

Swim England South West Region

President Mr Roger Downing

Masters Subcommittee Meeting

Monday 14th February 7 pm

(via Zoom)

Those present:

CR Catherine Ralph Cornwall County Masters Representative
DP Dan Pickup Wiltshire County Masters Representative
AP Adele Parham Somerset County Masters Representative
BA Brian Armstrong Gloucestershire County Masters Representative
SH Sue Haigh Devon County and Regional Masters Representative
JP Jeroen Peters Chair of Masters Working Group
ChR Chrissie Robinson Regional Chair
PR Paul Robbins Regional Vice Chair

ChR offered to chair the meeting

Declaration of Interest

None stated

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Philippa O'Grady Somerset and Di Gibbs Dorset.

SH welcomed Dan Pickup as the new Wiltshire Masters representative.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

3. MATTERS ARISING

There were no points arising from the minutes.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

SH had received an email from Swim England which was forwarded to the County Reps before the meeting, asking for nominations for the Cherriman award. This was to be dealt with in any other business.

5. COUNTY REPORTS

CORNWALL

Interclub Cornwall County Masters Championships

I have booked the Cornwall County masters gala for Sunday 20th March at Bodmin pool. Start 2pm. The entry link is now live and the details are posted on the masters calendar. It is difficult to predict how popular this event will be this year but in 2020 it was a huge success despite the looming pandemic - 308 swims from 91 athletes (2019 229 swims from 61 competitors). The British record broken by John Holding (DTs) for 200M back 80-84 years has at last, now been ratified .

The closing date is 6th March.

Swimming in Masters Intercounties 14/11/21 SW Region Millfield pool

Cornwall was represented by an enthusiastic team with swimmers from most Cornish clubs. Two Cornish records were broken, Carrick masters Fran Baker 60/64 50m Breast stroke and swimming for Truro city Molly Roodhouse Senior 50m Fly.

Nationally, Cornwall came a very respectable 16th with 523 points. There were some impressive and determined swims !

I hope 2022 will see us field a bigger stronger team whilst retaining the Cornish team spirit

Cornish masters swimmers continue to compete at National level competitions with many podium positions for those who competed at the Swim England National masters Championships held at Ponds Forge in October 2021. CR

DORSET

Dorset did not enter a team in the Intercounty Championship due to no female swimmers.

Poole had previously run the Dorset Masters Championships at the request of DCASA but they are not able to do so now due to the numbers of entries dropping, so that the event was no longer financially viable and the age group parents who ran the event are no longer available to do so.

Swim Bournemouth were planning to run the Dorset Masters Championships in March but recently the meet has been cancelled due to lack of support from the masters section of Bournemouth club. DG

DEVON

Devon Seniors and Masters meet went ahead and Devon were proud to be the first Masters event on the 2021 calendar in September.

The Swim England Nationals went ahead in October with swimmers from seven Devon County clubs taking part, many gaining national medals. New British records were set by Simon Veale and Matthew Henry. Simon Veale of Totnes set new records in the 800m freestyle and the 100m individual medley.

Matthew Henry swimming for Dartmoor Darts, set three new British records the 200m freestyle and the 50m and 100m butterfly. Simon went on to create a new 200m individual medley record in November.

Sadly the Regional Open Meet did not take place but the National Intercounty competition did go ahead.

The Devon team were pleased and relieved to retain the Regional Intercounty shield and were placed sixth in the national competition.

In the national Decathlon competition, the men's team from Totnes, comprising of Kalon and Simon Veale, Bill Leitch and Dan John have taken first place with Kalon and Simon Veale placing second and fourth in the men's competition.

