

# Feedback from the Festivals of Swimming

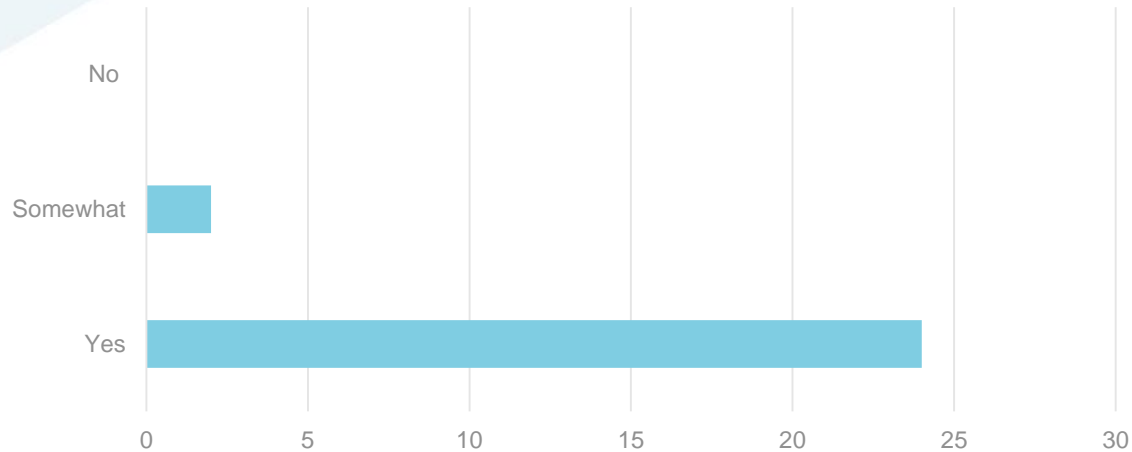
July 2021

Millfield School, Street  
Plymouth Life Centre

August 2021

# Did the meet live up to your expectations in terms of production?

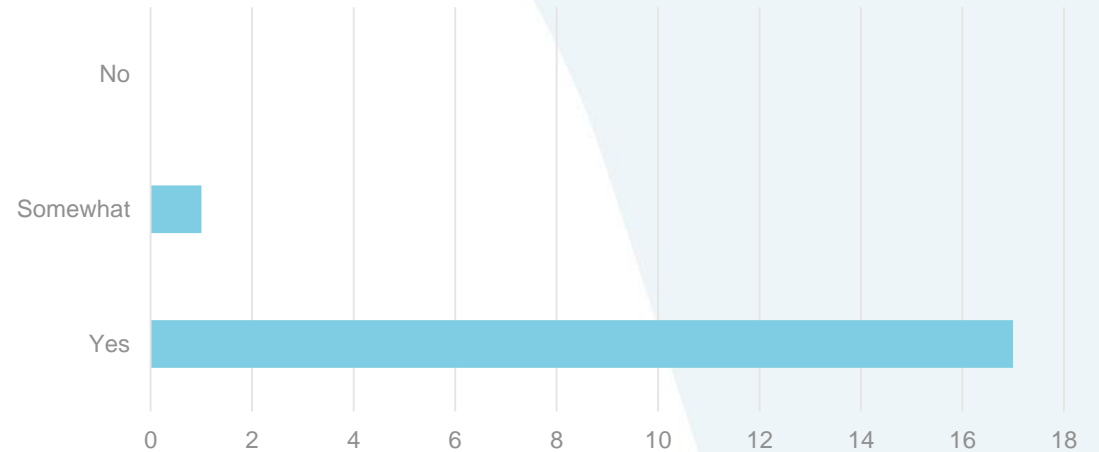
## Millfield



### If no, what alternative recommendations would you give?

- Swim downs & live stream

## Plymouth

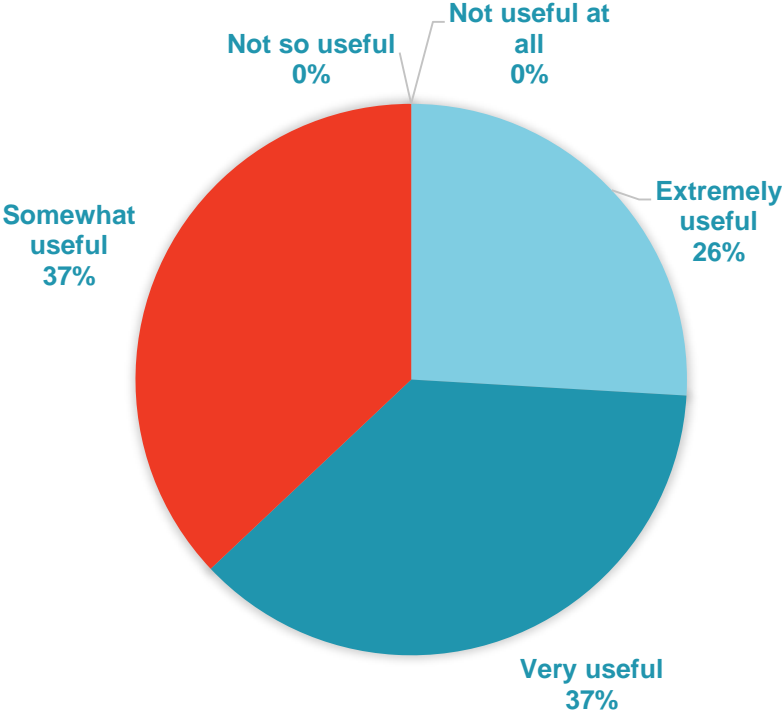


### If no, what alternative recommendations would you give?

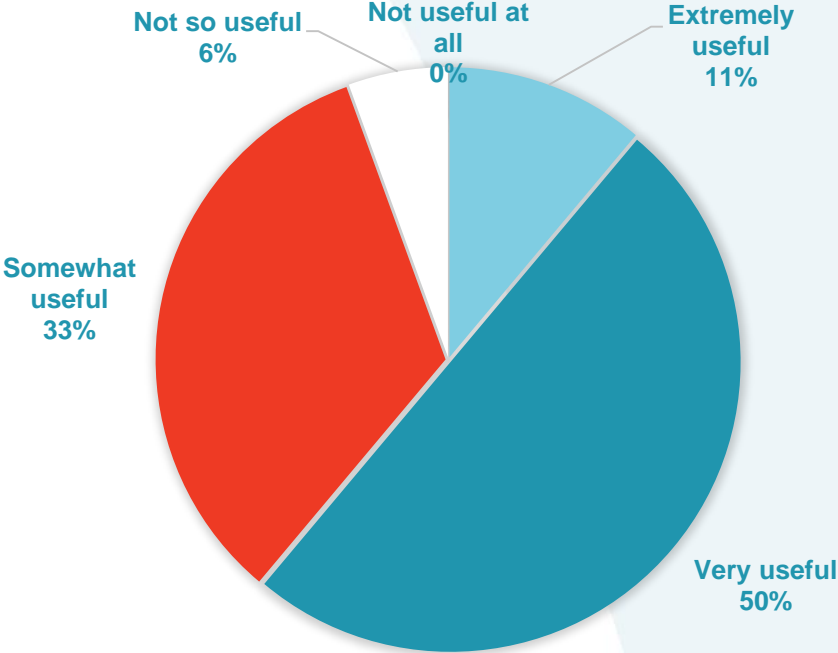
- Yes, but with so few swimming competitive opportunities over the last 18 months it was quite exclusive. Lots of kids had such limited pool time I would have loved to see a more inclusive standard set, whilst understanding how difficult increased numbers would have been to manage.

# How useful was the pre-meet information?

### Millfield

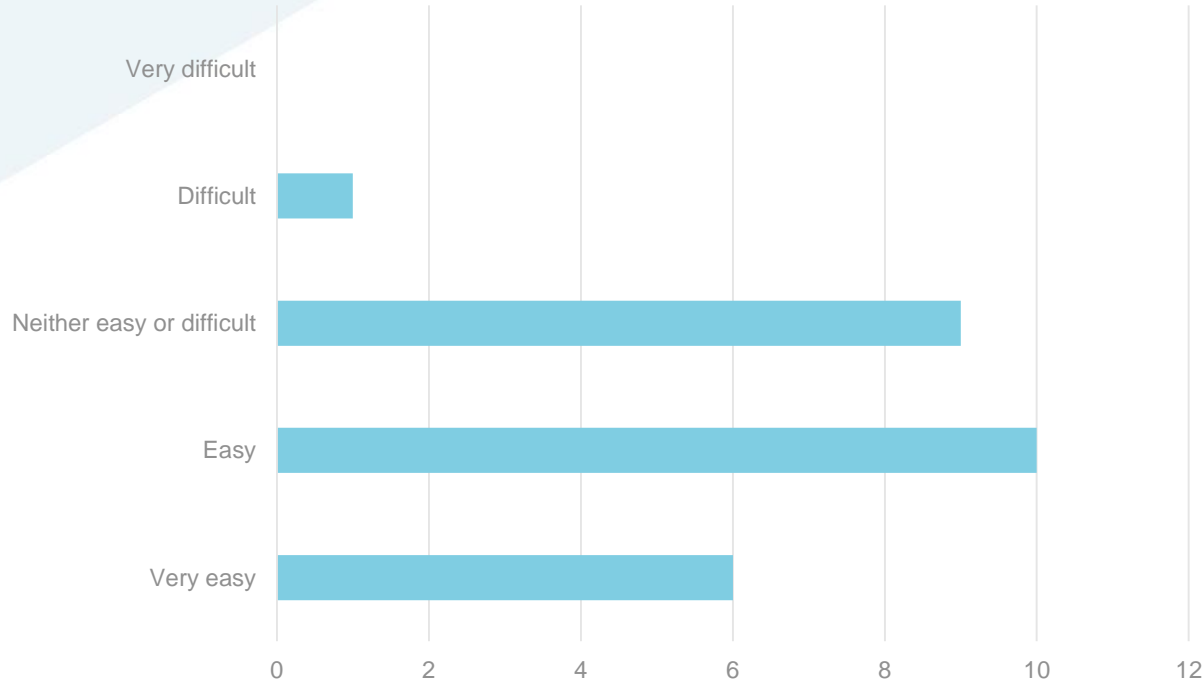


