

Les Rodger	<b>LR</b>	Chair and representing East District
Ralph Payne	<b>RP</b>	STO Co-ordinator
Vicky Taylor	<b>VT</b>	Midland District Convenor
Donna Lawrie	<b>DL</b>	Representing North District
Sandra Westgate	<b>SW</b>	Volunteers Co-ordinator
Andrena Hammond	<b>AH</b>	Head Open Water Coach
Jayne Smith	<b>JS</b>	Scottish Swimming

The meeting was therefore quorate.

Item No.	Action
1. <b>Apologies for Absence:</b> Kirsty Ewen ( <b>KE</b> ), Lynne Deans ( <b>LD</b> ), Richard Collins ( <b>RC</b> ), Jim Gallacher ( <b>JG</b> ), Jennifer Ewen ( <b>JE</b> )	
2. <b>Declarations of Interest:</b> None	
3. <b>Minutes of Meeting of May 2017:</b> Very last line (DONM) corrected to 2017 rather than 2018. Proposed JS, seconded SW, minutes accepted (as amended) without dissent.	
4. <b>Matters Arising and Items on Action List:</b> <u>OW Coach Training:</u> Alan Reed – Swim England has a two-day course which they would be happy to share with us and train two tutors to deliver. Theory and practical. This would be a UK qualification with around twelve learners to two tutors, one day classroom and pool and one day at an OW venue. Alan is currently in discussions to bring the cost down a little.  There was a discussion around options. Is this likely to be more advantageous for coaches or would CPD modules be better, with perhaps one introductory module and one more performance-aimed.  It was agreed that we should canvas support for either option from coaches via the club mailshot. LR to devise wording by the end of October, agree with AH and send to JS for the mailshot. JS to send information on the content of the Swim England course to AH by the end of next week. Committee to decide in January which path to adopt. Offer either the qualification or CPD modules by start of the 2018 season.	LR AH JS
5. <b>Correspondence:</b> <u>Potential Change to Financial Year:</u> It is likely that a proposal to change the financial year will be put to the SASA AGM. This will bring the reporting year, membership year and financial year into line. If approved, the change will not occur this year. However, it should simplify matters for us.	
6. <b>Accounts:</b> Allowing for accruals we are currently more or less on target. All expenses claims to be in before the end of October.	All

## 7. **Team/Squad Update Cyprus:**

Five athletes and two staff (AH and RC) recently returned from Cyprus camp.

Scott Deans, Marshall Illingworth and Keanna MacInnes were pre-selected, as members of the Scottish OW Team. Daisy Hill was selected on the basis of her performances at Scottish OW events. Jamie McCaffray was selected on the basis of his performance at the Swim England OW Nationals.

The competition this year was just about the perfect level for our swimmers, who swam very well but were very much within the field in terms of their performances relative to the other swimmers. So it was very valuable experience for them. Competition on the day appeared to be little more tough among the males than among the females. Experience also of the overhead finish was useful. Transponders were in use. Also, the water was salty, which was a new experience for some of our swimmers.

Jamie was first in the 1.25km event, with Scott third. Scott was also third in the 5km race.

Keanna was first in the 1.25km and 2.5km races and third in the 5km race. Daisy was second in all three races, being only just touched out in the 5km event.

It is likely that the Cyprus International will be the last leg of the Mediterranean Cup next year, so the standard may be higher.

The organisers have invited us back already for next year and will let us know the date early in 2018, hopefully before it goes officially on the internet, which would allow us to make savings by booking early. It may be a very good event for Development Squad next year.

Well done to everyone and thank you to the staff in attendance.

Suggestion that we ask Triathlon Scotland if we can borrow some transponders to practice with, at least. JS will make contact to discuss. JS

There was an issue in that we could not withdraw cash on the credit card in Cyprus. JS to discuss with Deborah. JS

## 8. **Review of 2016:**

Licensing and Returns: no issues identified.

Open Water is developing a good profile amongst the public.

Numbers were up a little, in spite of this not being an Olympic or Commonwealth year. Attributed to the new wetsuit rules. LR to send info on numbers to JS. LR

Discussion on ways we may differentiate between the District events and SNOWs, given that SNOWs is a National level competition. It was agreed we should look at swimmer accreditation cards, which they would hand in before each race and collect at the end of the race. They could then keep these at the end of competition. This would also be an additional safety feature. LR

Midland Challenge was a non-wetsuit event in 2017.

Agreed that the toilets at Monikie are too far from the start. Agreed that the toilets at Morlich are too busy and unreliable. Organisers should look at hiring portaloos next year if they are using the same venues. Midland/  
North

Is it practicable to organise a caterer for everyone at SNOWs next year?

Would Loch Lomond be practicable for SNOWs next year? Unlikely. The Great Scottish Swim will likely be used as a test event.

Can we get a T shirt supplier to offer T shirts with all the swimmers' names on? It **Note** should be possible. Consider for later meeting.

## 9. **Development Plan:**

Progress on the Development plan against the 2017 targets was reviewed.

### Notable observations:

Dev Target 2: No challenge event at Midland or North in 2017.

