

2011 County Championships De-Brief Meeting

Held at Bicester 26th April 2011

Attendance: P.Shaw , I.Powell , J.Wilford , A.Evans , S.Radford (Bicester) , C.Clavaud (Witney) , S-A Clavaud (Witney) D.Jones (Thame) , C.Donlon (Bourne End) , J.Murphy (Didcot Barra) , K.Phillips (CMK) , L.Joyce (CMK) , B.Jones (NP) , W.Patrick(NP) , C.Eddy (Max) , D.Haward (Max) , A.Brewer (Max) , R. Fowler (Kid) , A.Booth (CO) , I.Smith (CO).

Apologies : I.Brewer (Max)

It was generally agreed that the 2011 Champs had been a success. Technical problems at Aqua Vale had been ironed out at the first Long Distance Gala on 13th February and subsequent galas worked well.

At the top end of performance there were 17 County Open or Junior Records set (13 in 2010) and 91 Meet Best Times (81) and of course the small matter of a British Junior Rec

Overall standards are continuing to improve by 2-3% per annum based on both the entry and actual performance standard. This, in a very large part, is due to the improvement of coaching standards in ONB allied to the increase in Pool time available, particularly for the younger swimmers. Unfortunately there is a limit to the number of swimmers that can be accommodated at the Championships due to the physical restrictions imposed at our Venues. That limitation dictates the number of entries that IP can accept. Consequently, with the standards improving every year and the physical limitations imposed please do not be surprised if the QT's become harder each year. PS mentioned that 10 years ago 9 – 12 year olds were not allowed to compete in 200m events, Long Distance Events etc. The Championships have expanded enormously in terms of number of accepted entries over the last 10 years, but still utilises the same 6 day time period!

With a view to re-introducing the Age Group Relays in 2012 IP explained that to do so would require Full Days (8am– 8pm probably) for both Long Distance days with the Girls AG Relays being held after the 1500/800 events and the Boys AG Relays being held after the 400's.(or vice versa). It may still be necessary to restrict the number of teams per club per event but hopefully not.

The dates proposed for the 2012 Champs take into account the lengthening of the period between full day galas at Aqua Vale so that is more acceptable to AV , therefore , to provide a fifth full day. The proposed dates for the Main Weekends are slightly later for that reason. As it would not have been possible to get a sixth full day at AV, the usage of the 8 lane pool at Bletchley for the first Long Distance Day is being proposed. Utilising the 8 lane pool at Bletchley will allow up to 40 acceptances in the 1500 and up to 72 in the 800.

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| Sunday February 12 th | Bletchley | 1500/800 / Age Group Relays |
| Sunday February 19 th | Aylesbury | 400's / Age Group Relays |
| Sat/Sun 10 th /11 th March | Aylesbury | Main |
| Sat/Sun 17 th /18 th March | Aylesbury | Main |

It should also be noted that Aqua Vale will be in the middle of a major £6m refurbishment next Spring and it is not clear at this stage what effect this may have on our Events.

IP explained that the Qualifying Times for 2012 will be based on the 2009 ASA 'A' Grade Times which have replaced the 2005 Tables. Accepted Times will be -4% of A Grade and Considered will be +8% of Accepted (therefore +4% of A Grade).

It should be noted that the 2009 times will have been adjusted based on data collected over the intervening 4 year period. Therefore there may have been a change in times for certain events and our 2012 QT's will reflect that equally.

The replacement of the Secondary Card Entry system with the Withdrawal System appeared to have worked, with only 4 No-Shows over the 16 Galas, and was generally understood by March 13th! Hopefully the No-Shows will be reduced to zero in 2012.

JW proposed that he will continue with this year's system for the Distance galas (2 Officials provided by each Club for each Session) but will revert to Invitations for the Main Weekends.

It was generally agreed that the Trophies were of a high standard.

Bagcats worked well technically throughout the Championships and the Presentations went remarkably well.

It was proposed that the format for choosing the next stroke in the Skins event be altered. There will be 2 balls for each of the 4 strokes. After each ball is chosen, that ball will be discarded. Therefore each stroke can only appear twice in the 7 heat cycle.

It was confirmed in reply to a question from Clare Donlon that all volunteers in a 'one to one' situation with a swimmer must be CRB checked.

Amanda Booth proposed that Finals for 50m Events (all 4 strokes) be replaced with 200m Events (all 4 strokes) to aid 'Development'. This to be done without increasing the time frame of the Championships.

CMK proposed a change to how the Top Club is calculated by moving to Medal winners in 1st to 3rd places from Points winners in 1st to 8th places.

Ian Smith reported that there had been problems for Warm Up Marshalls with certain Coaches and 'older' swimmers not taking instruction from the WUM's. Any problems of that sort must immediately be reported to the Promoter if the Senior WUM can not resolve happily him/herself.

In 2012 IP will adjust the Warm Up schedules to accommodate 2 Pace Lanes in the Distance / 200 Warm Ups.

Diane Law enquired whether County Champs specific swim clothes could be made available as they are at Regional Championships. Karen 'The Geordie Designer' Phillips offered to investigate.

Shelley Radford mentioned that parents had complained that the Commentary sometimes was unnecessarily critical of the technical abilities of some of the swimmers.

Jo Murphy proposed to continue her investigation in to an improvement of the seating arrangements for the smaller clubs at the County Champs by discussing with the BBAT grouping.

Items that were not discussed such as Financial Results of Championships, Entry fees for 2012, Disability Events etc will be at the Executive on May 17th along with all the Proposals above.

P.Shaw