

Notes from Club Forum 24th June 2019

Present :

Clubs - Berkhamsted, Ware, Bishop's Stortford, Potters Bar, Hemel Hempstead, Stevenage
Individuals – Karen Huckle, Bryan Thompson, Ian Mackenzie, Sheila Mackenzie, John Sandon

Apologies : Harpenden, Hertford

Change of format for this meeting at the suggestion of a club

The meeting took an open discussion format, split into two groups. Each group picked a topic to discuss and share experiences to learn from each other.

TABLE 1 - 'Charging for club champs' –

Potters Bar	- Don't charge
	- Presentation evening – recoups costs
	- Medal costs
Ware	- Don't charge but reviewing
	- Presentation evening – charged
	- Trophy sponsorship
Harpenden	- Charge for entries, nominal
	- No Presentation evening
	- Trophies presented at AGM

The conclusion was that there is no right or wrong answer!

Feedback from the other table

Stevenage	- £2 charge
Berkhamsted	- £9 for up to 6 races
Hemel Hempstead	- £3.50 per race

There was a view expressed that if the champs used normal 'training' sessions there was no charge as that is already built into the budget, but if additional pool time is hired then there needs to be a charge to cover the additional cost.

Table 2 - 'The officials' situation'

Concern was expressed about the requirement for getting timekeepers trained up, but then they could not be used at level 3 licensed meets and the trial to get the J1 skill was too laborious and time consuming. There was a perception that Swim England had to do something about it, but it was pointed out that Officials are managed by British Swimming, not Swim England. The representative from Berkhamsted produced a paper with various suggestions based on the issue of finding officials for licensed meets. The suggestion was made that there needed to be a quick fix to get officials qualified. It was pointed out that we owe it to our athletes to have correctly qualified officials so that officiating is fair to all athletes. It was suggested that timekeepers could be used at level 3 meets but have sufficient 'judges' to manage the turns in alternate lanes! This would mean additional people on poolside and more people to recruit but fewer J1(T)'s required.

There was a suggestion that there should be on-line training, it was pointed out that from the New Year, this is how the J1 course will be actioned.

The need for a J1 required to attend a level 1 or 2 meet as part of their training prior to assessment seemed to the group as a waste of time. A suggestion was that there is a two tiered J1, those qualified for Level 3 & 4 meets and then a full J1.

Another challenge was that those being mentored cannot get their books signed off as a fully qualified referee not always referees a level 3 or 4 meet. As the majority of their galas they attend come under this heading, it is difficult to get everything signed off. It was suggested by a senior referee in the county that in this case they should continue to record all their mentoring sessions and when they feel they are ready to be assessed, even though the front of the book is not signed off they should discuss it with the County Officials co-ordinator for the situation to be managed. It is paramount that the quality of officiating is high and that is the current situation in Hertfordshire and that standard should not be allowed to slip, we owe it to our athletes.

Ian has offered to pass the paper, once it has been reviewed, to British Swimming.

It was asked that the change to the J1 course meaning that all present trainees have to complete the training and be assessed prior to June 2020, be circulated to all trainees and to clubs, as many are not aware.

One club tried shadowing all the jobs, then the shadows did the job next time, this included all the official posts, so there was a learning for everyone. This covered the admin posts as well, so job descriptions have been produced.

Hemel Hempstead have also produced job descriptions for all posts and these can be found on their website. Don't reinvent the wheel, use theirs and tweak to be pertinent to your situation.

Admin

Bryan updated the meeting on County Championships 2020

Ian updated the meeting on Swim England issues at National/Regional/County levels

Date of next Club Forum 18th September 2019