

OXFORDSHIRE & NORTH BUCKINGHAMSHIRE ASA

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP DE-BRIEF MEETING held at Bicester LC on Tuesday 4th April 2017

Present: P.Shaw , I.Powell , O.Stockland , W.Patrick , J.Murphy , C.Oliver , M.Merrison , D.Wheatley (AV) ,
S.Barber (Ayl) , A.Skelton(Oxf) , A.Brewer(Max) ,H.Patrick (NP) , C.Clavaud(Wit) , K.Weetman (4S)
Apologies: C.Jones , S.Wrenn , P.Jones (Th) , Z.Cummings (BE) , C.Rennie(Want).

1. Dates for 2018

The following dates are proposed for 2018.

Sunday 7 th January 2018	1500/800/Boys AG Relays	The Leys Pool , Oxford
Sunday 14 th January 2018	400's/Girls AG Relays	Aqua Vale , Aylesbury
Sat/Sun 3 rd /4 th February 2018	Main Champs	Aqua Vale , Aylesbury
Sat/Sun 10 th /11 th February 2018	Main Champs	Aqua Vale , Aylesbury

Pools have been provisionally booked and confirmation has been received.

2. Qualifying Times

QT's will be as 2017

3. Closing Date:

The closing date for entries is Monday 11th December 2017

4. Entry Time set period.

Other than 400/800/1500 events submitted times must have been set between 10th April 2017 and 11th December 2017. Submitted times for 400/800/1500 events must have been achieved no more than 12 months prior to the closing date for entries (that is between 12th December 2016 and 11th December 2017 inclusive)

Note: For 1500 / 800 / 100IM events (restricted entries events) , once accepted entries have been sent out/posted to website no changes will be accepted for these events , even if the Club Data Entry person has made an error.

5. Programme

To remain the same as 2017

The feedback received from Coaches and swimmers indicates that the A & B Finals worked well in the unfortunate circumstances of having to lose the individual 16 yr age group. It gave , in all events bar one , an opportunity for at least three 16 year olds to compete in a Final and be eligible for a Junior Championship. It also allowed several more senior swimmers to compete in a Final. Simon Barber noted that some Aylesbury parents felt that the B Finals were a waste of time because the 17+ swimmers could not achieve a Podium position from the B Final. The general consensus was , swim faster in the Heats to make the B Final if you wish to be in contention for the County Championship or withdraw , remembering of course that it is not the swimmers who are complaining.

We have very recently been informed that S15 swimmers are not allowed to compete at County Championships. Therefore the Para Swimming Championship Conditions for 2018 will be amended to reflect that.

6. Event entry fee for Individual and Relay events to remain at £5.50.
7. Door entry for the 400m Events on the 2nd Sunday (14/1/18) to be charges on session entry rather than a single all day fee.
8. Withdrawal System

For 2018 and beyond, withdrawal forms (one per session per Club and not in advance) **MUST** be received by the Admin Room **NO LATER THAN THE PUBLISHED WARM UP START TIME FOR THE GALA.**

This is 15 minutes earlier than previous Championships.

This will allow the Admin Room sufficient time to amend the database, produce the start lists and Officials paperwork , and print the Start Lists for marshalling , commentators and Coaches.

This brings the provision of withdrawals in line with the provision of Relay Declaration Forms ...by the start of warm up for that session.

9. Medical Withdrawals and Refunds

Ian had a number of requests for Medical Withdrawal and refunds several weeks after the end of the Championships.

The relevant Promoters Conditions will read:

13.b.

“ A Refund will be given on production of Medical Evidence and will be for **ALL** the remaining Championship events that the swimmer has entered “

13.c.

“ In order to qualify for a refund , the Championship Secretary must be advised of any medical withdrawals at the first possible opportunity and no later than 24 hours after the conclusion of the final gala of the County Championships “

10. Questions from Bourne End SC

A) How rigorously are the entry times checked against official rankings (At BSB , entry forms are linked to rankings , like the SER entry process , so are verified on entry) ?