Dev Target 3: Support Participation: Proceeding well with support on the Safety side.

Dev Target 4: No pool tester events delivered. Might we consider seeking a change to the minimum age anyway? See later in minutes.

Dev Target 5: OW Coach Training: CPD delivered.

Dev Target 7: STO target met but we need more.

Dev Target 8: Liaising with ASA on Safety Qualification but not much movement yet.

Dev Target 9: Safety Officer target not met but we have a lot of trainees quite far through the process.

Dev Target 12: Student event: Agreed to drop this from priorities.

Dev Target 16: Container not got. This may become a problem in the future.

Perf Target 3: Still need to work on a coherent pathway for swimmers.

Perf Target 4: Hub at Stirling not moving. Alternative location at Darnley – this development is now under construction. OWR do training. May be of benefit to both to undertake training together. For discussion January. **Note**

Perf Target 5: Selection policy to be discussed in January. **Note**

Perf Target 6: Research by RC suggests that these currently have to be very 'personalised'. Not worthwhile for the moment. Consider for future.

Set new targets for 2017 in January, when we will have to agree the budget application for next year also. **Note**

## 10. **Nomination of OW Chair for 2017:**

LR nominated unanimously. **LR**

Reminder that LR will have to step down at 2019 AGM.

## 11. **Nominations for Specialist Positions:**

All existing specialist positions agreed to be nominated for 2018. **LR**

## 12. **Plans for 2017:**

No district was particularly keen on not holding an event in spite of the very busy summer to be expected in 2018.

East District: Issues with dates again. We have been offered 26<sup>th</sup> May at Lochore but this clashes with an East District pool event, so not an option. JS has booked 20<sup>th</sup> May for a Come and Try. Taking bookings for the morning. Might we include a sprint East District OW Championships in the afternoon and a Challenge event? This would create an OW Festival. Generally agreed this is a good plan. The ASA Qualifier will need to be at another District event. **LR**

West District: Loch Ken booked for 1<sup>st</sup> September.

SNOWs: Agreed we should ask Venachar Sailing club if 18 and 19<sup>th</sup> August is available. **KE**

Agreed Midland should be the ASA Qualifier. Midland to book Monikie for a date in mid **VT**

June and advise.

North may include a 500m event.

JE/DL

Electronic Entries: Good insofar as payment was simplified (no or few cheques). Also good for medical information. However, issues arose in that organisers had no transparency in terms of who had entered (this is critically important). The format of the entry on output from the online system was also a poor match for the Results Processor spreadsheet. Finally, receipt of the money from the online system was very slow. There were therefore significant problems. However, it should be possible to resolve these issues so we have a good system. Need to discuss with the office.

LR/KE

For those events continuing as manual entries, we need to get the same level of medical information from the manual system as from the electronic one.

Agreed we should prioritise those trainee Safety Officers who are near the end of their training in order to increase the number qualified to a more sensible level.

Note

### 13. Governance:

One of the non-wetsuit L2 events in 2017 came close to having neither a qualified Safety Officer or a qualified BS OW Referee. Technically this is allowed within our rules as they stand but this is not within the spirit of what was intended.

We had indicated that we would tighten the rules on qualified Safety Officers when the qualification was introduced.

On the other hand, we do not have many qualified Safety Officers or qualified BS OW Referees.

Agreed that we should change rules to require a qualified Safety Officer and BS OW Referee at L1 events. For L2 events, in the absence of a qualified Safety Officer, a BS OW referee may assume that responsibility. Note that Safety Officers cannot multi-task. LR to contact Editorial to discuss and agree wording.

LR

OW4.3: It was agreed that the rules should be changed to require districts to award open medals but to allow them to award what medals they wanted to district swimmers, provided that this is stated in the meet information. LR to agree wording with Editorial.

LR

There was a discussion on the proposal to ask for a reduction in the minimum age which was originally discussed before the 2017 season.

Minimum age for Come and Try is 10 years. Participants then cannot take part in Scottish Swimming competitions until 12 years. New wetsuit rules mean that younger swimmers should be more protected than they were against cold conditions.

It was agreed that L2 non-wetsuit events should stay the same.

For L1 events and L2 events with wetsuits, we should look to lower the minimum age to 10 years (age on day). However, we should limit the race length for such young swimmers. Age 10: 500m. Age 11 (at year end): 1km. Age 12 (at year end): recommend increase to 2km.

This will require changes to both the Scottish Swimming Regulations (at the AGM) and also to the OW Regulations, so must go to the SASA AGM.

LR to discuss and agree wording with Editorial. LR will propose at AGM. RP will second.

LR

### 14. Meeting Dates for Next Year:

Provisionally agreed:

20 January 2018

17 March 2018

28 April 2018

13 October 2018.

LR

(post meeting note: these dates are now confirmed and rooms booked. Usual meeting

room for all dates except January, which will be in the upstairs meeting room at the Tennis Courts)

**15. AOCB:**

RP made the meeting aware of discussions regarding non-standard swimwear which are occurring at Board level in Scottish Swimming.

**Next Committee Meeting:** 20 January 2018