

SWIMMING FORUM

Minutes of meeting held Tuesday 22 March 2005 commencing at 10.30am
At the Quality Hotel, Loughborough

Present:	Ralph Riley	ISRM	Chairman	RR
	David Sparkes	ASA		DS
	Anne Adams-King	ASA		AAK
	Noel Winter	ASA		NW
	Adrian Lole	RLSS		AL
	Mike Fulford	ILAM		MF
	Jim Gordon	BSPF		JG
	Allen Brobyn	BSPF		AB
	Roger Millward	STA		RM
	Lee Robinson	STA		LR
	John Stiven	ESSA		JS
	Peter Cornall	RoSPA		PC
	David Walker	RoSPA		KC
	Terry Denison	BSCTA		TD
Apologies:	Victoria Finley	Sport England		
	Roger Barnard	Sport England		
	Lucy Fogarty	DfES		
	Brian McGuinness	BSCTA		
	Robert James	Welsh ASA		

- 1 **UKCC report (and licensing)** **Action**
- 1.1 Spencer Moore (National Coach Manager) gave a presentation to the Forum, which updated on the current work being carried out on the UK Coaching Certificate and licensing. Mr Moore explained the background to the UKCC and how work was progressing in relation to looking at core skills and technical skill required at each level and how this interlinked with the National Occupational Standards and the new framework for achievement. Work in this area is currently still unsettled and it is difficult to move at any great speed as there are many issues on a national basis that remain unresolved.
- 2 **Minutes of meeting held 3 March 2004**
- 2.1 The minutes were agreed as a correct record.
- 3 **Matters Arising**
- 3.1 No matters arising.
- 4 **Schools Swimming**
- 4.1 A consultation is currently taking place on the most appropriate way to deliver top up swimming lessons for children at KS2. This consultation will be completed by the summer and will identify the best way for the DfES to use funding from 2006. A press statement on this work is due to be released this month.
- 5 **Progress with ESSA and other schools competition programmes**
- 5.1 A series of meetings had been held with ESSA and other Home country swimming and schools associations, leading to the formulation of a draft framework based on Long term athlete principles, that was to be considered later in the day. The ASA has been accepted as one of four sports to pilot a competition framework with 5 education partnerships.
- 6 **Lessons to be Learnt – (Minutes edited to point 6.2.3)**
- 6.1 Peter Cornall provided members with information on two issues, the first being a drowning in a swimming class. The findings so far in the inquest and subsequent inquiry have shown that the teacher concerned could not be held responsible and indeed as long as all swimming teachers followed established best practice guidance it was unlikely that they

could be held culpable under law however they may still be called to account to a court of law.

6.2 The second case concerning the drowning of a fit 23-year-old competent swimmer. Peter Cornall tabled a paper summarising the inquest findings as follows:

6.2.1 The deceased was a former Scuba Diving Instructor presumed to be a strong swimmer and currently fit, who was either swimming lengths underwater or carrying out static breathing exercises. The inquest found no presence of alcohol or drugs and cause of death was drowning but no information was recorded about factors that caused the drowning.

6.2.2 A verdict of death by misadventure was recorded.

6.2.3 Ralph Riley agreed to contact Peter Cornall to determine which aspects of this inquiry can be put into an information note for guidance to the industry recognising that the incident needs to be anonymous and must be based on know facts not supposition. RR

7 **Review of Facility Issues**

7.1 London strategy – The Mayor's office had indicated a need to develop a strategy for facilities in London, however the ASA had met with a senior official and it has now been agreed that this will become a strategy for swimming in London. Partners also include Sport England and the ASA London region. Consultation should take place before the summer leading to a document being produced by January 2006. This template could potentially be replicated across the 9 regions.

8 **Health Agenda**

8.1 No work has been completed on web based Tool Kit as the DoH have been busy with the White Paper and the recent 'Choosing activity document'.

8.2 Hull project - The ASA have secured £250,000 over 3 years for a 'health through swimming' project in Hull from a Section 64 application.

8.3 On April 1, the ASA Committee will be considering the appointment of a national level post for health and physical activity, to influence best practice.

