

Margaret Somerville	MS	Vice President, Scottish Swimming
Les Rodger	LR	Chair
Jim Gallacher	JG	Safety Co-ordinator
Lynne Deans	LD	West District Convenor
Sandra Westgate	SW	Midland District Convenor
Andrena Hammond	AH	Open Water Head Coach
Kirsty Ewen	KE	Domestic Events Co-ordinator

The meeting was therefore quorate.

Item No.	Action
1. Apologies for Absence:	Ralph Payne (RP), Mhairi Connor (MC), Jennifer Ewen (JE), Jennifer Davies (JD), Jayne Smith (JS).
2. Declarations of Interest:	LR – Parent of Ishbel Rodger, LD – Parent of Mark and Scott Deans
3. Minutes of Meeting of 17 January 2015:	One correction: Apologies had been omitted received from SW. Proposed LD, seconded JG, minutes accepted without dissent.
4. Matters Arising and Items on Action List:	
1 RLSS are looking for a way in which our relationship can be acknowledged and used to promote relationships with other voluntary bodies.	JG/JS
2 Equipment can be ordered now we have the logo unveiled. JG will obtain another quote from the supplier.	JG
5 OW Coach will likely be a Level 2 Coaching qualification. Progressing. Currently with Education.	
6 E and W Districts to fall in line with age/time corrections for Masters as agreed. To be noted at license/event info preparation stage.	
9 Meeting tomorrow to discuss Safety Officer Training	
10 JG will research further a possible external safety qualification.	JG
14 We have had some comments about the lack of publicity for the 5k event, in spite of our best efforts. Probably too late to do anything about this now.	
15 Venacher Sailing Club understand and have no problems if we hold a challenge event on Sunday after the Scottish.	
19 North District will be holding a meeting with Loch Morlich Sailing Club to discuss possible use of that venue shortly.	JE

Other points will be discussed as they arise.

5. Correspondence:

Scottish Swimming have been contacted by Nova International. LR to attend meeting with Nova, JS and Forbes in late April.

LR

It was noted that the date of the Great Scottish Swim clashes with the Discovery Mile. However, it was considered that this is not likely to be a significant issue.

6. Budget/Accounts:

We have spent almost nothing yet in this financial year (as is usual in March). It was noted that if the OW Coach Qualification is a Level Two rather than a CPD module, it might cost more. However, our budget should be able to accommodate this

7. Development Plan:

(Was Actions 3 and 13)

Discussions surrounding various documents. David Carry has sent an email with some thoughts. Several will be incorporated into the Plan.

Discussion on OW Grand Prix: It was agreed unanimously that this should be retained. There is no prize money at the Scottish Championships but the GP works in much the same way as in the pool (and indeed predates the pool version).

Development Plan Actions and Targets 2014-18 discussed in detail and Owners, Targets and Dates agreed. LR to update the draft and finalise.

LR

Brief discussion around appointing someone to Tweet regularly on Open Water, especially at main events. This was something that was discussed at the last Discipline Chairs Meeting.

We should then at intervals agree the current priorities and the issues and barriers to achieving the targets which exist and how to overcome them.

8. Governance:

The 1k limit for age 12 swimmers was lifted at the SASA AGM to 1.5k for the ASA Qualifiers.

Our Committee now has a quorum of four members (not including co-opted) and at least two districts represented. LR highlighted that District Convenors who were unable to attend may send one of their district committee to represent them. There was a short discussion around whether “deputies” could attend other meetings of the committee when the Convenor was also present and noting the fact that the Committee has to sign undertakings on swimmer confidentiality and how this might work. MS offered to seek clarification for us.

MS

Changes to the event guidelines were read through (was Action 8) and agreed. [Update: following the Safety Meeting on the following day, one or two other amendments have been proposed – these will be circulated before the new Guidelines are published.]

LR

JG, LR and Doug Milne will be meeting tomorrow to discuss formal Safety Officer training (was Action 9).

LR/JG

The new logo has been unveiled. There are strict rules for its use and we already have some of these but we will be told more by the office later, also how this will be used on team kit, etc.