### Plymouth

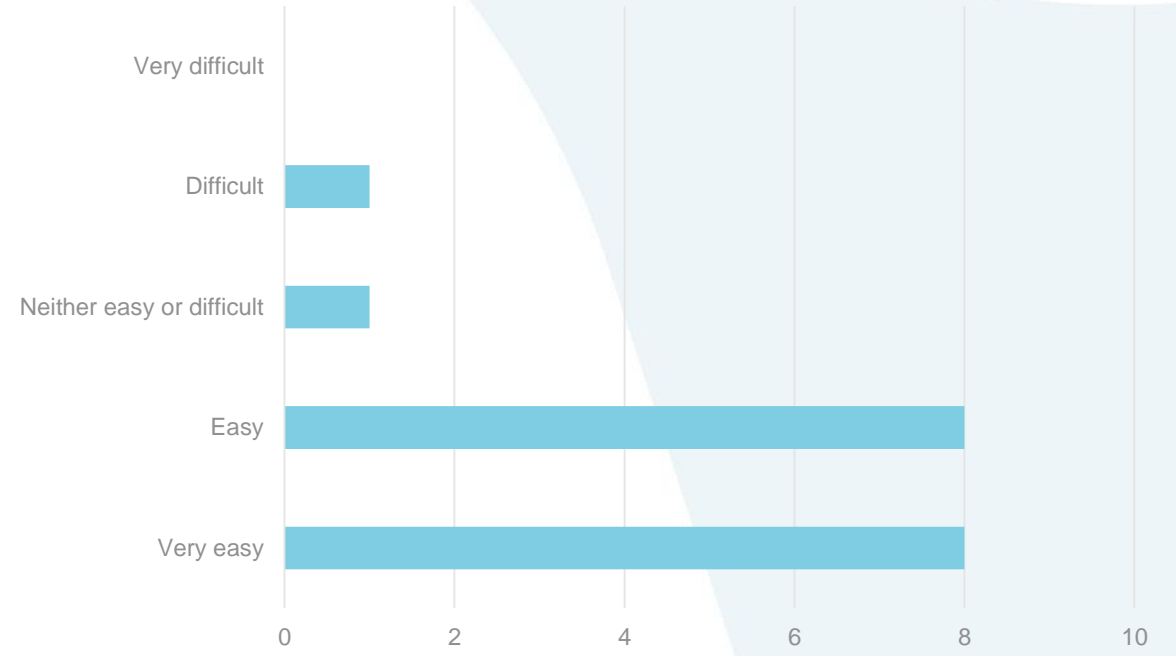


# How did you find the entry process for this meet? Part 1

## Millfield



## Plymouth



# How did you find the entry process for this meet? Part 2

## Millfield

### Any comments on the pre meet or entry information?

- The information was very clear but was very last minute being sent out and our coaches were quite apprehensive due to the current situation with covid rules.
- We use Swim Club Manager for our meet entries and it incorrectly used the CTs as LC not SC times. We worked around it but just sharing.
- Confirmation of accepted entries was very late - tough for people needing to travel.
- It was unclear regarding format of entries SC or LC, so a number of clubs had contrasting entries, possibly resulting in some swimmers missing out on events.

