

OXFORDSHIRE & NORTH BUCKINGHAMSHIRE ASA

President: Peter Shaw

Executive Committee Meeting held at Bicester on Tuesday 16th May 2017

Present: P.Shaw , I.Powell , S-A Clavaud , H.Patrick , J.Murphy , M.Fuller , W.Patrick , & reps from Abingdon Vale , Aylesbury , Bicester , City of Oxford , Newport Pagnell , Wantage , Witney and Witney Synchro Swimming Clubs.

Apologies: A.Brewer , S.Wrenn , C.Jones , J.Fenton (Oxf) , A.Skelton (Oxf) , H.Mack (RDO).

57.0 Minutes of the Executive Meeting held on 14th March 2017 were approved and signed.

58.0 Matters arising from Item 57.0 : None

59.0 Correspondence

1. Stowe School appeared on the Suspended Club List at the beginning of April , on the 10th May and now , as at the 24th May. Membership Services have advised that if this is not resolved by 5th June , their membership will be lapsed.

2. Swim England advised us on March 31st this year that we were incorrect to include S15 swimmers in our MC events at our County Champs. ONB had not been previously advised of this and Licensing had not picked up on it. We have therefore had to amend the MC Promoters Conditions accordingly. A parent considered it appropriate to spread gossip that not only had this been a local (ONB) decision but that on the basis of how badly she and her daughter had been treated by the organisers at this year's Champs , she was not surprised. That is grossly unfair and inaccurate but apparently in character.

60.0 President's Report

Peter Shaw presented his Report which is attached.

61.0 Treasurer's Report

Ian Powell presented his Report which is attached.

IP instigated a general discussion/explanation about the massive increase in charges proposed by Aqua Vale for the hiring of that facility for the 5 days of Champs in Jan/Feb , the potential reduction in Profits from the Champs that fund all our activities (County Team, Camps , LC Training , Coach Education, Club Funding etc) and the implications of all that. IP emphasised the need for Budgets for 2017/18 and beyond to be carefully prepared in advance of the AGM on 11th July.

62.0 Disciplines

1. Swimming: Ian Powell presented his Report which is attached. Further to that report which covers the minutes of the De-brief Meeting and its decisions , IP requested approval from the Executive for an increase in Event entry fee from £5.50 to £6 and a review of Door Entry fees. This request relates to the issue of Aqua Vale requesting a near 90%

increase in facility hire charges and the probable need to raise our charges as a consequence.

2. Fixtures: Nothing to Report
3. Records: No Claims received.
4. Synchro: Mandy Fuller presented her Report which is attached.
5. Masters: No one in Post so no report
6. Disability: No Report received but see correspondence above.
7. Masters Records: No Claims received.

8. Facilities: Simon Barber reported that the new Blocks had been installed at AV. It was also noted that the Blocks would not be transferrable to other Pools within ONB.

9. Officials: Chris Jones was unable to get his report to the meeting but it is now available and is attached.

63.0 Coach Education

Ally Brewer and Helen Mack reported via email that the candidates for the 2nd Level 1 course had received all details on Monday 15th May accompanied by a request to get SER Bursary applications to Bryony Gibbs by the 22nd May. There are 14 candidates. The L2 course proposed for the Autumn is still in the planning stage.

64.0 Funding Applications

1. Abingdon Vale requested funding of £464.50 for various training aids e.g. swim parachutes and dry land chords which was agreed

2. Abingdon Vale also requested a retrospective contribution to the L1 coaching course undertaken last Autumn out of County/Region (no courses available) for which he received no funding. He has been coaching at Abingdon during University holidays and will be assisting Amanda Ford from September. A contribution of £110 was agreed.

65.0 Swim England South East Region (SESER)

PS presented Helen Mack's Report in her absence which is attached.

66.0 AOB

1. Jo Murphy commented on the shortage of Officials available to assist at galas in the Oxford area. JM to contact Chris Jones.

2. PS , as County Records Officer , introduced a discussion about times set by ONB Club members that are faster than the existing record but are un-claimable as the swimmer was representing a different Club , usually their University , when setting the time. There are several anomalies that need to be addressed and the extent of the affect on the existing records has to be analysed and when that is done PS will bring it back to the Executive for further discussion.

