



# DORSET COUNTY ASA

## NEWSLETTER

June 2021

### **Dear Dorset Clubs and Members**

Welcome to the fourth DCASA Newsletter. Having cancelled the DCASA Annual General Meeting in 2020 due to coronavirus restrictions, the County Association AGM finally took place this year on Thursday 3 June 2021. The meeting was very well attended with representatives from 12 of our clubs, which was the best turnout for a long time and probably due to the AGM being held via Zoom.

Due to the interruption of his 2019/20 Presidency, and no activity in 2020, it was agreed that Les Jessop of Wareham & District SC would continue as County President for 2021/22, while Gail Nuttall of Poole SC was voted in as President Elect.

A substantial revision of the DCASA constitution was also accepted, which reflects the rebranding of Swim England and the Swim England South West Region, and includes provisions recommended by the DCASA Emergency Management Committee as fundamental to the business of the County Association. The new constitution can be viewed on County website.

The 2021 AGM was followed by a Special General Meeting to determine how the county should continue to be managed during the present situation. It was agreed by majority vote that the Emergency Management Board would continue to be responsible for county business until meetings of the County Executive can resume.

Over the last three months our clubs have mostly marked time but doing what they can in terms of providing training and racing opportunities, and with fundraising a key focus. June 21 came and went without the lifting of restrictions taking place, so eyes are now fixed on 19 July for the hoped-for return to normality.

In the meantime, our coaches and the volunteers holding their clubs together in these difficult times are providing such a valuable contribution to their community, that they should be applauded for their efforts and determination! Sincere thanks from DCASA to you all.

### **County Management**

### **Dorset Clubs**

## Stronger Affiliation and SwimMark

Clubs are now required to submit annually for Stronger Affiliation on the anniversary date of their original submission in 2020. This seems to contradict the original stated purpose of Stronger Affiliation, which was as a requirement for reaffiliation for the coming year and therefore giving clubs until mid-December to submit, however submission date requirement now mirrors that of SwimMark.

The penalty for non-submission, or for the Stronger Affiliation submission failing to be accepted, is club suspension. As affiliation fees may have already been paid for the current year by the club on behalf of its members, the propriety of suspension has been questioned by DCASA; clubs will be advised when a response is received. Please note that suspension would have implications for your club, and in particular for your Category 2 swimmers. Check the SwimMark/Stronger Affiliation portal for your club's annual submission date.

Clubs now applying for SwimMark, and which then fail to achieve the required standard, will have the submission reviewed against Stronger Affiliation requirements – suspension again being the penalty for not fulfilling those requirements.

For clubs requiring a refresher on what is required for either accreditation, the SWR has scheduled a SwimMark & Stronger Affiliation Workshop on 19 July 2021 at 19.00. To book a place or check for future workshop dates, contact the SWR Office.

## Club Development

Regional Coach Forums have been suspended due to low take-up, but the Chairpersons Forum continues (next date 15 September at 19.00) and a pilot of a Secretary & Membership Secretary Workshop focussing on OMS, Membership Data etc is taking place in early July, which will be repeated if it proves successful.

## Safeguarding, Time to Listen and Team Manager

The next Time to Listen workshops with available places are scheduled for 1 December and 6 December, both starting at 18.00.

Virtual Safeguarding Courses continue to be FOC although a £20 fee will be levied if a candidate books a place and fails to attend. Dates currently available with spaces are:

20 July	18.00	1 Sept	18.00
22 July	18.00	16 Sept	18.00
28 July	18.00	21 Sept	18.00

To reserve a place for either a TTL or Safeguarding Workshop go to <https://www.swimwest.org.uk/training>.

Those who need to renew a safeguarding qualification can do so online at <https://www.ukcoaching.org/courses/learn-at-home/sqp>

## Welfare

A Club Welfare Officers Forum focussing on DBS is

## Young Volunteers

scheduled for 12 July 19.00, starting at 19.00. To reserve a place email [www.swimsouthwest@swimming.org](mailto:www.swimsouthwest@swimming.org) with name and club.

A reminder to all YVs who took part in the 2019/20 Young Volunteers Programme that it is still possible to finish the Award by submitting the signed off log book once 25 hours of volunteering in-club has been completed. Contact [dorsetasa@gmail.com](mailto:dorsetasa@gmail.com) for further details.

