Josh Pattison</p> <p>No report supplied. Disability swimmers had competed well at Nationals and other events during the summer.</p> <p>g. Masters Swimming – Herbie Adams</p> <p>Herbie reported that the Masters meet at the weekend had been very successful however the 25-40 age group were very low in entries. There were quite a lot of new first time masters swimmers and a number of senior swimmers attended as officials which was welcomed. Numbers have fallen over the past two years and a review into the viability and possible changes was requested for a future Exec meeting.</p> <p>h. Regional – Keith Smith/Marion Britton</p> <p>Marion and Keith had attended the regional meeting the previous day. Marion reported that there was no representation for the Aquaforce Awards by Gloucester County which was disappointing. Bristol Penguins confirmed that they had submitted an application and this would be investigated as to why this was not received. It was requested that SWR information such as the AquaForce Awards be made more public to the County Clubs via Gloucester County (however it should be noted that generally clubs are also informed via their points of contact by the ASA SWR). It was felt that finding information of the SWR site was difficult.</p> <p>GCASA members are not eligible to apply for SWR bursaries. The County has opted out in favour of the current County development grant.</p> <p>Clubs to be reminded about Ray Clash Memorial Fund which can be applied for to assist swimmers in difficult circumstances. Admin to also include in next newsletter. SWR (development funding) is available to clubs – an applications form is available on the SW website.</p> <p>SWR had also requested some high resolution photo's of County swimmers for use in their annual report. County Admin to liaise with clubs to forward photos.</p> <p>Allison Usher has now left SWR, her workload is currently being shared by the remaining team however it would be looked to fill this role.</p>	<p>County Admin</p> <p>County Admin</p> <p>County Admin</p> <p>County Admin</p>
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<p>8. A.O.B.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Alan Giles suggested that the production of a monthly/bi-monthly activities list would help to focus attention on when key events take place and ensure that the relevant people are informed and documentation produced and circulated in a timely manner. County Admin to liaise with County Secretary to produce an annual time table of activities. b. Club Development Grant. The majority of clubs had taken up the funding and cheques had been supplied. A few clubs had not responded by the beginning of September they had been contacted to remind them. c. Keith Smith had selected a team for the inter-county at Sheffield on October 19th 2014 and clubs and members had been notified of the selection. The County are required to supply 2 officials, 1 official had been agreed so far. d. County Hand Book – Herbie had discussed this with SWR – it was proposed that the County take ownership of their hand book and publish on the County Website providing a link to SWR. It was agreed that this was a practical way to manage the hand book going forward. We need to decide the best way to do this, agree content, how to keep current, and how to communicate. It could be that the handbook is a collection of items on line and not a single distributed document. Suggest a separate meeting to discuss approach. Sec, Admin, Herbie & President? e. C.O.B. and Tewkesbury had supplied amendments to their constitutions. Herbie and Sheila, as agreed, would review and supply feedback or sign off changes. f. Marion raised the topic of Team Manager training. Courses are run throughout the year but currently Marion is the only trained Team Manager Tutor. Clubs to be notified of a requirement for more Team Manager Tutors and ask that anyone interested in receiving training to let Marion know. Admin to contact all clubs and publish in next newsletter – add to agenda for next Exec Meeting. 	<p>Keith Smith County Admin</p> <p>Herbie County Admin Secretary</p> <p>County Admin ALL Clubs</p>
<p>9. Next Meeting: Exec Meeting – 17th November 2014 – 7:30pm</p> <p>All meetings to be held at The Gables Hotel, Falfield, Glos – just off Junction 14 of the M5</p>	

Appendix 1 – County Blocks Review Meeting – 20th July 2015

R Tomlinson	GCASA Meet Manager	RT
K Smith	Sevenside Tritons/GCASA Secretary	KS
P James	Cinderford and District SC	PJ
J Randall	City of Bristol	JR
M Britton	Bristol Central	MB
N Booth	Bristol Central	NB
J Falco	Bristol Penguins	JF
J Dudley	Bristol Penguins	JD
S Jones	Southwold	SJ

The approach taken to facilitate the discussion was to go through the draft programme and conditions for 2015 as a means to highlight the key issues. Any remaining issues were then discussed under AOB.

RT stated that following the meeting the draft programme and conditions would be updated. All documents would then be discussed and further updated by the Championship Review Group before being submitted to the September Executive Meeting for sign-off.

