

Minutes of the Swim England South West Region Masters Subcommittee 2020

10.30 am Saturday 11 January 2020 at the South West Regional Office

Those present:

Brian Armstrong (BA) Gloucestershire County Masters Representative
Sue Haigh (SH) SE SW Region and Devon County Masters Representative
Sharon Lock (SL) National Masters Swimming & Open Water Officer
Robert Margetts (RM)
Philippa O'Grady (PO) Somerset County Masters Representative (joint)

RM was invited to take the chair which he accepted.

1 Apologies received from:

Catherine Ralph (CR) Cornish Masters representative
Andy Harris (AH) Wilts Masters representative
Karen Yendole (KY) Dorset Masters representative
Adele Parham (AP) Somerset County masters representative (joint)
Mike Coles (MK) SE Southwest regional president

2 The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved

3 There were no matters arising

4 Correspondence

An email has been received from Jonathan Scott which is dealt with in 5b

5

a) Report on the Masters Development Day 2019 SH

The Regional Masters Development Day passed off well. One or two people found it difficult to find the sports Village and the corresponding car park. We had 39 people attend and 41 people had paid but had to pull out due to injury. Feedback on the day was good - however, despite 39 people attending

only 10 left feedback on the official form. Those who did leave feedback suggest a few minor things which could be improved on in 2020.

Most people were complimentary about the Bath University pool and the fact that it was 50m. On the whole I felt that the facilities in Bath warrant travelling there again even though it puts swimmers from Cornwall and Devon at a disadvantage. Mount Kelly pool is fine but the gym is certainly not user-friendly for those with disabilities. Millfield pool is also excellent but other facilities make that more expensive to book. The date for the 2020 Development Day is 26th January.

b) 2020 Development Day SH

I hope that this will take place on 26th of January at Bath again this year as so far as very few Masters have signed up.

It is planned that Dave Hill, Para Swimmer and Triathlete will lead the pool sessions and speakers will include National Masters Officer Sharon Lock, Karen Howells sports psychologist, Jane Asher, Multi Masters world Record holder and Liz James a nutritionist. As well as the pool sessions there will be a yoga/ stretching class.

An email has been received from Jonathan Scott who needs a signer to be able to participate in the event

As this is a Regional event the Region will need to cover all costs and a signer booked for the whole day will charge approx. £500. It was felt that with more notice this cost could have been reduced. The Region have agreed to cover the costs this year but the process will be reviewed next year.

Equality legislation asks the organisation to make reasonable adjustments to accommodate various needs where ever possible. Therefore in order to ensure the region understands peoples' needs in future the 2021 application form will ask applicants to state any disabilities they may have and list whatever help they will need to access the day.

6 Competitions

a) Swim England South West Region Open Meet SH

The Regional Masters open meet in September so 67 men and 50 women entering making a total of 117. Considering we have 622 cat2 swimmers in the region I feel this is quite low. The event ran well on the day but the Weston-Super-Mare pool is not really suitable for this meet as there is no swim down facility and the one set of steps to the seating area are awkward to manoeuvre and frequently cause a bottleneck of swimmers needing to get up and down from the balcony. It is also pity that we never seem to have enough official still relevant well and that swimmers have to press backup button to time the swimmer in the event before theirs.

There was some consternation on the day around the engraved commemorative medals which were available for all swimmers. Men and women received different colour medals, the men silver and women bronze. This led to a discussion on the type of award that should be given and it was decided that in 2020 age adjusted medals would be given for each event. It was also decided that each County would provide a spot prize and these would be given out randomly in different races throughout the event. It was also decided to play music during the warmup, the break during the sessions and also maybe in the longer of events i.e. the 400m. This would add more atmosphere to the event.

Next years Regional Open Meet will take place on the 27th September. at Millfield.

b) Swim England National Inter-County Competition SH

The Regional Inter-County competition took place at Millfield on November 10. This was an exciting event with Devon regaining the Regional Shield.

Final results were:

Devon 355

Gloucestershire 264

Wiltshire 240

Dorset 230

Cornwall 230

Somerset 175

These results translated nationally to:

Devon 4th - a drop of one place from 2018
Gloucestershire 10th - a drop of one place from 2018
Wiltshire 13th - a climb of 5 places from 2018
Dorset 14th - static
Cornwall 18th - a drop of places from 2018
Somerset 20th - a climb of two places from 2018

There was discussion on the programme and it was decided that the two additional 75+ races were a good thing despite some counties being unable to find swimmers for those races.

It was also agreed that the event was useful as it is one of the only times that swimmers can be part of a team as opposed to swimming as an individual..

BA asked why South Wales were not competing in our Region with us. SL explained that the invitation was still there for South Wales to join our group and this may well happen in the future . Until that time though the South West could go back to using a six lane pool for the event.

RM explained that the Region appoints the starter and two referees for this event with each county bringing two qualified officials with their team to the event.

7 County reports .

(Please see appendix)

Reports were received from Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Gloucestershire and Somerset.

No report was received from Wiltshire

Questions to Sharon

BA asked why a two hour limit had been set for the 5K as it was too tough for some and they dissuade others from entering the event in the future.

SL explained that the lake could only be booked from 7am to 7pm and it was difficult to fit all the events within this window of time. However, the time limit will be adjusted for next year's event and those who were unable to finish and those who were very close to the limit will be contacted in order to encourage them to enter in 2020

BA also reported that the British Ice Swimming Championships were to take place at Sandford Parks Lido Cheltenham this year.

SL reported that the 'Starting Masters' funding will be available again this year and an email will be sent to all secretaries of clubs who have masters swimmers on their books. The whole point of this £600 award is to grow/ attract new masters to become club members. This award cannot be given to clubs who have already received it in previous years.

SL also asked if the T 30 competition was worth continuing as this year there were only 92 entries there was discussion as to whether this should be held biannually.

AOB

The decathlon swimmer of the year with the most points is Levin Veale from Totnes with 5974 just pipping Helen Kula -Przezanski with 5830 points. There was discussion on whether we should still choose this swimmer solely on the Decathlon points or if other factors should be considered.?

RM asked SL if it was possible to have an electronic system for entering the Inter County Masters event, similar to the one used for the Performance Inter County event. SL said that she would enquire.

The date of the next meeting was decided as 9th January 2021