Meeting closed at 8.20 pm

NEXT MEETING: Annual General Meeting followed by an Executive Meeting at Bicester Leisure

Centre Creche on TUESDAY 11th JULY at 7pm

President's Report

16th May 2017

Firstly , congratulations to Joss Ulyett (City of Milton Keynes & Loughborough University) , British Champion in the 200 Breaststroke, British Record Holder in 2.22.08 , No 2 in the World Rankings (behind a 2 time drug cheat) and selection for the World Championships in Hungary in July.

Also congratulations to Callum Smart (City of Oxford) for GB selection for the World Junior Championships in Indianapolis at the end of July and Connor Bryan (City of Oxford) for GB selection to the European Junior Championships in Israel at the end of June.

It was brilliant to see two of our Clubs qualify for the Arena League A Final from the results of the Arena League last Autumn with City of Oxford qualifying through coming 5th in the National Virtual Gala with CMK coming 16th but qualifying for the A Final as East Midlands Champions. In the actual Final in Cardiff on April 9th City of Oxford finished 6th and CMK 9th , both fantastic performances against much larger Clubs from the whole of England.

Peter Shaw
President

Treasurers Report 16-05-2017

Below is a statement of the accounts as at 16th May 2017

Annual Income and Spending
Between 01/04/2017 and
31/03/2018

<u>Income Categories</u>	Total
County Gala's Income	
Miscellaneous Income	£1,376.24
Total County Gala's Income	£1,376.24
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<i>Total Income Categories</i>	<i>£1,376.24</i>

<u>Expense Categories</u>	
County Gala's	
Gala Expenses	£559.85
Miscellaneous Expenses	£455.99
Total County Gala's	£1,015.84
Gifts	£40.77
IT	
Software	£70.16
Total IT	£70.16
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<i>Total Expense Categories</i>	<i>£1,126.77</i>

Grand Total **£249.47**

Exec Net Worth
As of 16/05/2017

Account

Assets

Bank and Cash Accounts	Total
Cash - Competition A/C	£6.60
Cash - General A/C	£0.00
Competition Account	£1,224.70
Creditors Account	-£2,320.96
Debtors Account	£0.00
General Account	£2,160.77
High Interest Business Account	£33,630.74

Net Worth **£34,701.85**

I am preparing a budget, this will be shared with all key personnel to agree the proposed budgets for their specific areas, I will need these acceptances prior to presenting the County budget at the AGM with my account reports. Our expenditure has grown over that last few years and now we need a more formal budget so that we can plan for the future.

At present the championships is currently our only source of income, we will need to look closely at the county income and especially the expenditure. This is especially important now with the potential reduction in the county championships income from £11,000 to approximately £5000 due to the proposed increase hire charges from Aqua Vale. The county along with Maxwell & Aylesbury are in talks with Aqua Vale management to negotiate a stepped increase, however I need to plan/budget for the worst case scenario.

I will be looking at additional ways to raise income and may look at re-introducing the Club Affiliations Fees in the future. If we wish to continue to Fund the County team & Swimmer development to its current level, as well as all our other expenditure then increases in entry fee and door entries at the Championships may have to be applied.

I am preparing the accounts ready for auditing and will be passed to Jan shortly.

Ian Powell
Treasurer, Oxon & North Bucks ASA

Swimming Secretary Report 16/05/2017

My report is based on the debrief meeting held on 4th April 2017.

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, except Para Swimming Qual times are in accordance with the current Para Swimming guidelines for County level competitions.

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. **This was recommended to remain the same, but I am seeking approval from the executive that this can be reviewed once the final cost increases have been confirmed from Aqua Vale.**
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. **This was recommended, but I am seeking approval from the executive that this can be reviewed once the final cost increases have been confirmed from Aqua Vale.**
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.

Ian Powell

Swimming Secretary
Oxon & North Bucks County ASA

County Synchro Report

May 2017

Since March competition season has started with swimmers from the County attending competitions in Reading, Nottingham and Walsall – known results attached.

