



Swim England South West

President: Paul Robbins

Decision & Action log (Minutes)

Swim England SW Open Water Committee Meeting
Held on Wednesday 13th September 2017
At Regional Office, Wellington

No.	Decision or Action or Message	Who will action ?	Who needs to be told?	When ?	Action Completed/outcome
	<u>Present:</u> Sue Dors, Virginia Hill, Alan Withers, , Chris Elliott, Gerry Griffin, , Danny Symmington, Kelly Podbury				
	<u>Apologies:</u> Justine Lawrence; Brian Armstrong, Hannah Smith, Paul Robbins,				
1.	<u>Decision & Action Log</u>				
2.	<u>Proposal of Chairperson</u> Nominated by Virginia unanimously carried sue agreed to continue. Proposed and agreed that Anastacia Pereira as a FINA official should be approached as a second Specialist on the committee and an experienced official.	VCP	All All		
3.	<u>Matters Arising</u> Second Event in 2017. The event was fully investigated and was left on the back burner as a possibility.				
4.	<u>Finance Report</u>  Finance Report 130917.docx	SD			

5.	<u>Development Days Update.</u> Development days for the 2018 season are to be on either 26 th -27 th May and 02 – 03 June.	KP AW	KP, AW		
6.	<u>Regional Championships Update</u> Radios were used at Nationals headsets should be treated with respect. Antiseptic wipes should go with radios It was agreed to investigate the use of wireless equipment or better fitting headsets and mics Timers – batteries are difficult to replace - Kel Baker will look at. The Thermometer for testing the water temperature was broken and was replaced at £90 Manual pumps were used for inflating buoys. Battery operated ones would be much better and easier. A small one was purchased at Weymouth. It was agreed to investigate purchase of a proper pump with adapters. Generally, equipment in store. Life jackets not a cost for region to bear Fewer casualties for First Aid to deal with than previous years possibly due to wearing wetsuits however these did cause chaffing problems to some swimmers bodies. Unfortunately two boats were damaged when bringing in swimmers and an unwell official. There is a need for people to be able to enter the water to assist with boats approaching shore The lack of Canoeists was resolved. prior to the event Many thanks to Alan for all his efforts. Comments From Gerry re championships. Not meant as criticism but constructive comment. Registration congested clerks of the course   Championships Gerry.docx Open Water Competition Secreta	AW			

	Unanimously agreed that this was not necessary and existing criteria should remain in place for the 2017 championships.			
7.	<p><u>County Reps Reports</u></p>  <p>Dorset OW Report 2017m09d13.docx</p>			
8.	<p><u>Next Meeting</u></p> <p>Tuesday 13th Feb 2018 Regional Office, Wellington</p>			

Appendix 1 – Finance Report

OW Finance Report 13/09/17

Allocated a budget by the Regional Management Board of £10,000 for which many thanks however it included provision for a new taster event which did not take place so I would aim to keep within £7,000/£7,500.

Development Course

Significantly fewer swimmers attended but we did have 4 officials training.

I have not finalised these figures as I need confirmation of attendees and there is one claim from a tutor still outstanding. Also with fewer numbers there was a change in the pool time at Wells and less refreshments required so we should be due a repayment.

Championships

Surprisingly despite the various challenges experienced in the run up and during the event. We have kept within overall spend for this element of the budget. The payment from Fine Designs was higher and of course the entries were up which brought in £800 above budget. Savings were made with accommodation, van, generator and table hire. All these contributed to ensuring we kept within budget.

I have not billed the Counties for their contribution as this I feel needs further discussion. Currently it is £250 for each County but if more than 25 swimmers participate there is a charge of £10 per swimmer which is no incentive for higher participation. Somerset and Dorset had over 25 entries and Gloucestershire was just on the limit. Also this methodology does not help Counties when they set their budgets.

Sue Dors
Sept 2017

Appendix 2 – Championship Report, Gerry Griffin

Hi,

I have just been reflecting on the OW swim at Weymouth and thought I would offer the following thoughts:-

