

Minutes of the Swim England Region Masters Subcommittee 2019

Held on the 6 January 2019 at the Holiday Inn Taunton 10:30 am

Those present

Bob Holman (BH) Regional President

Robert Margetts (RM) SE Regional Competition Sec

Chris Tremellen (CT) SE Regional Secretary

Sharon Lock (SL) SE National Masters Swimming and Open Water Officer

Sue Haigh (SH) SE Regional and Devon County representative

Adele Parham (AP) SE Somerset representative (joint)

Philippa O'Grady (PO) SE Somerset representative

RM was invited to take the chair which he accepted.

1 Apologies received from: Brian Armstrong (BA) Gloucestershire Masters representative Catherine Ralfe (CR) Cornish masters representative

2 The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

3 Matters Arising
There were none.

4 Correspondence
There was no correspondence

5 SH gave a report on the Masters Development Day for 2018. This was due to take place at the University of Bath but due to a rescheduling of the Royal Navy masters meet for the same day, take up for the Development Day was poor and subsequently it was cancelled.

SH reported that the 2019 Development Day was due to take place at the University of Bath.

Ian Woollard and Fiona Verney will be coaching the two swimming sessions, the speakers' would-be speakers are Dr Karen Howells, Sharon Lock and Jane Asher and also there is to be a yoga/stretching session.

6 Discussion took place on the Regional championships which were held at Hutton Moor in September. The number of entries were slightly up this year

making this event only just financially viable. The number of entries was helped out by many 'out of region' entries (25/115) along with eight temporary members. The region awarded commemorative medals for all, to save expense. This year finding officials was more difficult than usual as the event clashed with another meet in Somerset. However competitors enjoyed using the backup button for the swimmers in the race before them.

a) PO asked if it was feasible to add an 800 or 1500 to the masters Championships. AP added that Somerset County were adding a separate heat for the masters to swim in those distances at their county of event. This was considered a good idea and so it was suggested that County Reps talk to their counties about adding a Masters heat for these longer events.

There was also discussion on the venue/pool used for the regional Masters Championships. CT was asked to look into the price of hiring Millfield as this would be the preferred venue.

b) The Regional round of the Intercounty event saw Devon taking the regional shield and the results nationally were as follows:

3rd Devon
9th Gloucester
14th Dorset
16th Cornwall
18th Wiltshire
22nd Somerset

During the event three new British records were set; Tegan Drew 50 backstroke, Niamh Robinson 50 breaststroke and Muriel Hitchcock 50 breaststroke.

The date for 2019 was set for the weekend of the 9th and 10th of November

RM asked that counties be reminded that if they enter they are obliged to supply to officials.

County reports

Wiltshire

We run our county championships over 3 meets in three different venues spread over the year. These comprise all strokes at 25m, 50m, 100m plus a range of relays.

We get around 90 swimmers at each meet from 13 clubs. The numbers are very similar to last year. No new clubs set up. There a few clubs who can only raise between 1 and 5 swimmers at each meet whereas the bigger clubs will have around 20 each.

One problem is communication I feel. I send out 5 or 6 newsletters a year to try to keep everyone informed. A few people say they find them very interesting but I don't get any response to any of the articles although ask for people to comment. I guess this means that I am not making them interesting enough or people are too busy to read them.

I will not be standing for 2019 but so far have failed to find a replacement having started the request for someone in August.

Dorset

We are fine with the 280+ relay and may have someone that wanted an older age group as they are in their mid 70s now. We have lost one of our older ladies as she swam the channel and does ironman stuff and she has decided the sprints are too much. However we found another 70 year old that is reasonable!!

There's not been much going on in Dorset this year. We didn't hold a masters meet as it clashed with a schools gala so due to the trouble in recruiting officials I made the decision to cancel. Another date was not found due to the busy calendar leading up to the summer. 7 Dorset swimmers attended the GB masters in Plymouth and brought back 11 medals. 6 Dorset swimmers went to Sheffield for the Swim England national masters and won 14 medals between them.

Somerset

Somerset had 2 swimmers who went to Europeans:

John Anderson Wincanton got:

5th place in the 65-69 men's 100 and 200 BR/S

8th place in the 50 BR/S

Rosemary Johnson Wincanton

5th Place in ladies 75-79 100 Bk/S

6th place in 200 BK/S

7th place in 50m BR/S

The major issue we have in Somerset is a severe lack of master swimmers who compete at any level. Our county champs are combined with Gloucester but have

not happened in the last 2 years due to snow and pool booking error. We only get about 10 Somerset swimmers who attend and they are mostly Wincanton.