That can't be done with Hy-Tek , though we run a data file for all times swum against accepted times and any swim time highlighted is queried individually with that swimmer's Coach. There were 7 times queried out of 3400 swims this year and all were explained satisfactorily. We also have the vigilance of other swimmers , other swimmer's parents and other swimmer's coaches ,

as occurred this year with it being pointed out about a lead off leg being incorrectly submitted as an entry time. That swimmer had an alternative qualifying time within the Accepted band and was able to swim.

- B) Pre-pool warm up areas. I know this is something that you and Ian looked at during the Championships. It would be helpful to have an area for the swimmers to skip/stretch etc , if the weather is not suitable to do so outside.

The Centre requested this year that the areas around the public showers and the leisure area should not be used for stretching/skipping, for public privacy reasons. Unfortunately , as confirmed by the Maxwell and Aylesbury reps at the De-brief there are no other suitable areas at Aqua Vale available.

- C) Finals – if there is only 1 Finalist , do they have to swim to be declared winner? Given that this is most likely to happen to the youngest swimmers , going through the whole ceremonial process by themselves could be significantly intimidating. Also , if the point of the Championships is to enable the swimmers to produce their best results in a high level competitive environment then swimming by themselves would seem counterproductive?

It was generally thought by the meeting that the swimmer in question in the Boys 10/11 100m Fly enjoyed the experience. As far as performance is concerned he entered on a 1.29.12 , set a 1.28.90 in the heat (with other swimmers) and then set a time of 1.25.95 in the Final on his own. It is unfortunate that the Fly times within the 2009 A Grade times are skewed towards the early developer slightly more than the other strokes.

11. Chris Jones commented via email:-

“ From the Officials side we’ve talked about the method of registration to officiate and the mechanics of administration associated with that. The intention is to move to online registration using a free App that can be run and used from any electronic device. Some of the main Clubs in the County have experimented with it during the last 6 months and like it and have found it to be a great help “

12. A) Wayne Patrick commented (on behalf of others) whether an improved menu for the catering might be available in future. Catering is now under new management and has greatly improved both in quality and choice.

B) Wayne also mentioned that he is hopeful to find someone to take over from him from within Newport Pagnell to cover as Awards Trustee during his sabbatical.

13. Simon Barber queried the disproportionate number of Aylesbury volunteers being used in relation to the number of swims by their members. It was pointed out that Sandra Wrenn had carried out a rigorous exercise based on the exact number of swims to create her volunteer template this year.

Simon also mentioned about Aylesbury manning the Car Park . PS pointed out that it was logical that a local Club covered that position and Maxwell had done it for many years. The second , and far more serious question , was about the abuse of the volunteer in charge of the Car park. It was agreed that OS would write to all Clubs early next January , insisting that they warn all their parents and volunteers of the consequences of any one of their members abusing the Car Park warden.

14. Chantal Clavaud also mentioned the thorny issue of “towels on seats “ placed in advance , by swimmers usually , to reserve seats. It was noted that volunteers responsible for keeping the gallery in good order have been abused by spectators over this issue. Moyna Merrison and Sandra Wrenn to discuss this issue further.

15. Alastair Skelton felt that , in contrast to Aylesbury’s feelings , that as far as City of Oxford were concerned the proportioning of volunteers was greatly improved this year.

16. Sandra Wrenn commented via email:-

The decision to appoint Venue Volunteer Co-ordinators to manage the rota on the day worked well and I would like to thank Deb Smit at Oxford and Moyna Merrison at Aqua Vale.

The use of bottled water for the Officials and key helpers worked well.

Unfortunate incident of verbal abuse towards the car parking volunteer by an Official. All Officials are advised that reserved car parking is only available if they are officiating at all sessions.

Volunteers – following the requested review of role allocation I found it necessary to send urgent emails for “names in the Frames” only a few days before the main weekends. I appreciate this is difficult but we cannot run the Championships without volunteers to perform vital roles and all Clubs should contribute.

17. Jo Murphy asked about the County Hats – some suggested that they were not being bought because they were not dated. Various suggestions about selling remaining undated stock at cost price and then ordering a smaller level of dated stock for 2018. JM and WP to review and advise accordingly.

The Meeting closed at 8.35pm

Peter Shaw
7th April