

2014 County Championships De-Brief

at Bicester Community College on Tuesday 22nd April 2014

Present: P.Shaw , I.Powell , H.Patrick , S-A Clavaud , A.Evans , J.Murphy , A.Minihan , W.Patrick ,
M.Bird , Z.Staines , N.Blunstone (+1) , I.Goetz , C.Clavaud .
Apologies: A.Brewer , K.Glass , K.Phillips.

The 2014 Championships , based on the number of Clubs who praised the organisation and outcome of the event , were a success. There were 4055 individual entries with 852 rejections = 3203 individual swims. There were 500 Relay entries with 38 rejections = 462 relay swims . Both were an increase on 2013 particularly the Relays. There were issues with the number of spectators at Bletchley for the Boys Age Group Relays and whipping for those events was very difficult . There were Starter Box Issues at the 1st Main weekend at Aylesbury and software issues on the 2nd Main weekend which led to delays in getting the 50 Free results out. Also the Top Club scores were incorrect (winning club not affected) and had to be adjusted after the end of competition. Again the swimming was fast with , at the top end , 96 Meet Best Times set (94 -2013) and 17 Junior & Open County Records (16 – 2014) . Finals were considered to be atmospheric and a great success.

1. Proposed dates and venues for 2015.

Sunday 8/2/15 1500/800/Boys AG Relays

Sunday 15/2/15 400's / Girls AG Relays

7-8/3/15 Main Champs 1st weekend

14-15/3/15 Main Champs 2nd weekend

2. Programme

As 2014

(with the proviso that IP will look at the AG Relay situation with a view to 1 or 2 entries per Club)

3. Qualifying period :- from 2nd May 2014

4. Qualifying Times

Accepted - 2009 A Grade Times – 7%

Considered - Accepted Times + 9%

5. Qualifying Time Checks – Ok

6. Age on Day / Bagcats /LTAD

The Review into LTAD (Long Term Athlete Development) that I understand was carried out prior to the Olympics is still buried. A new review by British Swimming is being undertaken and apparently the results of this and the implications for Age Group Swimming will be announced in

September . IP will look at these when they are announced to see if any ought or could be incorporated into the 2015 Championships. As it stands it is as it was at this years Champs.

7. Entry Fees

IP expects them to remain the same.

8. Disability

Retain additional events so as is for 2015.

9. Financials

Provisionally the Championships returned a profit of £6900 on £30500 income.

10. Trophies/Medals

Other than the odd label falling off the Age Group Relay trophies the Trophies and Medals were very well received.

11. Meet Entry Conditions:

IP mentioned that he may have to put a condition in regarding the removal of all exposed body piercings.

12. Volunteer commitment from Clubs.

AM reported the usual difficulties with getting certain Clubs (large and small) to provide the requisite number of Volunteers. She also reported that some volunteers were absolute stars and helped out at all sessions regardless of whether their children were swimming.

13. AOB

1. Negative comments regarding the appearance of 2 'professional' swimmers at a supposed amateur event were passed on to the meeting.
2. Mandy Bird (Bicester) commented that she enjoyed very much the commentary by Terry Ward.
3. Newport Pagnell raised the question of empty lanes in certain Finals.
4. Newport Pagnell also asked why the now covered lanes in the leisure section could not be used for warm ups.
5. Buckingham Maxwell asked whether the Age Group Relay awards could be presented rather than being collected.

These minutes will be discussed at the next Executive Committee on Tuesday 20th May at 7pm.