Minutes of Event Team Wash-up Meeting

3 March 2025

Present: Gary French, Lisa Osman, Rob Hart, Michele Trevithick, Sandra Yeoman, Diane Lee

Apologies For Absence.

There were no apologies as the full team was present.

Venues

Gary reported on each venue:

1. Salisbury. No issues were reported and everything ran to time. The meeting with GF, DL, 2 members of the Salisbury team and the pool staff in Oct/Nov helped enormously and we were able to provisionally book d ates in for next year. The meeting should also help Salisbury Club moving forward who had been experiencing some difficulties. The catering was excellent, well-presented and plenty without over catering. Plenty of room for Spectators who rotated in and out.
2. Marlborough College. Following a large entry (80 swimmers) we looked to increase the booking time to enable all swimmers to compete. It was an Exeat Weekend, so parking was easy without the school being open and the only problem was that the turn boards had to be requested. Thanks to all who assisted with this, and a note make for next year to make sure that we request them at the point of booking.
3. Link Centre. The original date was changed due to continuing work on the electrics that had to be completed by the end of February. Despite receiving minimal notice, they were very helpful and the rearranged date meant that changes were minimal. They updated us on progress and confirmed that all would be open on time. Scoreboard etc on poolside tested by Tigersharks but still no light in the meet office. Numbers on poolside meant that there were no spectators. Parents were found in areas where they should not have been and 1 was particularly rude to the Centre Duty Manager. She then wrote a letter of complaint which was dealt with by the County Chair. A second parent was found in the girls changing rooms with a small child who had an iPad viewing her child through the foot bath area. The lady was asked to leave and did so without any problems. The 100IM and relays was noisy but hugely enjoyable and set the scene for the following weekend at Bath.
4. Bath University. First time swimming County Championships LC and there were technical issues on Day 1. We provided a printer on poolside for the timing which they are going to purchase moving forward. We brought backstroke ledges as they only have 2 and Salisbury (thank you Drew) brought back up buttons to plug in at the non-scoreboard end which speeded things up. Other tweaks were put in place to ensure that we ran to time on Day 2. We are due to feed back on the technical problems to improve things for next year and again this has been provisionally booked. Plenty of room on poolside for swimmers, coaches and spectators. Staff were extremely helpful and reacted quickly to any problems. Noted that no outside lane ropes on day 1 and flags in the wrong position. Coaches, please let us know of any problems such as these so that they can be rectified immediately. Biggest drawback is the distance the team have to carry their equipment. Catering was adequate. Photographic policy worked well and huge thank you to all the coaches for adopting the zero tolerance of mobile phones in the changing rooms with less than 24 hours’ notice.

Thanks to Jane Hart, Caroline Maynard and Theresa Newton for their assistance during the meet

Pool deck

Lisa reported that the closing date of 21 December was very late and had a knock-on effect on information going out. Suggested that the entries close a week earlier but that updates can be made following the Corsham meet. In the past we have had a grid for all sessions with warm up and start times acting as a reference document- look to reinstate this for next year.

Warm ups by weekend as opposed to all 3 days of the age groups etc would be welcomed.

A couple of problem parents at Salisbury but dealt with by their Clubs. Lifeguard chair still a problem but the duty manager located a cone to cover the offending piece sticking up. Ran completely to time, spectators rotated in and out and huge thank you to Natasha and her team for all the support given.

Link Centre was cold and steamy on the Saturday. Lighting a problem in the Dance studio and in the Meet office. Tigersharks sorted the food so fine but no need for refreshments on the Sunday. Need to look at purchasing new urns for next year. One parent extremely rude and another moved on from looking through the female changing room. The parent who was rude then made an official complaint. Maybe look at live streaming at the Link.

Bath was full on, but thanks to all the coaches who were hugely supportive. Discussed how finals are announced and have come up with some ideas to improve the process.

Thank you to Tigersharks for the use of their card reader throughout the Counties.

South West Region Presidency was handed over to Maurice Cleaver at the LD at Marlborough.

IT

Rob reported no issues but there were signal problems meaning some problems with meet mobile. We need to get the student Wi-Fi details at Bath rather than the guest Wi-Fi.

Officials

Michele reported that there were plenty of officials from a breadth of clubs but were only just ok in the 1500m (challenging when only 33 swimmers entered). The 5 Lead Referees were appointed by the Promotor and this worked well. Had to limit the number of trainees on the relay day as a result of the numbers.

Trophies and Medals

Sandra reported that there were no problems with the medals, and she only had to post 2 awards out- Warminster and Salisbury.

Overview

Overall, the team were pleased with how the Championships had gone. Competition is always a work in progress with lessons learned for the future. They were particularly happy with the addition of the 17 and over finals in line with other Counties. It was noted that there was 1 swim off required at Bath and the 2 swimmers involved got the biggest cheer of the day!

-Pools have been provisionally booked for 2026 and we hope that by bringing the closing date forward that it will help in getting information out to everyone sooner.

- We will reintroduce the grid by location and session detailing warm up and start times so everything is in one place.

- Warm ups will be sent out by weekend e.g. Salisbury, Day3, LD (800m), Bath and LD (1500m)

- Finalists will not now be announced except to notify Coaches that they have been posted in a separate designated area on poolside. It is then the Coaches responsibility to withdraw any swimmer in the usual way. Failure to do so will result in a fine as defined in the meet conditions. This will be trialled for the 2026 Championships and will assist with a continuous flow of the programme and will not distract the swimmers.

On behalf of all the Event team, I would like to thank all the Coaches, team Managers and Swimmers for their support and understanding in helping us to deliver a great County Championships in 2025.

Update - it has been confirmed that SE will be undertaking a competition review but there will be no changes to 2026.