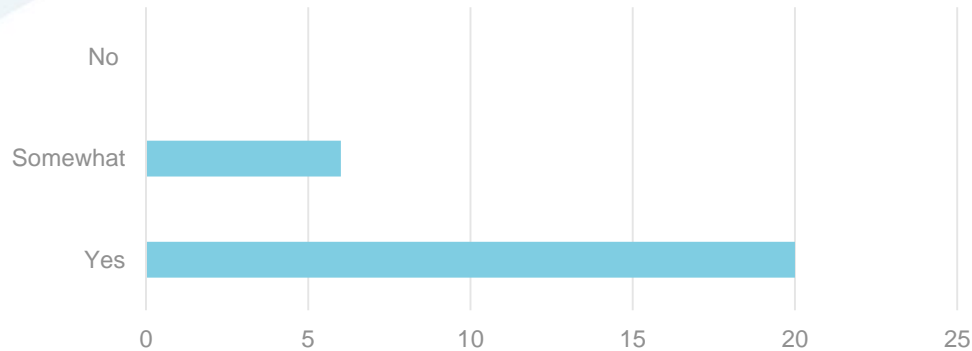
## Plymouth

### Any comments on the pre meet or entry information?

- For a lot of children it was quite a rush to register times, think I am probably stating the obvious issues that may have just been impossible to resolve.
- Entries could have been confirmed a lot sooner
- The requirement to undertake lateral flow tests and provide evidence of such was problematic and caused much concern re how to show evidence. We could have done without this, especially given that no checks were made on arrival. A simple recommendation for attendees to take a LFT and not attend if positive, would have done the trick.
- very helpful- appreciated able to accept entries without a block club entry using Hytek
- It would have been good to have early notice of accepted entries
- Late being sent out and Meet conditions were not published on the Region website had to ask for them. SW Region also had different entry requirements compared to other Regions. This was published as a National event so would have expected all entry requirements to be the same across the country
- It would have been better to have a proper meet pack, rather than the information coming out in bits. I only came down on Sunday and didn't know whether it was going to be earlier than Saturday (as per previous galas at Plymouth).
- We received confirmation that they all had been accepted within a few days. A range of competition times were accepted ie level X, level 4 etc which was great for opportunity.
- Some of the pre-meet info came a little late. For instance info on warm ups only came in an email after we had already left for the meet.
- Quite last minute
- I struggled to find the meet pack on the PL website but Andy sent what I needed when I emailed him.
- More Warm up information would've been very helpful but completely understand as it was a lot of work to set up in a very short space of time

# Did the meet operate in a reasonable timescale?

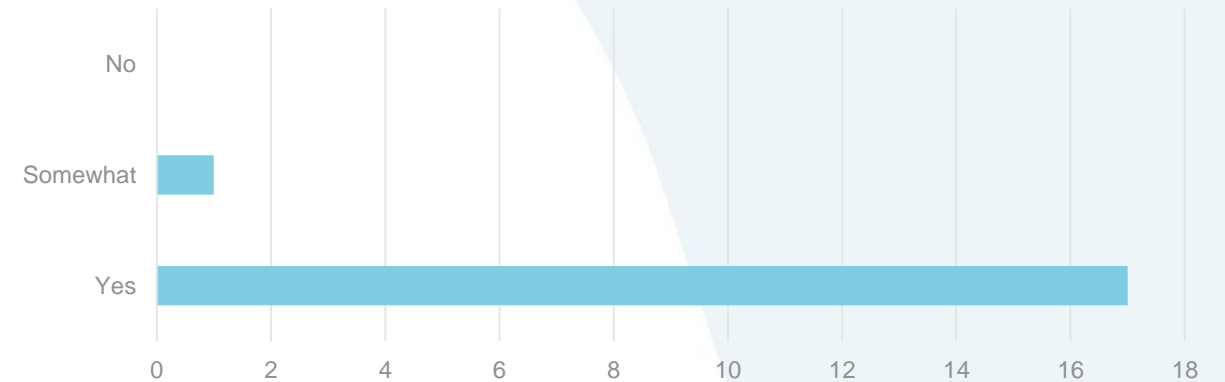
## Millfield



### If no, what would you prefer to see?

- Meet spread over 2 days for all ages. Accept this would increase the numbers present but please see point below about risk declaration in 16.
- Mornings Juniors / Evenings Seniors on both days. Giving the option to enter more races.
- Saturday I would say no, sessions too long, day too long. Sunday ran well and to a good time scale.