## Return to Competition and Licensing

From 1 June, it has been possible to submit applications for licensing all levels of meets to the Regional Licensing Officer. There has been little uptake in the county so far, even for L4 single club events, due to the financial viability of holding competitions under current restrictions. Level X Racing continues but is due to end on 22 August.

However, for those clubs that hope to hold an event soon, the Officials requirements for licensed competition has been revised (and relaxed) for the Return to Competition period, and effective until 31 December 2021. Information can be found in the Officials section of the DCASA website and at [www.swimming.org/sport/licensed-meets/](http://www.swimming.org/sport/licensed-meets/)

Finally, a reminder that dates for any licensed event MUST be agreed with DCASA first otherwise the application will not be processed by the RLO.

## Pool Swimming Officials

In January 2020, the SWR launched online theory modules for the training of Judge 1 officials, fully funding the £20 per candidate cost of training and first licence. In June 2021, this was followed by the introduction of a shortened version of the course for candidates who have either undertaken the Online Timekeeper course introduced during the pandemic or successfully attended a group Timekeeper course held since May 2021, with SWR again funding the £15 per head cost for eligible candidates. The SWR will continue to fund both initiatives for a trial period of two years. Details of how to enrol for either course can be found in the Officials pages of the DCASA website at [www.dorsetasa.org/volunteers/officials/2021-officials-training/](http://www.dorsetasa.org/volunteers/officials/2021-officials-training/)

## Swimming

A Swim England Festival of Swimming is due to take place across the country this summer with each region hosting events. In the SWR, competitions will be held on 24-25 July at Millfield School for swimmers from Dorset, Gloucester, Somerset, and Wiltshire, and at the Plymouth Life Centre for Devon and Cornwall. Age groups are from 12/under to 18/over; entry details can be found on the SWR website and entry files have been sent to clubs.

Looking ahead to 2022, proposed dates for SWR Swimming Championships are as follows: Age Groups 23-24 April (Millfield) and 7-8 May (Hengrove), Youth 30 April and 1-2 May, and Fast Five 5 July. Other venues to be confirmed.

DCASA has also made provisional plans for 2022, with 15-

16 January and 29-30 January pencilled in at Littledown for our Swimming Championships, with the intention of holding the distance events as usual at Dorchester on 23 January (800m) and 6 February (1500m).

With virtually no competition taking place, new County Records have understandably been thin on the ground but a new Senior Male LC County Record of 26.05 for 50m Backstroke was set by Robbie Hemmings of Poole SC at Glasgow in June.

## **Masters**

SWR Masters hopes to hold its annual open meet this year, with the usual September date (this year 26 September) still under consideration but a strong possibility that the event may be deferred to pre-Christmas. Volunteers from the region will be required to assist in running the event.

Provisional dates for events in 2022 are 2 October for SWR Masters Championships and 13 November for the Masters Inter-County Competition, with venues to be confirmed.

## **Para-Disability**

A National Pathway Para-Swimming Engagement Day will be held on 10 July via Zoom with main speaker Dave Hill, Swimming & Triathlon Paralympian, and Head Coach of Exmouth. The day is open to all athletes and coaches who attend Regional SWR Para-Swimming Training.

For 2022, the proposed date for the SWR Para-Swimming Competition is 25 September at Horfield.

## **Open Water**

Courses for open water coaching are a rarity we are trying to address, but numbers of qualified OW coaches are gradually on the rise in Dorset. The practical module of an L2 Open Water Coach course finally took place at Vobster Quay in June, with three Dorset coaches attending.

## **Water Polo**

The 2021 SWR Water Polo Championships has been scheduled for 30-31 October at Millfield. In view of the limited or, for some clubs, non-existent training our WP players have been able to access over the last eighteen months, the DCASA fraternity has decided to scale down county entries this year to two Senior teams, with the aim of providing our age groupers with lower key matches and development opportunities locally in the meantime.

## **Volunteer Awards**

The SWR is host a Volunteer Awards Ceremony via Zoom on Sunday 12 September, with awards linked with the Swim England Award categories. All nominations are submitted online via Swim England at [www.swimming.org/swimengland/swim-england-national-awards/](http://www.swimming.org/swimengland/swim-england-national-awards/). Closing date for nominations is 15 August.

## **Next Issue: September 2021**

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