The first of the new format grade days for the South East was held on 13th May with 63 swimmers attending – pass rate overall was 42% but the standard in the lower grades was not very good with only 1 swimmer out of 16 passing. It remains to be seen if this pattern is repeated in other parts of the country and whether this is a reflection on the new grading system or coaches not fully understanding the system and what is required.

We have been informed that although FINA changes for the next four years come in this summer England synchro will not be using the new FINA figures until 2018.

Candidates have been attending various officials' courses but due to changes at Head Office results are slow in being sent to candidates -some have waited 10 weeks for their results which has proven difficult for competition organisers to use new officials.

Swimmers from the County continue their Beacon squad training and England Talent Squad Camps and are preparing for Competition in July.

Mandy Fuller
Synchro Sec.

Officials Report for County Meeting 17th May 2017

Uptake of Courses

The interest in attending courses at all levels continues strongly and recent courses have been very well attended. Two candidates from the last Starters course have now fully qualified as Starters with more to follow shortly.

Regional Championships, Senior and Junior

Officials from the County recently worked at both the Senior and Junior Regional Championships where their presence, professionalism, competence and standard of dress were positively commented upon and which helped to set them apart from those officials from other parts of the Region.

Unfortunately both Championships suffered from severe delays, poor leadership and unreliable software systems which only served to detract from the good levels of performance achieved by the swimmers.

There was widespread discontent amongst coaches and no doubt changes will be called for and made for next years events.

Aqua vale AOE Developments

Following on from the work and changes initiated the County Championships, I can report that the new AOE implementation is bedding in nicely and will be used to complement the new blocks and backstroke ledges that have recently been delivered to the pool and will be used at the next meet held there.

COBIS

This years COBIS (Council of British International Schools) Games event was hosted by Stantonbury School on 11th April and was administered and officiated by County officials and volunteers.

The swimmers information provided by the schools was in some cases incorrect, amended and or late which in itself caused considerable delay. The schools themselves arrived late to the venue and a trying and busy day was experienced by all. The actual swimming went well however and the officials and volunteers efforts and professionalism they displayed throughout the day won praise from all quarters.

A internal debrief has been held but to date I have no further information. I understand that both the football and athletics events were similarly affected with administration issues similar to those experienced by the swimming competition.

Many thanks to everyone who helped with the event, to Sandra for her tireless efforts before and during the event and to Ian Powell for his help in the administration and swift payment of expenses claimed from COBIS to all involved.

Chris Jones
County Officials Secretary

Oxfordshire & North Bucks County ASA Meeting – May 2017

Swim 21

The following clubs are due to maintain their accreditation at the June panel meetings, submission deadline 19th May, 4 Shires SC and Abingdon Vale SC. City of Oxford SC are moving to the June panel and have completed their submission. Thame SC have been working towards their swim 21 accreditation and have currently completed 15 of the 16 elements.

Currently working with 4 Shires to confirm a safeguarding course date.

Team Manager Training course

Module 2 Wednesday 14th June 2017
Stoke Mandeville Stadium, Aylesbury
6.30pm – 9.30pm

Please e-mail Bryony Gibbs – bryony.gibbs@southeastswimming.org

Regional Coaches and Team Manager Conference

Sunday 11th June

Leatherhead Leisure Centre

9.30am – 4.30pm

This conference will be run in conjunction with England Programmes, content will be aimed at level 2 and 3 coaches and any trained Team Managers that wish to gain further knowledge on the role and to share good practice.

Regional 12 year old Swimming camps

In partnership with England Programmes the region will be running 3 camps for 36 12 year olds. Athletes will be selected based on the rankings following the regional age group championships.

Camp 1 – Saturday 8th July ACS International School, Cobham, Surrey

Camp 2 – Saturday 2nd September ACS International School, Cobham, Surrey

Camp 3 – Sunday 3rd December K2 Leisure Centre, Crawley

Synchro

The England Synchronised Talent Squad will showcase NEW Synchro Routines on Friday 2nd June 2017, 12 Noon – 1.00pm at The Garrison Sports Centre, Aldershot.