1. Draft Programme for 2015

(a) Proposed changes

- Session 1a/1b : Distance events to be held at Bristol Hengrove
- For distance events (200m+) where possible events will be swum as 10/over as this will reduce the number of heats and reduce the waiting around time for younger swimmers.
NB Races for 10/11 for other distances are needed to create rest time for 12/over swimmers competing in Championship finals.
- Similarly, as the number of entries has been low for all butterfly events these will be swum as 10/over races.
- Where possible the same events will be swum for all age categories either on the same day or on the same weekend.
- The order of events has been changed slightly to reduce the duration of Session 5.

The group were comfortable with these changes but flagged that the qualify times for butterfly events are challenging when compared to regional qualifying times.

(b) Other items discussed

NB queried why there were no finals for 400m events.

RT confirmed that this change was made for the 2014 Championships to be consistent with Regional Competitions and to create more time within the programme as it remains tight to complete all the races within the pool time available.

RT stated that he had received mixed feedback from swimmers/coaches/parents on this change with the majority supportive of the change but a small number did prefer the previous approach.

2. GCASA Championship & Age Group Conditions 2015

All changes proposed were supported by the group unless stated explicitly below.

(i) Eligibility

This has been simplified to state that by the relevant closing date for entries swimmers must be a registered member of the ASA in the name of the club they are to represent.

(ii) Refunds on the grounds of ill-health

Swimmers will be able to withdraw from competition on the grounds of ill health and receive a refund of entry fees on submission of a letter from their GP to the Meet Manager.

The Group agreed that letter from the club's Head Coach would also be sufficient.

(iii) Year of Competition

No change was proposed to the previous approach of 1st April- 31st March inclusive, with an age at date of 31st March 2015.

The group, however, agreed we should align with the expected changes to Regional and National age at dates i.e. have a unified end of year date, of 31st December 31st 2015.

(iv) Electronic Entries

Clubs will be able to submit all entries electronically without the need to send any hard copies. Electronic payment will also be available and Clubs given a unique reference code.

(v) Entry Close Dates

There will be two close distance

- 18th December 2014: Distance Events (800m/1500m Freestyle)
- 23rd January 2015: All other events

(vi) Period for eligible times

This has been extended to the previous calendar year to allow swimmers to use times swum at the previous year's Championships.

(vii) Qualifying Times and Consideration Times

It was noted that the change to the age at date would effectively "age up" 75% of swimmers and hence make the qualifying times harder to achieve. The group did not wish to weaken the qualifying times but asked the Meet Manager to consider the use of Consideration Times to manage the number of competitors who could take part.

(viii) Time Trials for MD swimmers

The Meet Manager software only allows MD swimmers to compete in that category. Hence we will only allow them take part in non-MD events (subject to achieving the relevant qualifying times) on a time-trial basis.

(ix) Championship Finalist Medals for 400m/800m/1500m events

Championship Medals will be awarded to 4th to 8th place swimmers on the basis of times achieved in the heats as there are no Championship finals for these events.

(x) Age Group Place medals (4th to 8th)

It was proposed that we stop giving medals for these places for ages 12-14.

The group was not in favour of this change.

RT flagged that he would need additional help sorting out medals in 2015 as continues to be a big administrative burden.

(xi) BAGCAT Awards

It was proposed that we moved to Awards just for 1st, 2nd and 3rd.

The group felt that these Awards were not valued by the majority of swimmers and did not act as driver for swimmers to compete in a wider range of events.

Hence the group felt that they should be discontinued.

(xii) Stroke Awards

In 2014 out of 48 awards, only 28 were collected either as result of no eligible swimmer or swimmers forgetting to collect their award.

These awards will be discontinued.

3. GCASA Team & Team Championships Conditions 2015

(i) Eligibility

This has been simplified to state that by the relevant closing date for entries swimmers must be a registered member of the ASA in the name of the club they are to represent.

(ii) Year of Competition

No change was proposed to the previous approach of 1st April- 31st March inclusive, with an age at date of 31st March 2015.

The group, however, agreed we should align with the expected changes to Regional and National age at dates i.e. have a unified end of year date, of 31st December 31st 2015.

(iii) Electronic Entries

All entries must be submitted using the Hy-Tek software only.

The aim is to have a single "Meet" file for both the Individual and Team Championships to reduce the administration for clubs.

(iv) Finalists for Age Group Events

It was proposed that the 8 fastest teams should compete in the final irrespective of which Club they represented.

The group was divided on this point with all but two individual in favour of this approach. Due to concerns over dissuading smaller clubs entering teams the two individuals felt the existing rule (limit each Club to one team in the final) should be retained.

(v) Age Group Place medals (4th to 8th)

Age Group Finalists medals will only be awarded in the 9/10 year age group.