## Plymouth

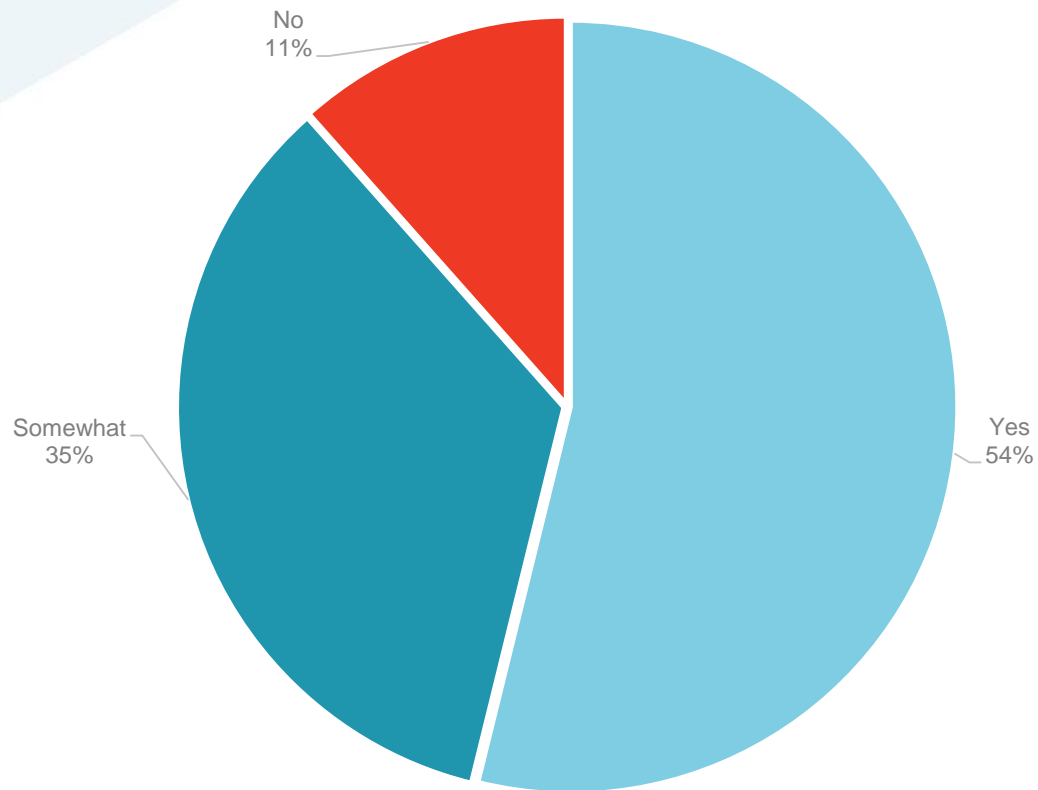


### If no, what would you prefer to see?

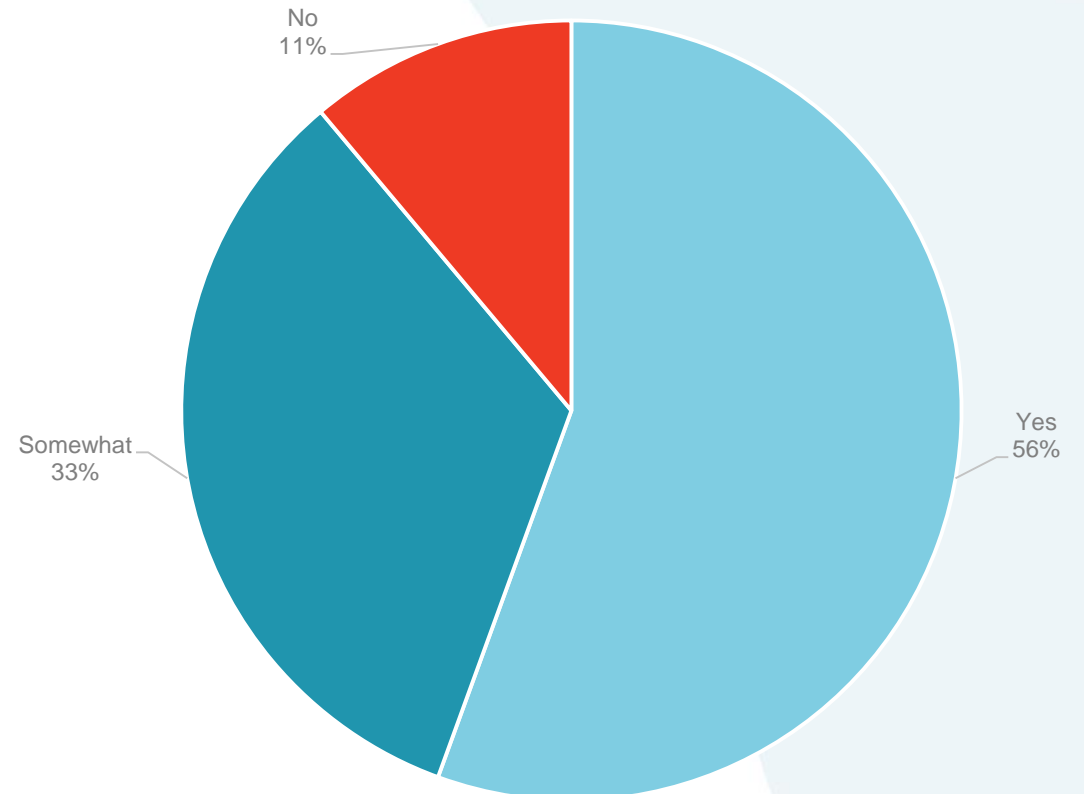
- There were long delays in the first session. It was silly to have to move from one starting block to the other side all the time. If this is how they need to run meets in Plymouth, then the time tabling needs to reflect this. So side swapping is minimized.

# Did you feel the events were laid out in a balanced way? Part 1

## Millfield



## Plymouth



# Did you feel the events were laid out in a balanced way? Part 2

## Millfield

### If no, what were the issues and some recommendations?

- Starting with a 400 I.M. was a challenge, especially as events were all crammed into one day for each age group.
- We had a number of female swimmers who swam 3 events in 10 mins at the end of session 2 and 4, i.e. 100 Fly, 50 Frs, 200 IM. Also the 100 frs and 200 frs in session 1 and 3 ran very close to each other.
- Female 100/200 FR next to each other
- No recommendations, but really liked the split of ages on each day.
- Perhaps over two days as events very close together if doing lots of races.
- The swimmer selection criteria was / is not understood. There were swimmers who were in attendance with significantly slower qualifying times than some of our swimmers who were turned away! Which is disappointing since faster swimmers were denied the possibility to compete for a medal.
- To many events in one day the swimmers were exhausted or dropping out of events they had paid for
- The only issue I had was with the girls 100m fly being the event before the mixed 50m free. Sprinters often do both events so a couple of my girls had a stupid turn around rendering their 50m free a bit obsolete. I'd suggest putting a 200m event before the 50m free as middle distance swimmers may not do the 50m free so will be effected less. I understand the difficulty was largely due to doing mixed events though.
- Short gap between some races e.g. girls in 100m free and 200m free as the latter was mixed and girls were in an early heat
- Too many scratches of athletes of events that accepted entries then pulled out of on the day.

## Plymouth

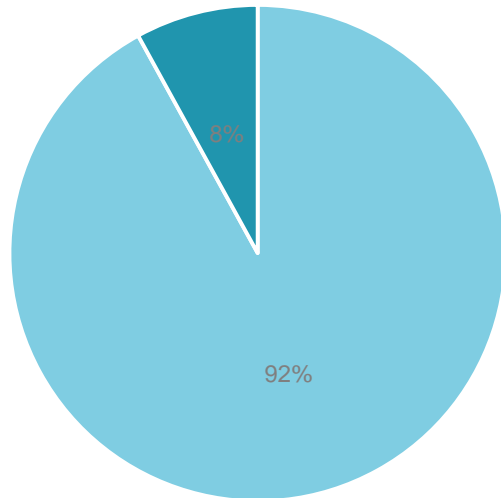
### If no, what were the issues and some recommendations?