9 **Swimming's Strategic Plan**

9.1 The Forum were provided with a copy of Swimming's Strategic Plan which sets out the way forward for British Swimming and the Home country swimming associations

10 **Equity**

10.1 The ASA had been awarded the Sporting Equals Intermediate Level, only the second NGB to achieve this. The new wider based equality standards would now be the benchmark and the ASA target is to reach the Intermediate Level by 2009.

11 **National Water Safety Forum**

11.1 First meeting had been held at Loughborough University and the representatives of various facets of water safety reported on issues current in their area of interest. The National Water Safety Congress had been held in Bournemouth with 150 delegates attending. Some of the papers presented featured swimming pool issues including Standards for Swimming Pools, Safe Design and Admission Policies to Pools. At the Congress the Safety Forum web site was launched.

11.2 **Revised Terms of Reference**

Members received a copy of draft terms of reference, which had been adapted to reflect that one of the functions of the Forum was to act as a referral point for swimming pool water safety issues to the RoSPA Water Safety Forum. These had been agreed in principle but further adaptation may be necessary subject to RoSPA issuing a common statement for inclusion in the Terms of all its Water Safety Interest Groups.

12 **Admissions Guidance**

12.1 Ralph Riley reported on the latest developments concerning the agreed Admissions Policy for Children to Public Swimming Pools. Following questions to the Prime Minister a meeting had taken place with a number of the bodies in the Swimming Forum, the DCMS and the Health and Safety Executive. Following this a presentation had been made to the All Parliamentary Sport Group on the Policy, attended by ISRM and the ASA with Duncan Goodhew. The next stage is a further meeting with the DCMS Chaired by the Secretary of State and the Health and Safety Executive had been in communication with the ISRM to agree changes to the guidance wording if not to the actual principles.

12.2 It was agreed that as a number of the Forum members would be present at this next meeting that the ISRM should, if successful in reviewing the guidance, attempt to meet with these members prior to the DCMS meeting on the 5 April at 4.00pm to ensure that they are onside with any changes.

13 **Advice on Diving Depth**

13.1 Adrian Lole tabled an interesting paper on the risks of ear injury from diving in deep water. Currently the RLSS say that ear damage may result from diving to depths greater than 1.5m and this has been confirmed following consultation with the Societies medical advisor. Many people dive deeper than this without apparent harm but nevertheless this is the medical advice given and consequently is the warning given to lifeguards when undertaking swimming lifesaving tests. The problem only results when diving at deeper depths divers don't equalise the pressure in their middle ear, if a diver has a cold and the Eustachian tube is blocked equalisation cannot take place. Diving manuals for high board divers in the United States recommend that divers exhale throughout the dive underwater and this acts to equalise pressure. It was agreed that further research was necessary in this matter and the ASA agreed to consult their own medical advisors and diving coaches.

ASA

13.2 ASA agreed to research further.

ASA

14 **ISRM Conference**

14.1 Ralph Riley confirmed that this would be taking place in Newcastle and Gateshead in the new Sage Centre on the 7th to the 10th of September. For the first time in the history of the ISRM this would take the form of a combined conference with the European Association of Sports Management and this would be the first time that the Association has staged its conference in England. There will be a dedicated aspect of the conference to reflect swimming and swimming pool issues.

15 **Accreditation of Private Swim Schools**

15.1 STA to report on PAS project.

15.2 The STA provided the forum with information on the PAS 81: 2005 – a proposed specification for the management and operation of swimming schools. The ASA reported that they had decided not to become involved.

16 **Report on discussions on a single agency for sport from ILAM and ISRM**

16.1 Ralph Riley reported that there was an ongoing series of meetings with a working group of officers with the responsibility to further this aim following the direct intervention of the Minister for Sport who has said that in future the government will only work with one professional body. Currently talks were stalling over the remit of the new body and a meeting of the Boards of all three bodies involved was to be held to resolve this issue in order to make further progress.

17 **AOB**

17.1 It was agreed that Adrian Lole would represent the Forum on the information group of the National Water Safety Forum with Noel Winter being the substitute.

AL

18 **Date and Venue of Next Meeting**

18.1 11 October 2005 commencing at 10.30am, Netball & Badminton Centre Seminar Room,

Loughborough University.

15 April 2005