

SWIMMING FORUM

Minutes of meeting held Tuesday 11 April 2006 commencing at 10.30am
Grace Dieu Room, University Dining Suite, Loughborough University

Present:	Ralph Riley	ISRM	Chairman	RR
	David Sparkes	ASA		DS
	Noel Winter	ASA		NW
	Lee Robinson	STA		LR
	Roger Barnard	Sport England		RB
	Peter Cornall	RoSPA		PC
	Jim Gordon	BSPF		JG
	Ed Chapman	DfES		EC
	Brian McGuinness	BSCTA		BMcG
	Allen Brobyn	BSPF		AB
	Jason Rudgeley	RLSS		JR

Apologies:	Mike Fulford	ILAM
	John Stiven	ESSA
	Robert James	Welsh ASA
	Anne Adams-King	ASA
	Adrian Lole	RLSS
	Debbie Austin	Sports Council for Wales
	Roger Millward	STA

Action

1. **Minutes of meeting held 11 October 2005**
- 1.1. Confirmed as a correct record.

2. **Matters Arising**
- 2.1. Min 8: Comprehensive Performance Assessment Criteria. The Chairman advised the meeting that the application of the Comprehensive Performance Assessment Criteria was beginning to have some impact and he believed it would have a major impact on the leisure industry within England. The Chairman undertook to ensure that the ISRM would continue to monitor and report to the Forum on progress. RR

3. **UKCC**
- 3.1. DS advised the meeting that this was progressing according to plan and that the work was moving towards a launch date later this year.
- 3.2. It was noted that there were some concerns with the policy decision that there should be only one awarding body for each sport, however the Forum generally felt comfortable with this policy position. The ASA however gave an undertaking to work with any organisation that wished to become a training delivery partner for the UKCC and to ensure that the commercial interests of that partner were protected commensurate with conforming to normal QCA rules for an awarding body. The intention for British Swimming was that the awarding body would be the ASA, although the awarding body for Scotland had yet to be established.
- 3.3. The meeting noted that this was a government initiative, which had strong government support. The ASA confirmed that should it be helpful they would happily meet with representatives of the STA Education Committee if required in order to establish a way forward with them.

4. **Licensing of Swimming Teachers & Coaches**
- 4.1. The ASA confirmed that this was proceeding well. It was acknowledged that not all partners around the table had been consulted on the licensing scheme however the ASA have been careful together with their colleagues within Wales and Scotland to ensure that the licensing scheme was employer led which had been the guidance they had received in this respect.
- 4.2. The ASA were asked if there would be any insurance impact on the licensing scheme as it was felt that this would give some comfort to insurers. There was general agreement around the table that a move towards licensing was not seen as an

income stream, indeed it was acknowledged that licensing had a significant cost to the sport but that it would succeed in raising standards.

5. **Schools Swimming**

5.1. The ASA gave details of their work with DfES and DCMS through PESCL on Top Ups and the appointment of five School Sport Co-ordinators.

5.2. Details were also provided to the Forum on proposals for a new International event to be known as the UK School Games, which was announced during the recent budget. Funding for this had already been agreed and initiated.

5.3. The Forum generally welcomed these initiatives and looked forward to receiving further reports in due course.

5.4. The Forum requested that the ASA keep them informed on statistics on what is actually happening on the ground and in particular share statistics with partners around the table. The ASA undertook to do this.

ASA

5.5. DfES gave an indication that no further OfSted reporting on schools swimming was planned before 2008/9 so that they could monitor the impact of Top Ups on schools swimming.

6. **Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups**

6.1. A paper prepared by Jane Nickerson of the ASA was tabled and it was generally acknowledged that this was a helpful paper and flagged up issues that would concern everyone around the table.

6.2. There was an opportunity for everyone to influence policy in this area and everyone was urged to look at the DfES website and take an opportunity to contribute to the debate.

ALL

7. **National Teaching Plan**

7.1. The ASA confirmed that the National Teaching Plan was subject to further review and that it would be brought much closer into line with Long Term Athlete Development. Progress on the review would be advised to the Forum in due course.

ASA

8. **Facility Issues**

8.1. The ASA and ISRM confirmed that there was discussion on-going in the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister on the future role of local authorities in the delivery and management of leisure facilities within their area and there appeared to be emerging the concept of local authorities becoming more strategic.

8.2. It was generally agreed that we should continue to work together to monitor this development as it was felt that this was not helpful particularly in view of the new requirements for local authorities to improve participation in sport and physical activity included within the arrangements for Comprehensive Performance Assessment.

8.3. The DfES were able to confirm that Swimming was part of Building Schools for the Future and that Partnership for Schools was an opportunity that should be followed up through Sport England.

8.4. Discussions took place with regard to increased heating costs and it was noted that the ASA and ISRM had been signatories to a recent letter by BISL to the DCMS. The response from the Minister for Sport however had not really addressed the concerns of the industry and this was now being followed up further by the BISL with the DTI.

9. **Health Agenda**

9.1. The ASA reported on their work on the Health Agenda and on the new projects which were being funded through the significant lottery funding received from Sport England.

9.2. The ISRM were further able to report that there were some excellent examples of free swimming now emerging and there was a need for this to be monitored and for examples of good practice to be disseminated to the industry.

10. **Drowning Alert Systems**

10.1. A wide-ranging discussion took place on a paper presented by Sport England on the use of computer aided drowning alert systems.

10.2. It was generally agreed that this technology had now arrived and had proved to be effective and that the Forum should rightly consider its position on these.

10.3. After careful consideration it was generally felt that the Forum would not wish to be overly prescriptive. In the view of the Forum all the designers of swimming pools should always design for inherent safety.

If due to the design or intended operation of the pool a risk assessment undertaken at a very early stage within the design process by an experienced and competent manager shows that safety can be enhanced through the use of some form of Drowning Alert System then it is best planned for at this early stage when the equipment or system can be integrated into the design.

In existing pools there may be a case for the use of this type of technology. The operator would need as part of their ongoing risk assessment, to determine if its use will enhance safety arrangements by assisting in the supervision and surveillance of the pool to be of such benefit that its application is justifiably reasonably practicable.

11. **Equity**

11.1. The ASA confirmed that they had recently completed the Foundation level for equity and that they were now moving forward to the Intermediate level and progress was on target.

12. **National Water Safety Forum**

12.1. RoSPA provided a detailed report on work being undertaken to establish more robust figures for drowning and in particular under the heading Agreed Water Related Fatality Figures.

12.2. It was felt that whilst RoSPA and the RLSS would continue to record their own figures in the normal way for comparative purposes this new data would become the industry standard.

12.3. It was also confirmed that the RLSS and RoSPA had worked together on some research into anonymous lifeguard interventions that had shown that the most likely age when a drowning might take place within a swimming pool environment was between 8 – 10 years.

12.4. It was noted that the next National Water Safety Congress was to be held 9/10 October 2006 in Stratford.

13. **Swimming Goggles in Teaching Situations**

13.1. The ASA tabled its policy in this regard. It was agreed that the ASA would work together with the STA on a joint policy on goggles that would be presented to the next meeting of the Swimming Forum.

ASA/STA

14. **Wearing of Spectacles during a Swimming Session**

14.1. It was agreed that there were no particular safety issues around wearing spectacles during schools swimming sessions provided that the spectacles were secure. However a long-term solution in this regard was to move towards prescription goggles, where prescription goggles were not available providing the spectacles were secured to the swimmer this should present no operational difficulties.

15. **Date of Next Meeting**

15.1. Agreed as 11 October 2006 in Loughborough.

25 May 2006