



DORSET COUNTY ASA

NEWSLETTER

March 2021

Dear Dorset Clubs and Members

Welcome to the third DCASA Newsletter. Sunday 28 March 2021 marked the 90th Anniversary of the Dorset County Amateur Swimming Association. The Inaugural Meeting, held at the Junction Hotel in Dorchester, was attended by the President of the then Western Counties ASA, Captain George de Vere Welchman, together with the WCASA Treasurer Mr E W Jordan and Secretary Mr R A Colwill.

An English diving champion from Sherborne, H E K (Keith) Sawtell, represented the Amateur Diving Association and, having helped to bring the various swimming interests in the county together, was elected as the first President of Dorset County ASA. Also present at the Inaugural Meeting were representatives of swimming clubs from Bridport, Dorchester, Lyme Regis, Wareham & District, Wimborne, and Weymouth, while Poole SC affiliated to Dorset County ASA in June 1931.

The handwritten minutes of that meeting still exist today and record that a grant of £5 was made by Western Counties ASA to assist in the establishment of the newly formed County Association. The minutes also reveal details of club affiliation fees – up to 15 members the sum of 12s 6d, up to 50 members £1 10s, and up to 100 members the princely sum of 2 guineas. According to the National Archives, the value of those sums today would be circa £30, £73, and £102, respectively. Compared to the average weekly wage at the time, which was just £1 8s 10d (£70 today) for a 50-hour week, the 1931 affiliation fee probably represented a significant outlay for the newly affiliated clubs.

The very first County trophies were also awarded in 1931 – but for diving, and for the Men's and Boys' 100 Yard Freestyle events only.

Since 1931, our clubs have continued to play an essential and valued role in the County Association, contributing greatly to the local community and the wider sport. Some of the history of aquatic sport in Dorset can be viewed on the 'Information: Our History' pages of the County website at <https://www.dorsetasa.org/our-history/>

<p>County Management</p>	<p>Due to Covid-19 restrictions, the 2020 Annual General Meeting was deferred but the 2021 AGM will go ahead in June as usual via Zoom. Requests for nominations for county posts and sub-committees have already been sent to all clubs with a closing date of 15 April 2021.</p> <p>The Emergency Management Board continues to meet monthly, and the minutes of those meetings can be viewed on the county website https://www.dorsetasa.org/rules/</p> <p>A reminder to all clubs that DCASA has a Zoom licence, which is available for use by our clubs for club committee and coaches' meetings. To book contact dorsetasa@gmail.com</p>												
<p>Dorset Clubs</p>	<p>In March, we asked our clubs to provide information on their 2021 affiliation renewals and it made sober reading. Two of our clubs made the decision to register officers only, but the majority have recorded membership losses ranging from circa 10% to over 40%, with similar figures when only Cat 1 and Cat 2 members were taken into consideration. Several clubs also noted Cat 3 losses that would have a significant impact on running the club thereafter. Our membership now stands at an all-time low with an overall loss of over 30% on 2020 membership, and it will take time to rebuild.</p> <p>Dorset County ASA is therefore to introduce a Covid-19 Recovery Fund for our clubs recovering from the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic. The aim is to assist clubs to train and/or upgrade volunteers to fill vacancies due to the loss of volunteers, and also to assist in the recruitment of new members. Criteria for applications is in the process of being finalised, together with plans for other projects that are also in the pipeline. Further information will be available as soon as possible.</p> <p>In the meantime, 12 April and the opening of indoor pools is looming. Hopefully, if everyone continues to adhere to the rules, this will be the beginning of the slow process back to normal life for our members.</p>												
<p>Stronger Affiliation and SwimMark</p>	<p>All but one non-SwimMark Dorset club succeeded in completing Stronger Affiliation. Note that the name of this process will become, quite simply, "Affiliation" in the future and, for clubs not wishing to submit for SwimMark accreditation, it will become a mandatory annual process.</p>												
<p>Safeguarding, Time to Listen and Team Manager</p>	<p>The next Time to Listen workshop with available places is scheduled for 28 November starting at 09.30.</p> <p>Virtual Safeguarding Courses are available and continue to be FOC until 1 July. Dates currently available are:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="667 1845 1401 1957"> <tr> <td>8 April</td> <td>18.00</td> <td>12 May</td> <td>18.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>22 April</td> <td>18.00</td> <td>24 May</td> <td>18.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>24 April</td> <td>10.00</td> <td>2 June</td> <td>18.00</td> </tr> </table> <p>To reserve a place for either a TTL or Safeguarding Workshop go to https://www.swimwest.org.uk/training.</p>	8 April	18.00	12 May	18.00	22 April	18.00	24 May	18.00	24 April	10.00	2 June	18.00
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	<p>Those who need to renew a safeguarding qualification can do so online at https://www.ukcoaching.org/courses/learn-at-home/sqp</p> <p>An online Team Manager Workshop (Level 1) has been scheduled by SWR on 15 June 2021 starting at 18.30; email www.swimsouthwest@swimming.org to book a place.</p> <p>Online Level 2 Team Manager Workshops are currently only being delivered by Swim England. No Workshop dates are listed on the Swim England website, but you can pre-register interest at https://www.swimming.org/swimengland/team-manager-2-courses/</p>
Welfare	<p>A Welfare Officers Forum is scheduled for 19 April 2021 starting at 19.00. To reserve a place email www.swimsouthwest@swimming.org with name and club.</p>
Young Volunteers	<p>The SWR Management Board is to establish a Regional Youth Panel that will link to the National Youth Advisory Panel. The SWR Youth Panel will comprise of six to eight members aged 15 to 20 years and applications are invited from all disciplines. Previous experience of having participated in the Young Volunteers Programme is welcomed but not mandatory.</p> <p>Regional staff lead for the Panel will be Jackie Hilleard and the panel will appoint its own Chairperson and note taker; all meetings will be held via Zoom. The application process will be advertised in the April SWR Newsletter and direct to clubs, with a closing date of 30 April for applications.</p>
Return to Competition and Licensing	<p>Though not at all unexpected, there has been no communication with The Swimming Leadership Group since the last Newsletter as to the role County Associations might be expected to play in any Return to Competition.</p> <p>The previously published five-stage roadmap for Return to Competition will most likely be restructured to a more time-relevant schedule if all goes to plan with the Government's current but cautious roadmap for coming out of lockdown. However, each stage of any Return to Competition roadmap can only take place when the national situation permits and not before Swim England's proposals have been signed off by the Government's Digital, Media & Sport Committee.</p> <p>However, Level X Racing is to continue for pool swimming, and with dry land versions already introduced for both Diving and Artistic Swimming. Level X Water Polo for under 18s will also be launched on 12 April when indoor pools reopen, with the plans to be published before the launch date.</p>
Swimming	<p>The December cohort of Level X Racing has resulted in four National medals for top three placings on the leaderboard for swimmers at Poole SC and a further 13 swimmers ranked in the Top 10. Medallists were: L Sartorius 1st 50m Butterfly; R Hemmings 1st 200m Backstroke; C Eland 3rd 100m Butterfly; N O'Keefe 3rd 200m Butterfly.</p>

