

2012 ONB County Championships De-Brief Meeting

held at Bicester Community College on Tuesday 15th May .

Present: J.Wilford , P.Shaw , I.Powell , H.Patrick , S-A Clavaud , T.Ward , K.Phillips , A.Brewer , A.Minihan & Reps from Abingdon Vale , Aylesbury & District , Banbury , Bourne End , CMK , Didcot Barramundi , Kidlington & Gosford , Maxwell , Newport Pagnell , Wantage White Horses , Witney & District & 4Shires Swimming Clubs.

Apologies: A.Evans , M.Fuller , E.House , A.Powell , I.Goetz (Thame) , R.Barton (ADSC) , L.Darnell (SEAO)

It was agreed that the 2012 Championships had gone very well , particularly after the concerns that we had about the on going refurbishment of Aqua Vale. Standards have again risen with an estimated further 2% improvement in standards. As an indicator at the top end of performance there were 126 Meet Best Times set (91 in 2011).

1. Proposed dates and venues for 2013

10/2/13 1500/800m & Boys Age Group Relays :- Bletchley

17/2/13 400m & Girls Age Group Relays :- Aqua Vale , Aylesbury

9-10/3/13 Main Champs 1st Weekend :- Aqua Vale , Aylesbury

16-17/3/13 Main Champs 2nd Weekend :- Aqua Vale , Aylesbury

2. Programme

As 2012 but only 1 Session for Boys AG Relays on 10/2 and only 1 Session for the Girls AG Relays on 17/2. (It was agreed that the mid session break and 2nd warm up was unnecessary)

3. Qualifying Period

To be extended for 2013 Champs to allow times set at Regional Youth Champs to be used. Therefore beginning of Qualifying period will be approximately 29/4/12.

4. Qualifying Times

Accepted Times will be set at 2009 ASA A Grade Times – (minus) 6%

Considered Times will be Accepted Times + (plus) 8%

Please note that Accepted + 8% is NOT the same as ASA A Grade + 2%

5. Relay Declaration Forms

In future Relay Declaration Forms must be submitted no later than 15 minutes after the start of the Warm Up instead of by the start of the Session as has been the case previously.

Penalties for incorrect withdrawals will also apply to the withdrawal of Relay teams if Clubs fail to withdraw Relay teams correctly.

6. Qualifying Time Checks

Following post competition analysis a number of swimmers have been identified as failing to meet their submitted time by a substantial amount. Clubs will be contacted in due course for explanations.

7. Membership Queries

There were several membership queries that were exactly the same as 2011 queries. IP requests that Clubs ensure that their databases are corrected. If IP chooses not to spend many hours dealing with these unnecessary repeated queries then those swimmer's times will not end up on the ASA Rankings database after County Results are submitted.

8. Age on Day

Age on Day will be at 17th March 2013

Please note that Bagcats , LTAD & Age on Day is currently under review by the ASA .

9. Entry Fees

Held at £5 per Event for 2013 although IP is looking at a possible increase for Distance Events.

10. Disability

Programme to remain unchanged for 2013.

11. Financials

Provisionally the 2012 Champs made a profit of £4700 on Income of £32800.

Queries raised by Clubs not covered by above and excluding peripheral issues and the very silly one!

12. Rankings

A query was raised regarding the inclusion of 1st leg Relay splits in the National Rankings. ASA confirmed on 23/4 in reply to IP that splits or relay leg times are not accepted to rankings unless they break a National record or are set at National or International competition. They also said that “ these are likely to be accepted in the near future “. When or how they will inform us is not known at this stage.

13. Trophies/Medals

There were several comments about these , mostly positive but some negative. Wayne Patrick , our Awards Trustee , will look at the issues raised. It should be noted that WP , in his first year as Awards Trustee ,is operating within a very constrained budget .

14. Relay Event Order

A query was raised regarding the order in the programme of the Open & Junior Relays and would it not be better if the 400 relays were at the end of the Evening session and the 200 relays at the end of the morning session rather than the reverse as now. The Coaches present responded very strongly in the negative, particularly on the Saturdays when their swimmers may be involved in Skins as well as the Finals.

15. Entry Times

A specific comment was made about the Entry Times being too high for some Events and that in some instances the Regional QT was slower than the County QT. This is not true if comparing like for like i.e. Accepted versus Accepted.

16. Volunteers

Anne Minihan (County Volunteer Co-Ordinator) commented on how superb the volunteers were this year particularly in their response to the Incident at Aqua Vale during the first main Weekend.

17. Distance Events at 50m Pool

Logistics, Availability, Costs, Officials are some of the reasons why we have not followed this up each time it is raised. If the new 50m Competition Pool at High Wycombe is built and it is hireable then we can revisit the issue.

18. Photographer

Not there each day. Due to refurbishment. Hopefully back to normal in 2013.

19. Each year it is noted that some age groups in some events do not have a full complement of swimmers in either the Heats and, therefore, the Finals. It is quite often the 100 Fly events for the younger swimmers in our County.

Qualifying Times are currently based on 2009 ASA 'A' Grade Times. They reflect recorded results in all events/ages/genders in the period 2005-09.

The standard in ONB has increased consistently year on year for at least the last 5 years and therefore the QT's have reflected that.

This is due to the exceptional commitment of Coaches, Swimmers and Parents.

ONB is possibly behind in Fly for young swimmers or, more likely, the 'A' grade times only reflect stats for the strongest 1% in the Country.

Regardless of the reason we will NOT manipulate individual events to make up numbers in those events. IP applies the criteria consistently across all events and genders. Manipulation of one stroke/event is unfair to swimmers in other strokes/events and will not happen.

20. Praise & Ian Powell

I would like to say that we have received a considerable amount of praise from Clubs for how efficiently the Championships ran this year which is very , very , much appreciated.

I would also like to highlight the extraordinary amount of work that Ian Powell does in organising the Championships, particularly in the past 12 months during a period of exceptional stress at work .

There is an enormous gulf between “doing it “and “doing it exceptionally well with the utmost concern for the swimmers “ and Ian perfectly exemplifies the latter .

Peter Shaw
26.06.12

Please also note Fun Night Out in Bicester on Tuesday 3rd July:-

ONB Annual General Meeting at 7pm followed immediately after by Executive Meeting (Appointments)