4. AOB

(i) Team Manager Lite Issues

NB flagged issues she had had with loading the software onto her Windows 8 laptop.

RT confirmed that he would work with Clubs if they had issues using the software but that we would expect Clubs to take necessary steps to comply with the Conditions.

(ii) MD Awards Presentations

NB noted that MD swimmers were kept waiting at the end of Session 5 for their awards due to issues with other events. RT confirmed that he would seek to avoid this happening in 2015 and present the MD awards as early as possible.

(iii) Photographer

KS suggested that we should arrange for a professional photographer to come to some sessions

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(iv) Equipment at GL1

The group enquired as what steps were being taken to ensure GL1 maintain the equipment at GL1 e.g. the previously unreliable starter boxes.

RT confirmed he would be meeting with GL1 staff to discuss this.

The group also suggested that GCASA may be able to borrow Club's starting equipment if this compatible.

R Tomlinson
21st July 2014

Synchro report to the Gloucestershire County ASA
Executive meeting, Best Western Gables hotel, Falfield, Glos
15th September 2014

The Walsall Trophy, a SWR competition with six clubs taking part, took place at Cheltenham on 17th May 2014 with Cheltenham entering an U12 duet and team and an U25 duet and team.

The Novice Figures competition, which gives many swimmers their first competition experience, was held on 28th June 2014 at Cheltenham with five clubs taking part. The next competition is the Multi Regional recreational strand competition being held on 27th September 2014 at Plymouth.

The final competition of the year will be the National Age Groups on 5th December - 7th December 2014 at GL1 in Gloucester when swimmers from Bristol Central and Cheltenham will compete.

The ASASWR Synchro Standing Committee will meet on 20th September 2014 at the ASASWR office at Wellington.

Numerous skill assessment days have been arranged around the country which Gloucestershire swimmers attended, and development days have been held locally and regionally for swimmers, coaches and officials. More assessment and development days will be held during the year, using the Burnham-on-Sea pool as a venue.

I would like to thank Alyson Bashford, Mary Hooper and Viv Ebbs for organising and publicising these days and their involvement in the organisation of competitions, and to thank all the coaches, officials and volunteers for their time and dedication.

Ian Stuart

Gloucestershire County member of the
ASASWR Synchro Standing Committee

Bristol Central Swimming Club – Synchro Section - Report 2013-14

The synchro section achieved Beacon funding at the end of last year.

Being one of four Beacon synchro clubs in the UK, the club's lead coach ran the South West Region Beacon club squad which consisted of 14 girls from 6 network clubs selected from the results of the National Age Groups – Dec 2013. The squad trained once per month for 6 months, and the training included Land training (body conditioning and flexibility) Nutrition, water drills and figures. Coaches from the south west network clubs were also invited to attend the sessions to assist and learn from these sessions.

In January 2014 9 girls from the club were selected for GB and England squads:

G Randall – Full time GB Squad

C Shortman, I Thorpe, K Shortman – part-time GB Squad

C Leech, E Denner, H Morgan – England Junior Squad (18/u)

C Shortman, C Davis, I Thorpe, K Shortman – England Talent Squad (15/u)

D Lloyd - England Talent ID Squad (13/u)

In March G Randall competed for the GB Squad at the French Open in the Team and Duet competition.

In May our girls in the England Junior and Talent Squads travelled to Croatia to compete in the Croatian open competition. Both England Teams coming 1st, I Thorpe and K Shortman - England Talent Duet 1st and C Leech and E Denner - England Junior Duet 4th.

July – G Randall and C Shortman competed for the GB Squad at the European Aquatic Championships in Germany. G Randall competed in Solo – 13th, Duet -13th, Team 12th, and along with C Shortman in the Combo team coming 10th.

Beginning of September the England Talent squad travelled to Greece competing in the Mediterranean Cup with nearly 30 countries competing (all competitors 13 to 15 years with a total of just over 200 girls competing). K Shortman and I Thorpe swam the Duet (being the youngest in the competition) coming 13th out of 22, then joined by C Shortman and C Davis for the team coming 10th out of 16.

BSCS Senior squad competed in the British Championships in April

C Leech coming 1st in Figures and Solo – British Champion

C Leech and E Denner – 1st in Duet

Technical Team – 1st

Free Team – 1st

Combo Team – 2nd

We are now training towards the following competitions:

South West Region Recreational competition – End of September

Multi-Regional competition – October

Scottish Championships/Age Groups – End of October

National Age Groups – December

Georgina Coombs

BCSC coach and committee member & SW Region Synchro Committee member