- Given low numbers felt age range heats would have been better than entry times, would have allowed the heats to feel like true races.
- It was nice to only need to attend one day of racing, but it meant swimmers couldn't enter as many events, which was a big shame, it also meant swimmers were more tired than they'd normally be.
- 50's would have been good
- Due to low numbers of entries there were some tight turnarounds for swimmers.
- Longer events like 200m and 400m were back to back both morning and afternoon.
- One or two of my swimmers had little time between events but that is bound to happen for some swimmers.
- 100m Free, 200m Free & 400m Free being right next to each other for female athletes
- One female swimmer had 100, 200 and 400 free all after each other. If free was your stroke there was no gap.

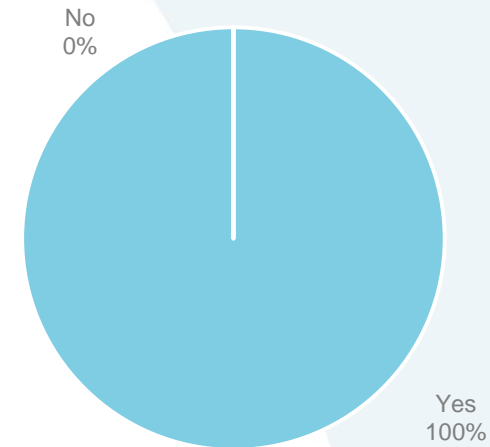


# Was the announcer/music effective and appropriate?

## Millfield



## Plymouth

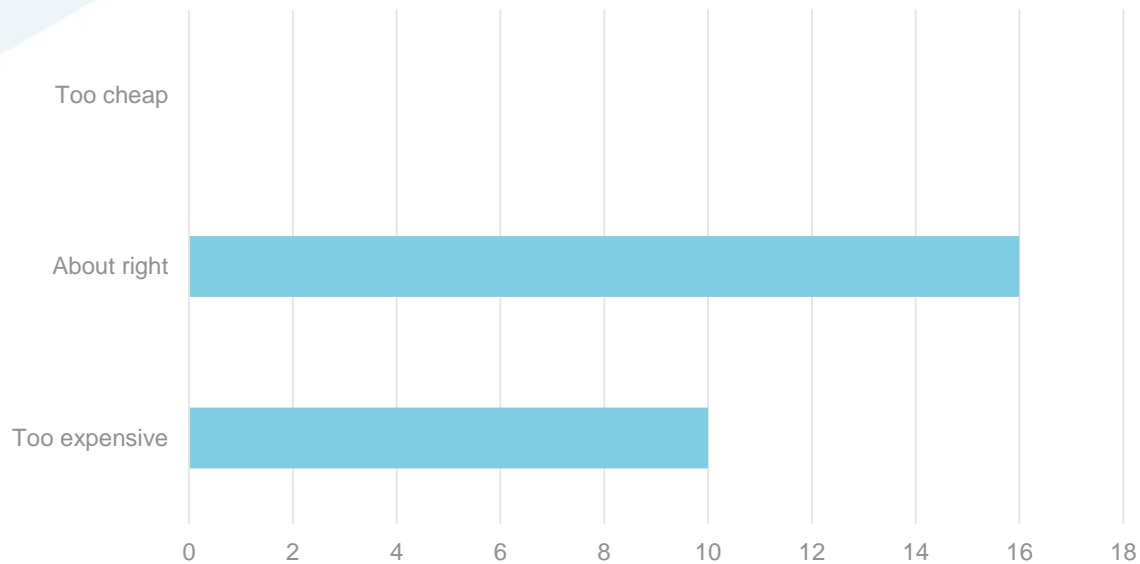


### If no, what is your feedback?

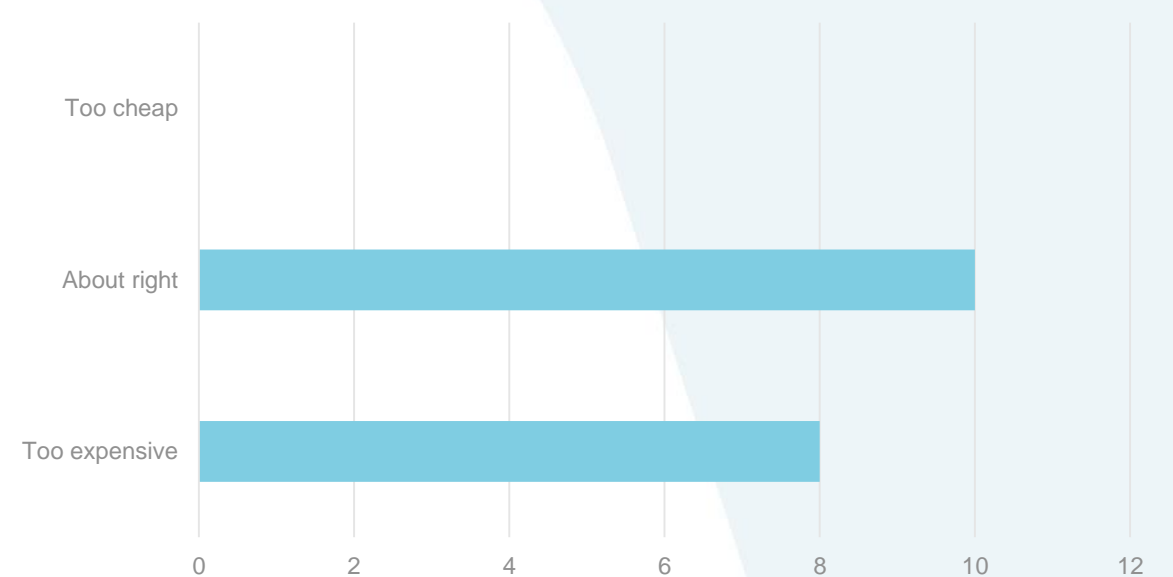
- Announcer yes Can't remember hearing any music
- Sadly the audio quality of the announcements was very poor and could rarely be understood.
- I was not personally at the meet so cannot comment on that. I will ask our team manager to also complete this feedback questionnaire with their experience.
- Couldn't really hear announcer effectively