LR

AH asked if we could put the logo on all competition caps. This would raise our “brand”

but would cost more and might have other consequences. LR offered to get costs and consider practicality and report back. **LR**

JG noted that if our logo has changed then we may need new hi-vis vests with the new logo. Recommended that we colour code for STOs, Safety and Event Management staff.

Relay Grand Prix Rules were previously circulated. There were no comments and these are accepted. To be uploaded to website. Hopefully it may be possible to have relays at all Grand Prix Events next year (2016). **LR**

9. Domestic Events:

5k entry very slow indeed at present but we are expecting some last-minute entries.

West District (Was Action 20) location still to be determined. Could swap dates to mid July if it helps. **LD**

East District – it is understood that we presently only have a half day at Loch Ore. We will need the full day for the events proposed. **JD**

Scottish – same programme as 2014, events information as last year but allow separate time for registration, with gap for Safety and Officials Briefing before Swimmers' Briefing. **KE**

Should KE start booking rooms for STOs and Events Staff? - Yes **KE**

Venacher Mile Challenge Event (Sunday straight after Scottish) The following discussed and agreed:

Around 60 swimmers maximum. Perhaps in two or three waves at 5 minute intervals.

Registration 2pm. Start 3pm. Cut off 1 hour.

Cost £30 for non-member (includes temporary membership), £20 for member.

Wetsuit hire to be available on the day, provided by others. JS has contacts.

LR will ask JS if she has an editable copy of the "Come and Try" flyer. If our flyer looks similar, then potential entrants may be more comfortable with this format. **LR**

KE to prepare flyer and circulate for comment. Include entry form and TM form in Information Pack. **KE**

Do we need a license for this? Doubtful because this is not a competition. LR will check. **LR**

It was agreed that we should prepare guidance on the format of Grand Prix events from next year (2016). **LR**

10. National Team / Squad:

Selection criteria was circulated at the meeting and discussed. This is not yet finalised. Ally Whike has yet to comment and LR has copied to MC for separate input. **All**

Can everyone check for any flaws and advise, please? We expect these to be published in the next three to four weeks, so any input before then.

A few things to note:

1 These are much simpler.

2 Squad eligibility will be determined substantially by qualification for ASA OW.

3 Since ASA OW has 800m and 1500m pool entry times, swimmers can qualify for Scottish OW Development Squad on this basis before they have swum OW in Scotland (but they must commit to doing so as a requirement for Squad entry).

4 Team eligibility will be determined substantially by closeness of time to winner at 5k and 10k at Scottish Championships, not just by finish order.

5 Performance at the “prestige” event (Scottish Championships) is critical.
6 Grand Prix points are not intended to influence selection any more
7 5k Indoor results are not intended to influence selection any more

We intend the available budget to go to those who will benefit most from international competition, so the Development Squad will probably stay in the UK.

Note: Performance Team advises that Squad Selection Policies are now published. These are essentially unchanged for Open Water, except for slight tightening of times to allow for faster times worldwide.

11. Safety:

Mostly discussed already.

We should look at an agreed “cost scale” for donations to canoe clubs helping us. To be raised at May Committee meeting

JG

Possible training for canoeists at weekly or monthly swimmer training?

12. Technical Officials:

Midland have one trainee looking for a final assessment at OWJ1, two looking for OWJ2 training and two looking for OWJ1 training.

RP/LR

13. District Reports:

East District: None.

Midland: YeAABA holding a “Come and Try” day in April.

SW advised that YeAABA appear to be willing to open up their OW training to any Scottish Swimming member. Information on OW training in Harbour to be sent to Scottish Swimming.

SW

North: Written

West: Written. LD will consider Galloway venue. Still hoping for Balgray Reservoir but would be next year, not 2015.

14. Communication:

LR will update mailing list and send to District Convenors for checking.

LR

15. AOCB:

None.

Next Committee Meeting 16th May 2015.

