

2015 County Championships De-Brief

at The Littlebury Hotel , Bicester on Wednesday 22nd April 2015

Present:- P.Shaw , I.Powell , H.Patrick , S-A Clavaud , J.Murphy , C.Clavaud , W.Patrick & reps from Abingdon Vale , Aylesbury , Banbury , Bicester , City of Oxford , Didcot Baramundi , Newport Pagnell , Thame , Witney and 4Shires Swimming Clubs.

Apologies:- A.Evans , K.Phillips & A.Minihan.

Major Changes for 2016

1. Due to the Licensing requirements of running as a Level 2 Meet it will be necessary for all Entry Times for the 2016 County Championships to be entered on the National Ranking Database. Therefore all Meets used to gain County entries must be Licensed (L4 – L1) Unlicensed Club Champs or Time Trials (unless at a Licensed Meet and subsequently appearing on Rankings) will not be accepted. IP will allow 12 months for qualification for the 400's as well as the 1500/800's for 2016.
2. A further stipulation of the ASA Competition Structure Review is the introduction of a Championship Final for 200m races. Heats will take place during the afternoon session as usual. Age Group awards will be made based on those heats , as if it were a HDW. The fastest 8 swimmers overall in each 200m race will swim a Championship Final in the evening Finals session. The Championship will be awarded from that Final as will the Junior Championship. If there are not 3 Juniors in the Final then swims in the Heats can be used but not interrupting the sequence of those in the Final , even if those swimmers have swum slower in the Final than in the Heat. There will be 2 Reserves for the Final. Further swimmers may be called upon , if required , at the Promoters discretion.

There will not be any swim offs for the 200m Finals. If there are two equal times from the Heats and both swimmers wish to participate in the Final then the Promoter will toss a coin or equivalent.

To protect the swimmers from over swimming it has been proposed that Skins will no longer take place , the Championship and Junior Championship 4 x 100 Relays will no longer take place , and the Championship 100m IM will be fastest 24 entries only. The latter will allow qualifying for British SC Champs in the following December. The reduction in the 100IM entry will allow a small increase in numbers in other events on the 2 Saturday mornings.

3. In total contradiction of the stated aims of the ASA in creating the new Competition Structure , Licensing have stipulated that the birth years for the 10/11 Age Group for the 2016 Champs will be 2006/2005 meaning that swimmers who are 10 by 31/12/16 may enter , if fast enough. This means that boy and girl swimmers who are just 9 can swim in 100m heats and finals but 10 year old boys couldn't in 2014. To protect our ability to be granted Licenses without issue this will be concurred with.

“ Mea Culpa, Lisa “

Other:-

4. Dates for 2016.

Proposed dates for 2016 are:-

Sunday 10th January 2016 1500/800 Boys AG Relays Bletchley

Sunday 17 th January 2016	400's	Girls AG Relays	Aylesbury
Sat/Sun 6 th /7 th February 2016		Main Championships	Aylesbury
Sat/Sun 13/14 February 2016		Main Championships	Aylesbury

5. Qualifying Times

IP has done a lot of work on creating a new programme incorporating the above and again, as last year, is somewhat blind about the potential level of entries with little historical data to work with. His proposal is the following:-

Accepted:- 2009 ASA B Grade Times

50/100/200	-13%	(minus 13% of B Grade Times)
400's	-10%	

Considered:- 50/100	+8%	(plus 8% of Accepted Times)
200	+10%	
400	+ 6%	

As was discussed/explained at the De-brief the acceptance level all depends on space for swimmers on pool side. An explanation of the criteria of acceptances/rejections has been sent to the mailing list in the last few days. Please pass this on to Club committee/ Club members so there is a better understanding.

6. Closing Date for Entries in December 2015

Under discussion and will hopefully be announced at May Executive Meeting when these minutes will be formally discussed/adopted.

7. Profit/Loss for 2015 and Event Entry Fee

Not discussed at De-Brief but will be at May 19th Executive.

8. One of the overriding issues of the Championships is the safety of warm ups. This is greatly affected in some sessions by the Relay swimmers who have not competed in that particular session as individuals. This is particularly relevant in the evening for the Open 4 x 50 Relays where the return of "senior" swimmers is a highlight of the Champs. About a third of the Clubs give us their Relay selections at the time of entry with the ability to amend those by the usage of the Declaration Forms that have to be handed in no later than 15 minutes after the start of warm up of the relevant session. It is very tight for those relay participants to be entered and the Start lists to be produced in time. Also and most importantly knowing the level of "additional" swimmers appearing in any session where there are Relays will enable the warm up protocols to be written based on fact rather than hope!

Therefore we are requesting that, albeit a provisional selection, your teams can be provided at the time of entry.

During this discussion PS proposed that where possible, he sends the warm-up protocols in advance to the Coaches, as had to be done for the Girls Age Group Relays this year. 4Shires suggested that this would assist Clubs.

9. It was requested by City of Oxford and others that the various Gala Schedules could be combined and clarified so that the Gala Numbers and Event Numbers appear. IP to investigate.
10. Bicester wondered whether an ONB backdrop could be provided behind the Awards Podium .

This issue has come up from time to time and WP reminded the meeting that there is an issue with the Pool cover which prevents a sufficiently large backdrop to be positioned to ensure capture by the Official Photographer.

11. Questions from Didcot Barramundi:-

1. Move the 1500/800's after the 400's.....No , would be too close to Mains(and other reasons)
2. The perpetrator of the Incident in the changing rooms at the 1st weekend of the Counties this year has been arrested and is awaiting trial. A statement will be made in due course.
3. Can Finals be held at the end of each Session as a swimmer only had one swim and had to wait for Final.....No , the most exciting aspect of the ONB Counties is the Finals session. Also Finals at end of each Session are the main reason why the SER Champs are the least exciting Champs. Also get swimmer to enter more events.
4. MT Lanes in Finals.....document sent out to explain.
5. More Age Groups requested
6. Main Champs too long a day. (See 11.5)

The Meeting closed at 8.40

Peter Shaw