	<p>In January, the names of athletes selected for the England Swimming Team for the 2022 Commonwealth Games in Birmingham were announced and included past DCASA club swimmers Jay Lelliott, Jacob Peters, and Kayla van der Merwe, and para-swimmers Mikey Jones and Alice Tai.</p> <p>The National Arena Junior League will now run as a virtual competition commencing May 2021.</p>
Masters	<p>The Swim England Masters National Champions at Ponds Forge is still on calendar for 29-31 October 2021, but there are logistics questions to be resolved in terms of qualifying times, entry numbers and social distancing. Likewise, the situation is still unclear whether the National Inter-County Masters Competition will go ahead. The SWR Masters Championships also remains on the calendar but will be reviewed at the end of June as to viability.</p> <p>The last SWR Masters Development Day was cancelled due to lack of interest, and Masters survey revealed most Masters swimmers did not want to travel far or incur a large expense to attend such an event. Therefore, the recommendation of the SWR Masters Committee is that County Associations hold their own development day or combine with another County.</p>
Open Water	<p>Coaches keen to complete the practical element of a L2 Open Water Coach course should soon be able to do so as practical courses are gradually re-introduced by the Institute of Swimming. The first SWR practical course will be Saturday 26 June 2021 at Vobster Quay, Radstock and due to be advertised soon.</p> <p>Coaches considering an Open Water Coaching qualification should be aware that a L1 Open Water Coach qualification is not a requirement for this course if you already hold one of the following qualifications: SEQ Level 2 Teaching Swimming, Swim England Swimming Coach Certificate (or ASA equivalent) or 1st 4sport Level 2 Certificate in Coaching Triathlon.</p> <p>Candidates must also be 16 years or over and have experience of open water swimming.</p>
Teachers & Coaches	<p>Tickets are now on sale for the inaugural Swim England Foundation Coach Course 2021. The conference takes place online on Sunday 25 April (09.30-16.15) and is open to teachers and coaches of all aquatic disciplines. Further information www.swimming.org/swimengland/foundation-coach-conference-2021/</p>
<p>Next Issue: June 2021</p> <p>Dorset County ASA March 2021</p>	