# What are your thoughts on the entry fee for the meet? £8.50 per swim

## Millfield

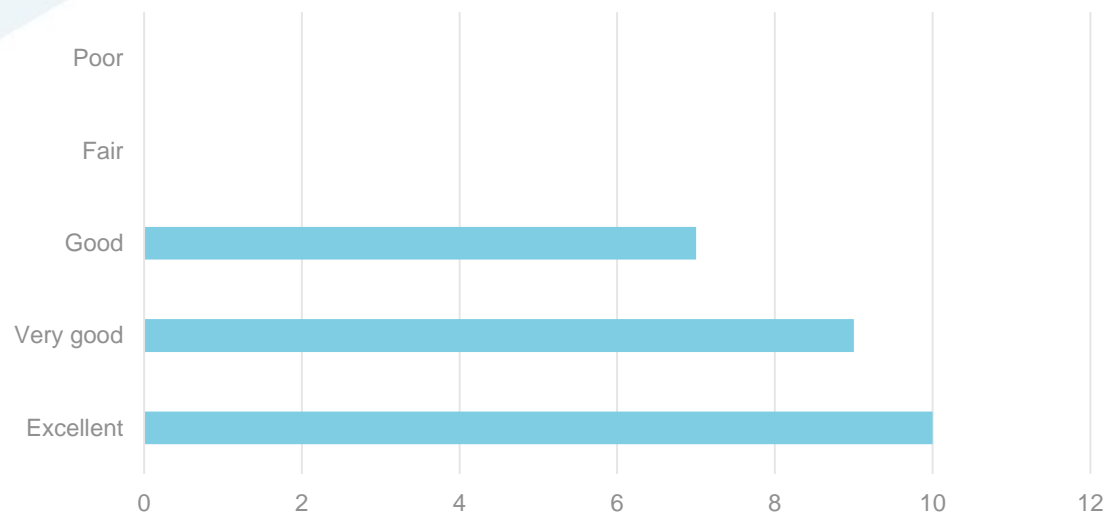


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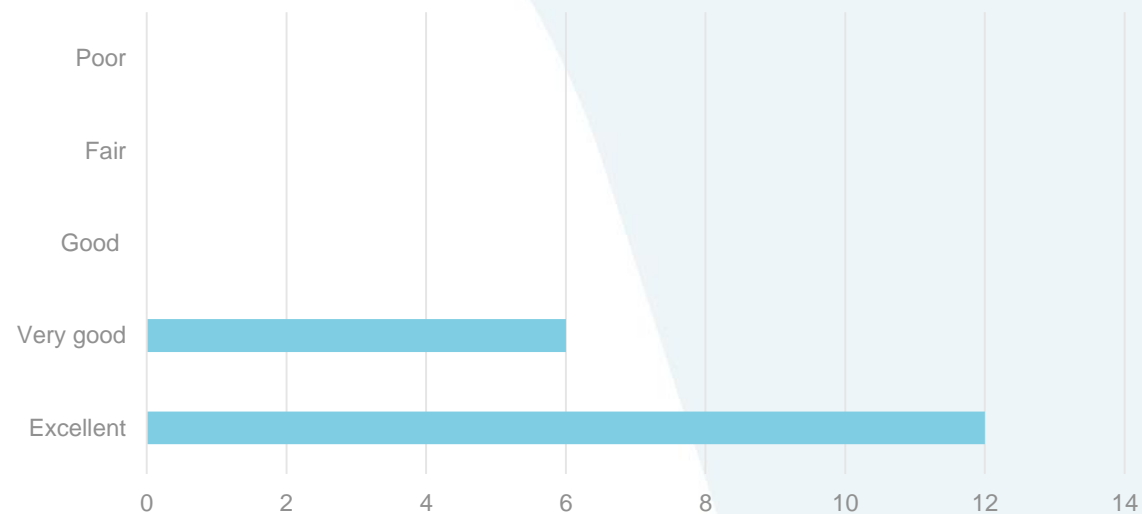