- Many of the competitors asked at the Registration Desk when and where they would have their hands marked with their swimmer number. There seemed to be no designated time or area for this to be done. At least one swimmer was labelled with the wrong number because he had forgotten his swim number by the time he was called to have it written on his hand.
 - May I suggest that this should be done immediately after they register whilst they still have their swim hat in their hand. This will need to be done by someone other than the Registration Officer.
- The checking of finger nails and compliance with other regulations needs to be done in an area away from the registration desk.
 - May I suggest that this is done immediately after the safety briefing and in that area - i.e. when the competitors are all together and have been reminded of the regulations and will know what to expect.
- Is it necessary for Registration to remain open all day? Could it be opened for a set period before each event?
- Wetsuits and under garments - competitors need to know whether or not a normal swimsuit can be worn under the wetsuit
 - An indication of acceptable and unacceptable under garments is needed.
 - Rash-vests and neoprene shorts need to be considered and probably outlawed.
- Should it be decided that under garments are not allowed then suitable enclosed changing facilities will be required in order to maintain modesty and decency whilst changing into and out of the wetsuits.
- Many competitors had been informed that under garments were forbidden - I don't know where that instruction had come from - the Region or their clubs?

I assure you of my best intentions, Gerry Griffin

Appendix 3 - Open Water Competition Secretary Report – September 2017

It was my pleasure to support the Region in the organisation and the running of this year's Open Water Championships. I was particularly impressed by the amount of support we receive on the beach, volunteers travel from far and wide and just get on with it, whether that's setting up the tents, PA system, swimmers marshalling areas, officials at sea and on shore, everyone seems to know what their area of expertise is and they just get on with it. All the pieces of the jigsaw coming together seamlessly. Thank you to everyone who participated in the organising of the event in the run up, during and afterwards – you are all amazing.

Entries were up this year significantly on last year, here are a few statistics:

- 199 competitors
- 73 more entries compared to 2016
- That's a 58% increase
- 51 clubs represented from around the Region
- 22 entries from Cornwall
- 16 entries from Devon
- 57 entries from Dorset
- 25 entries from Gloucestershire
- 9 Open entries

- 11 entries from the Police
- 43 entries from Somerset
- 16 entries from Wiltshire

Event entry statistics:

Event	Male	Female	Total
5km	22	18	40
750m	13	17	30
1.5km	43	41	84
3km	25	23	48

I am sure that Hannah will report on the situation with the wet suits but by far the most asked question on the day was what constituted a single wet suit and could a pool suit be worn underneath a wet suit. Hannah did a great job responding to all enquiries and we had particular concern from Wiltshire, rightly so not wanting their swimmers to be under any doubt or potential for dispute regarding DQs regarding suits at this event or Nationals.

With regards to the running of the event the only change I would make to the beach set up would be not to have the Clerks of the Course marking up swimmers near to or in the registration tent. It became very congested at times and as I was situated in the tent I was more visible and distracted when it came to inputting results. This wasn't an issue as I had a Young Volunteer supporting me with the reading of the results so that I could get them input promptly and the set-up of the results spreadsheet prior supported coherent results recording.

The online entry forms worked well again this year, I have already given some thought as to how I can improve that again next year, I will add the 51 clubs who were represented this year into a drop-down list for swimmers to select and any new ones can be manually input. This will help with the entry sheet formatting, saving time in the long run.

The payment of fees worked better this year, Chris Robinson was able to tell me more easily this year who had paid as Chris used a separate bank account to receive the income. We will continue to use this method for 2018.

The printed programmes went down well again this year, when they eventually arrived but again I had to recycle quite a number of them. We need to consider the format and number for next year, perhaps on review of the budget we can decide how we wish to proceed.

The weather wasn't as bad as in 2016 but still an issue with high winds at times. The provision of soup for swimmers following their events went down well during the end of the day as the temperature was dropping – a good addition in my opinion.

Overall, the event ran very well and there is very little to comment on, only to recommend small changes for next year with regards to shore side.

Special recognition does need to be made to Alan Withers who took on much of what Les Debenham would have done, or what they would have done collectively. In my opinion we need consider how we can better support Alan in preparations for the 2018 competition.

Kelly Podbury

Swim England South West Open Water Competition Secretary

Appendix 4 – Dorset OW Report

Dorset Report for 13th September 2017

Development of Age Group OW Swimmers

Danny Symington and Dorset swimming coaches have worked hard during 2017 to encourage age group swimmers to participate in sea swimming. I hope the momentum will carry over to 2018.

SWR OW Championships

A post event observations report has been presented to the OW Executive Officers. This has been included with the agenda for this meeting. I would like add that bottled water should be available immediately on leaving the post-swim deregistration area.

Dorset Financial Contribution to the Championships

Dorset has expressed concerns as to the non-budgetable financial contribution to the Championships. In essence Dorset feels that there is a financial penalty for encouraging the expansion of open water swimming in the County. I know this will be raised at the next County Executive Meeting and I will need to defend the Region's Championships.

Gerry Griffin, September 2017