I know Bath are setting up a masters training session and it will be good to see how this goes as there must be talented swimmers in that neck of the woods?

Devon

Masters swimming in Devon is patchy that but there are pockets of excellence. The Devon team swimming in the regional round of the national Intercounty event brought home the regional shield and improved their national performance by one place to third.

And we certainly had great results in National events.

The British Masters Championships where held in Plymouth this year and Devon swimmers were out in force. Swimmers from DTs, Devonport, Tavistock, Crediton, Tiverton, Totnes and Devonport clubs all took part. In total 48 Masters from Devon secured 32 gold, 21 silver and 25 bronze medals along with many other top ten positions. Devon clubs also fared well in the Cupar trophy. Totnes was the highest scorer among Devon, amassing the most number of points and coming 16th with Exeter masters the next best placed Devon club in 20th position out of a total of clubs taking part.

Devon success continued the Swim England SC National event in Sheffield in October where Masters from the county claimed 19 gold, 16 Silver and four bronze medals.

During the year Masters swimmers from Devon house set up a new Masters club. The club to be called Exe Masters Swimming Club and will be based around the Exeter area.

It's a club set up specifically for masters needs.

Cheap annual fee to make it accessible and fit alongside any existing club financial commitments

No pressure to swim for the club or attend regular training or meetings.

Provide easy access to a master's community - for competitions/relay teams or just general support

For committee members and club members - responsibilities kept to a minimum but within ASA requirements to reduce time commitments as far as possible with administering the club.

Entries were down for the Devon County championships which took place at the Life Centre.

Devon at least are still managing to run their County event as Dorset were unable to hold theirs as the date clashed with a school gala and there was a problem with recruiting officials.

Somerset and Gloucester have combined together for their county events but this year were unable to run the meet due to bad weather and unavailability of pool bookings.

Sue Haigh a British record in the Sc 1500m freestyle. 23:00.15

There were also 20 new regional records set by masters' swimmers from Devon this year.

Cornwall

1. County event 18th Nov - once again it is difficult to round up motivation to enter a team event so my closing date is 19th Oct. So far we have a team of 32+/- 2 which is the same as last year. It would be good to know if temporary Cat 2 membership will be accepted this year. Some swimmers are not members of a club - not many! Last year their events were not counted which was disappointing. I've encouraged all to be Cat 2 members if Club swimmers even though I know Cat 1 will be accepted this year.

2. No new masters clubs

3. Records - lots of county records broken and a few SE SW records.

. A good turn out from Cornwall for the British Champs in Plymouth

4. Medals at European champs - no medals - a few swimmers from Cornwall competed but I'm not aware of any medals.

5. Problems - funding. I have tried to apply for funding from Region to support a county masters team training session next Sunday (28th Oct- TLC).

Unfortunately it clashes with the SC Championships in Sheffield but I was only offered one date and thought the rest of the team would benefit from swimming with each other and having some technical support. Getting pool time is difficult. 2 officials are attending to help with the technical rules and I am coaching (currently undertaking assistant coach course). We will donate our time for free.

I was disappointed my application to the regional committee for £400 to contribute to pool hire and coach/official costs was rejected. The county will

contribute as much money as they can but it costs a lot to hire a coach to travel anywhere from Cornwall for the intercounty event. This is a priority to fund. I am willing to continue to try to organise sessions to improve masters participation in the sport but there will be a limit to what I can do if there is no money to support my efforts.

Gloucestershire

November 2018 British Masters Championship - Plymouth, 8-10 June 2018

During the three days of Long Course competition at the Plymouth Life Centre, 715 athletes from 202 clubs took part. As well as the UK, athletes represented Ireland, Spain, the Netherlands, Turkey and Australia. The youngest competitor was 18 and the oldest was 92.

In total 56 records were broken, including two World records, seven European and 47 British records. Gloucester Masters did exceptionally well. Represented by only 7 swimmers they came away with 12 gold medals, 5 British Records and one European record.

Donald Leatherbarrow (80-84 Years) British Record in the 100m Breaststroke, 200m Freestyle & 100m Butterfly. Sue Hodge (65-69 Years) British Record in the 50m Freestyle. Colin Stephenson (60-64 Years) British Record in the 50m Freestyle. Rob Guy (Bristol North) also joined in the record breaking with a British Record in the 200back (60-64).