Open Water Workshop Summary 28nd February

Vision for Open Water: Key Summary of Brainstorming

Increase Growth in Participation

Mass participation/large numbers

Fun/children/come and try

Wetsuits – swimsuits transition – issues/challenges

Challenge swims

More youngsters taking part

Retention of current members

Retaining swimmers

Family session

Better retention to over 17 categories (students)

High profile – not niche – valued discipline

Open water training sessions

Regional Training Centres = increase in participation- give people somewhere to go

Link come and Try (2 sessions) and possible centres ideally up to 3 times a week

Competition

Standardised policies, processes and training for events

Safety key to success/safety kit for events

Training for event volunteers

Implementation and promotion

Partnerships

Improve Standard of National Events

Sunday of Loch Venacher – Challenge Event

Challenge Events at district championships but would need to be called something else to attract people- promotion/marketing

Link with safety training – officials training

National/District events – large numbers 250 +

Increased number of volunteers and quality/ event orientation

Swimmer Development

Regional training venues

Open Water Training programme

Open water Swimmer Pathway

Regular training –centralised venue

Athletes at Commonwealth Games + Olympics

Marketing and Communication

Professional events – branding

Communication/promotion to the members/public

Coach Education/Development High Priority

Coach Education – qualification for Open Water – L2 – CPD module

ASA qualification that we can hopefully access

Fund coach education in return for coaching at regional events

Professional/qualified coaches

Current coaches on board – increased participation – developing swimmers

West venues: Pinkston, Strathclyde country park, James Hamilton Park

Qualified coaches

Regional Training venues – timescale:

East: Broughty Ferry- tweaks/promotion?

Central: Helix, Falkirk

Progress together:

East: Lochore –more information

West: Ballingray? Balgray, Renfrew : prioritise for development – potential national centre

North: Knockburn, Aberdeenshire – training probably not for competition

MAIN PRIORITIES AGREED FROM DISCUSSION

1. Increasing participation/growth in Open Water

- National/Regional training venues
- Come and Try events
- Challenge/District Events
- Wetsuit opportunities/promotion at all events

2. Coach Education

- ASA Level 2 qualification up and running asap
- Regular coach education organised

3. Competitions

- Standardised policies, processes and training for events
- Safety paramount
- Swimmer Pathway- wetsuit to swimsuit transition
- Improve Standard of National Events
- Partnerships

4. Marketing/Promotion/Communication

- Raising the profile across all aspects of Open Water swimming
- Professional events/branding/promotion

OPEN WATER SWIMMING COMMITTEE

21st March 2015

North District Convenor's Report

Our championships will be on Saturday 22nd August 2015, at Loch Morlich

	<u>Briefing/Start</u>
Event 1: Senior 5 km	09:30/10:00
Event 2: Junior 3 km	12:30/13:00
Event 3: Senior 1.5 km	14:30/15:00
Event 4: Junior 800 metres	15:30/15:45
Event 5: Relay	16:15/16.30

Senior 5 km event and junior 3km event are the distances of the 2015 Scottish Open Water Swimming Grand Prix Series.

North District Team

Funding has been agreed at £125 each for North District swimmers. A contribution of £150.00 to SASA Open Water Swimming Grand Prix Prize Fund was approved at the North District AGM.

A site visit is planned within the next 3 weeks to carry out a risk assessment.

Jennifer Ewen

North District Open Water Convenor

West District Open Water Convenors Report March 2015

Need to discuss at committee meeting the date and venue of the West District Championships. Do we move the event to the 18th July now that the North District event has changed to August or do we keep the original date of the 6th September?

Venue remains a problem ; the James Hamilton Heritage Park has water quality issues in the summer ; Balgray reservoir is still in the planning stage so can't be used this year ; Loch Ard could be a possibility if we move it to July ; have found a venue in Dumfries and Galloway which could be an option – Galloway Activity Centre, www.lochken.co.uk

Have been in touch with Stephen McHenry from East Renfrewshire Council –plans for the Balgray Reservoir centre are progressing slowly and they are still in consultation with Scottish Water regarding allowing watersports in the reservoir. I have invited him to bring representatives from Scottish Water to any of our events to show him how our events are run and we can answer any questions they might have regarding our safety arrangements for our events.

Lynne Deans

West District Convenor