Kalon will therefore be receiving the South West Masters trophy for points gained in the competitions of 2020/2021. SH

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

- Swimmers back in the water and training hard
- Intercounties were great fun and a close contest was had with Devon, resulting in a National 7th place overall – a mere 1.5pts behind Devon. Next year.....
- The counties swimmers participated in a number of events – Devon County; Wales shortcourse (Newport); Nationals; BC Sprint meet – and are looking forward to the 2022 calendar.
- Dates for the Gloucester Masters Meet are awaiting the outcome of discussions with the new GL1 management. (update – likely event date will be Aug 6th and thus can be used as a warm up to the Europeans; watch this space)
- Gloucester & Somerset Masters meet to be discussed and subject to pool availability – usually held in September. BA

SOMERSET

Somerset was pleased to raise a team for the Intercounty championship and recorded their best result ever coming eleventh nationally.

Somerset didn't host the joint Somerset/ Gloucester Championships in 2021 but it is hoped this event will be resurrected again this year. AP

WILTSHIRE

Wiltshire did take part in the Intercounty championship and raising a team was a big win for the county.

All swimming groups are struggling to get competition time as pool operators are restricting events. It is hoped that situation will improve and it will be possible to add more events to the masters calendar. DP

6. MASTERS DEVELOPMENT DAYS

SH asked if any County Website were planning Masters Development Days this year and encouraged them to do this.

BA suggested that Gloucester could potentially use the 50m Cheltenham Lido to set up a development day and if so this would be open to anyone in the region.

CR was sure that Cornish swimmers would like the opportunity to swim long course and joining with Devon to create a development day could be an option in either Plymouth or Tavistock 50m pools

7. COMPETITIONS

SH announced that the date for our regional event had been changed to the 9th October & would be held at Millfield.

It was made clear that officials for this regional meet will be provided by the region.

SH asked that County Reps try to source helpers on the day along with volunteers to announce and run the meet programme.

There was a lengthy discussion on the formula for awarding medals. AP proposed that everyone should be awarded a participation medal, running alongside the presentation of medals for first second and third for each race. This was agreed.

Medals will be awarded to swimmers gaining the most age adjusted points, following the Rowson formula based on Fina points.

The programme will remain the same.

INTERCOUNTY

SH reported that this year only 21 counties out of the usual 28/29 were able to take part. As a region we did well to have five counties prepared to put up teams. Well done to all those counties who took part.

Results for the regional shield:

DEVON 1st
GLOUCESTER 2nd
SOMERSET 3rd
CORNWALL 4th
WILTSHIRE 5th

National results:

DEVON 6TH
GLOUCESTER 7TH

SOMERSET 11TH
CORNWALL 16TH
WILTSHIRE 19TH

7. SOUTH WEST MASTERS SWIMMER FOR 2021

There was discussion of the result of our Masters award based on the number of the decathlon points scored annually. However, ChR announced that the regional board had decided that no 'Swimmer of the Year' awards would be given out in 2020 and 2021 due to a lack of competitive events.

After discussion, the county reps decided to appeal this decision, not least, in the light of Swim England deciding to make their awards nationally for the decathlon event by combining the points gained in 2020 and 2021.

Kalon Veale was placed second in the national men's competition and other notable placings were Simon Veale, fourth in the men's competition and Totnes men's team of Kalon and Simon Veale, Bill Leitch and Dan John gaining first place.

8. QUESTIONS FOR THE CHAIR OF THE MWG

There were no specific questions for the chairman of the Masters working group as many of them had been covered throughout the meeting. However JP was able to announce that the Masters working group has now been set up and has been able to meet for the first time.

ChR asked if the date for the Intercounty had been arranged and JP replied that, as always it will be held on the second weekend of November. This year it will take place on November 13.

CR raised the point that the event always falls on Remembrance Sunday and this was a problem for many. JP announced that a consultation will be held and the event could be moved to a completely new date in the swimming calendar.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

SH brought up the email she had received from Swim England re-nominations for the Cherriman Award.

JP brought up something he had seen on a social media page and there was general discussion about master swimmers taking part in age group events. This will be one of the subjects many subjects discussed by the MWG.

The meeting closed at 8:45pm