Gloucester Masters (Don Leatherbarrow, Jayne Ball, Tony Cherrington, Sue Hodge) European Record in the 280+ Mixed 4x100m Freestyle Relay.

A list of the records broken in 2018 (so far) by GCASA Masters swimmers is appended to this report.

European Masters Championships - Slovenia, 3-8 September 2018

There were a handful of GCASA swimmers competing in the European Masters Champs in Kranj, Slovenia, but they certainly punched well above their weight coming away with 7 medals. Colin Stephenson continued with his imperious progress in his new age group winning two gold (100 & 200 Free) and a silver (50 Free). Jessica Wooddisse also came away with 3 medals - all bronze (400 & 800 Free and 200 Fly) - and Jayne Ball also scored a bronze in the 60-64 ladies 200Free.

Gloucester & Somerset Masters Meet

This has been postponed - looking for a date in May.

Gloucester Masters Open Meet

This has been booked for March 31st - somewhat earlier than usual as GL1 is apparently fully booked for April!

New Clubs

It is understood that Out to Swim are forming a number of "offshoots" in various regions in the country - one of which is Bristol. No further details are available at this stage.

Brian Armstrong

Hon. Masters Manager Gloucestershire County ASA October 30th 2018

GCASA British & European*Record Swims 2018

Swimmer	Club	Age group	Event	Meet	Record
Rob Guy	Bristol North	60-64	200 Back	British Championships, Plymouth	2:39.68
Sue Hodge	GMSC	65-69	50 Free (LC)	British Championships, Plymouth	33.23
Don Leatherbarrow	GMSC	80-84	400 Free (LC)	SE LC Meet, K2 Crawley	7:02.46
			50 Fly (LC)		46.26
			200 Free (LC)		3:16.74
			50 Breast (LC)		49.51
			200 IM (LC)		3:38.98
			100 Free (LC)		1:21.59

			50 Free (LC)		35.94
			50 Fly (SC)	Gloucester Masters Open Meet	45.42
			100 Breast (SC)		1:49.79
			100 Free (SC)		1:21.90
			100 IM (SC)		1:36.95
			100 Fly (SC)		1:53.69
			50 Free (SC)		34.98
			100 Breast (LC)		British Championships, Plymouth
			200 Free (LC)	3:14.78	
			100 Fly (LC)	1:51.23	
			50 Free (LC)	Rushmoor Royals	35.05
			1500 Free (SC)	National Masters Championships, Sheffield	27:27.49
			200 Free (SC)		3:05.57
			50 Free (SC)		34.54
			50 Breast (SC)		44.87
			200 IM (SC)		3:42.95
Colin Stephenson	GMSC	60-64	50 Free (LC)	British Championships, Plymouth	27.23
			100 Free (LC)	South African Championships, Pretoria	1:01.03*

			50 Free (SC)	Gloucester Masters	26.91
			100 Free (SC)	Open Meet	58.99
Jayne Ball Don Leatherbarrow Sue Hodge Tony Cherrington	GMSC	280-319	4 x 100 Free (LC)	British Championships, Plymouth	5:23.00*

Questions for Sharon

Would Cat 1 swimmers be eligible for the 2019 intercounty event?

The answer is yes but this is to be reviewed after a period of two years. A Membership review is also taking place involving cats one and two swimmers

SL also explained the structure of masters governance.

SL offered to visit County Reps in the Region if it would be useful.

AOB

Sharon reported that the 280+ relay for the inter-county event would now be scrapped and it had been suggested that for the 220 age-group they would be relays for both males and females rather than a mixed event.

There was discussion about funding for Masters from the region. This was in discussed with regards to Cornwall County applying for funding. Awards are available as long as they fit the criteria set by the region but it was agreed that individual counties should fund their own county training.

Bernie Buck has now retired from updating the Masters records and this has now been passed over to the regional office. Thanks to Bernie for setting this up and updating it over the years.

SH announced that the Devon County Championships would be held as an open event this year. Date to be announced.

RM announced the result of the decathlon for 2018 had been won by Bill Letch of Exmouth

There was also discussion on the difficulties that SE face with regard to taking on open water events. Sharon reported that the masters open water nationals or would take place as separate events this year in Peterborough on 1 September.

The next meeting was set for 12th January 2020

The meeting closed at 1pm