# How would you rate the venue/location?

## Millfield

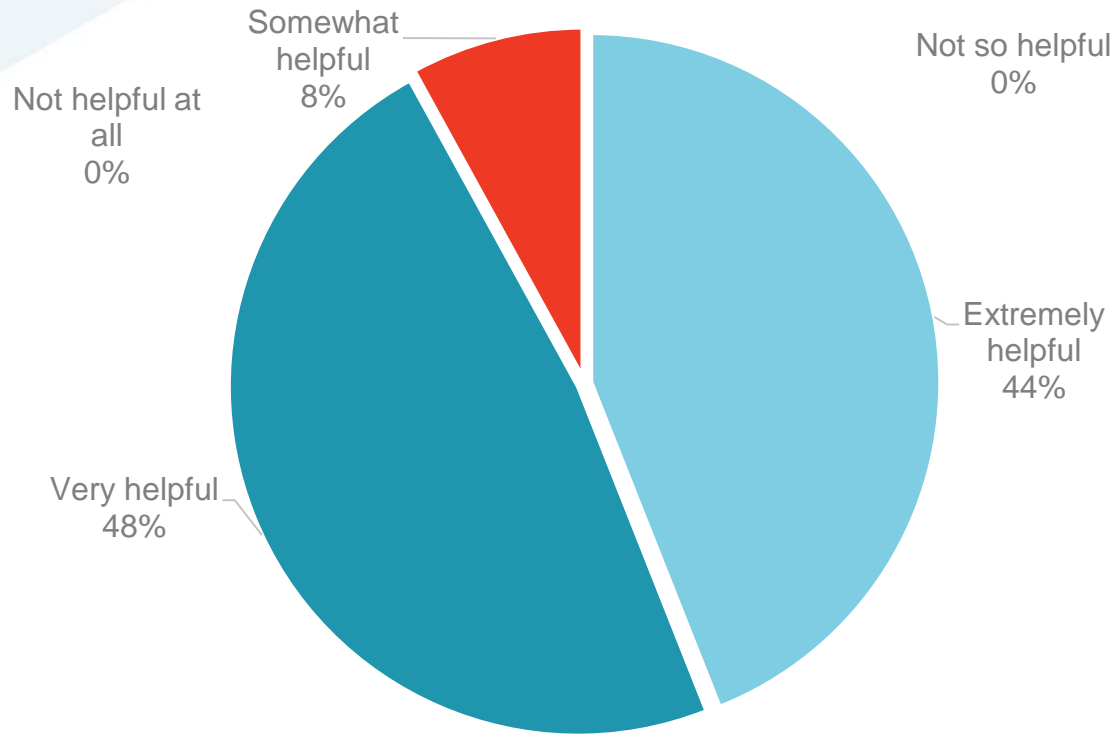


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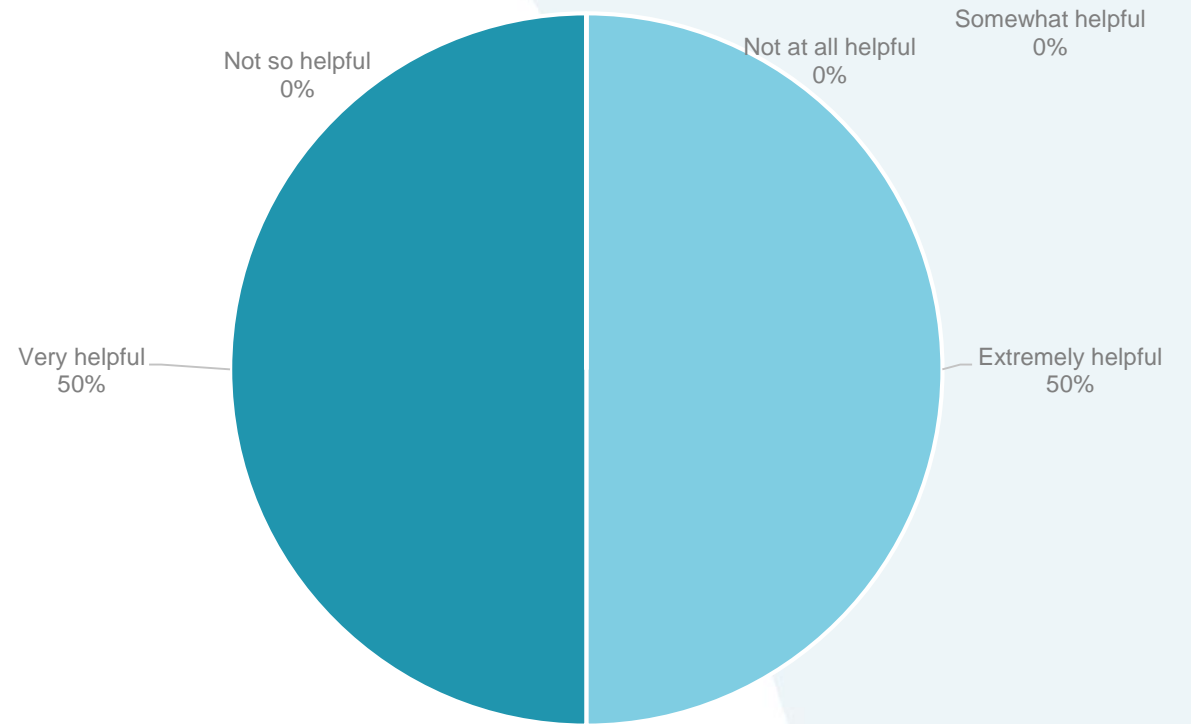


# Did you find the event volunteers and Officials helpful and polite?

## Millfield

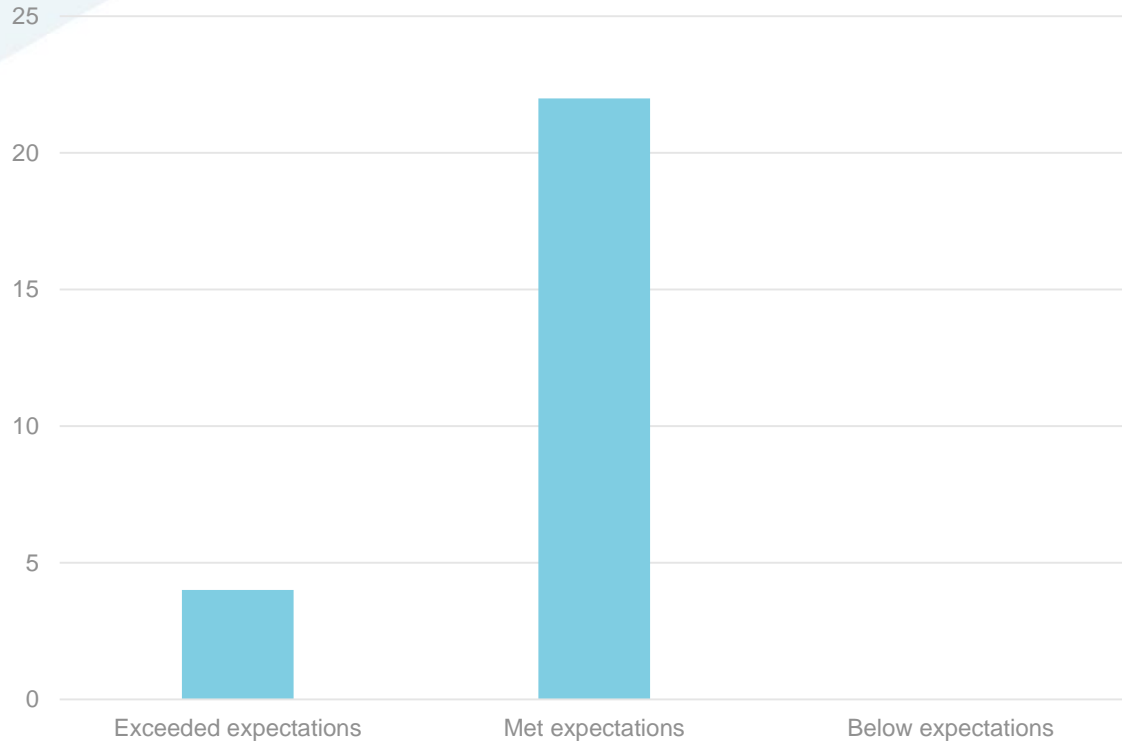


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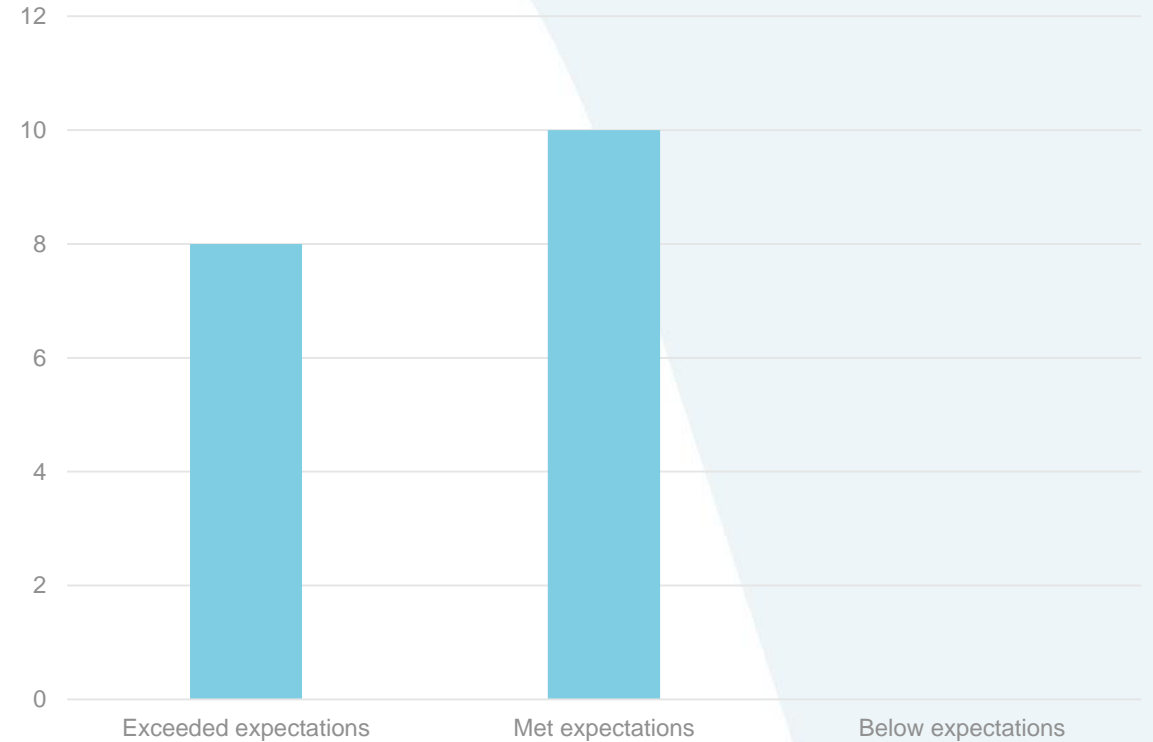


# What was your overall experience of the meet?

## Millfield



## Plymouth



# Do you have any further comments to make about your overall experience of the delivery of this event.

## Millfield

- We were only notified about scratches 3/4 days prior to the meet. This was very harsh on those affected that had cancelled plans in anticipation of attending. COVID rules prior to attending were onerous, a general statement of risk and individual responsibility would have been preferable. The face mask rule was also unworkable in that environment and most had removed masks by lunchtime. Fully understand that the government restrictions were only removed a week prior but the intentions were well known for some weeks. Couldn't fault the helpfulness of the volunteers, well done to all! The main thing however is that the meet actually went ahead, thank you so much, the swimmers loved being back at Millfield.
- Confusing lane etiquette about which way lanes should swim in warm up and when queried marshal said she didn't know answer. Disappointed that although the Meet information said to wear face coverings in balconies none of Team Bath swimmers wore them. University of Bath boys changing out of swim trunks into dry clothes on balcony, this should not be allowed.
- Whilst i understand that things have been tricky and Millfield and team bath hosted brilliantly my only criticism would be that there were no refreshments available on site including water as a basic need. We were lucky that the hot weather had broken otherwise we may have had issues with athletes not having enough fluids available. Kind Regards
- With the current situation our coach felt that swimmers and coaches of other clubs did not really stick to the one way system provided and not wearing masks despite being asked various times via the announcer, not really the meet organisers fault, just a little disappointing by the clubs attending
- Great job under tricky circumstances. Thank you for your efforts!!!

## Plymouth

- It was good to be able to view the racing on live stream on you tube.
- £8.50 with no medals is quite expensive. Very disappointed live streaming crashed on the event my child was swimming in! Otherwise good meet and nice to be only a one day commitment.
- Although I raise some points, my main observation would be fantastic return to competition that was really enjoyed by our son, who was so happy to be back, the streaming was easy to follow and allowed members of our family who live overseas to see our son swimming for the first time, Thank you.
- Well delivered in the circumstances. Technical issues can't be helped. Didn't like the covid test requirements.
- Thank you . It would be nice to host a more participatory event with QT cut offs to enable slower county level swimmers . There have been no competitions for these swimmers for over 18 months. But thank you for hosting the festival !
- Good to see swimmers back competing, looking forward to more events in the future

# Do you have any further comments to make about your overall experience of the delivery of this event.

## Millfield

- Would have been good to have medals to celebrate top 3 places after not having raced for so long.
- Meet team were brilliant I would say issue with entry process as some swimmers with slower than consideration times appeared to be swimming. Not sure if this was down to time conversations through Hi-Tek. Some of our swimmers appeared to have LC PB times listed on heat sheets while others had the times we submitted for them, which some having conversations. This I imagine lead to imp balanced heats and the meet running slower than anticipated as a lot of swimmers not swimming to entry time on heat sheet.
- Next year the hosting club needs to ensure they are communicating with SWR not just running the meet as a club meet.
- I'd suggest looking at streaming the meet on a service like "twitch" for example. Wouldn't be difficult to do and could give a password for entrants. With parents not being able to spectate at the venue I think this would be appreciated.
- The event was run very well,

## Plymouth

- Our swimmers were disappointed that there were no medals, and while I think £8.50 for a Level 1 entry is fair, I would expect that to cover medals. This was a big step up for some of our swimmers, so winning a place was also a big achievement. Masks were supposed to be mandatory at marshalling yet almost no one wore them. Perhaps a bandanna could be proposed instead as this would be easier with hat/goggles etc. Also not great to be without a cool down pool. I'm sure this could have been managed with perhaps a lane each for Leander and Kelly, and two lanes for other clubs, to reduce mixing. Overall a good meet, some fantastic swimming, and marshalling was so much nicer and easier than the usual scrum on poolside! Thank you for organising it, and we hope to be back in Plymouth competing very soon.
- We enjoyed having the opportunity to race again and it was not rushed yet ran at a good pace.
- Medals would have been nice although appreciate extra cost for these. A really good meet. Thanks to organisation, hosts and officials for getting swimmers back to Competition.
- Meet at Plymouth was run well. All PL volunteers were very approachable and helpful. Still in difficult circumstances but meet was run really well Marshalling went smoothly and all of our swimmers enjoyed the meet!! Looking forward to more in the Autumn hopefully!!...