

North District Swimming Convenor Report January 2007

Swimming Committee

The North District Swimming Committee remains as agreed at the AGM with Gail Connell (Elgin), Kevin Paterson (Bridge of Don), Ian Benzie (Aberdeen), Maggie Fowler (Ythan), Alan Thomson (Forres) and me (Alford). Co-options have not yet been agreed and our next meeting will be on 12 February.

Squads

All of our District Squads have now had two of their planned 3 days. The final day will take place in February for the Highland Squad and in March for Aberdeen 1, Aberdeen 2 and Aberdeenshire. Swimmers in National Squads have attended the Christmas Camp at Stirling.

Times and criteria for the 2007/8 squads are now available on the Scottish Swimming website. There are a few changes so all Clubs should ensure they are familiar with them and ready for selection in good time. A Hy-Tek standards file for 2007/8 is now available on the North District website.

National and International Meets

David Carry was the only North District swimmer of the 6 Scots who took part in the European Short Course Championships in Eindhoven in December and he was forced to withdraw due to a virus.

There was however North District representation in the team representing Scotland in the US Open in Indianapolis. Robbie Renwick (City of Aberdeen Swim Team/Cults Otters) won a bronze in the Men's 400 and 200 free as did Kerry Buchan (South Aberdeenshire Squad/Upper Deeside) in the women's 100 breaststroke.

Robbie was also a member of the Gold medal winning Scotland 'A' Men's 4x100m Freestyle Team. Andy Hunter, Craig Houston and Scott Houston were the other members of that relay team.

The Scottish Short Course Championships in January produced some fine performances from North District swimmers with Kerry Buchan and Robbie Renwick both breaking Scottish Senior Records on their way to gold medal success down at Tollcross.

Kerry won 4 golds in the 50m, 100m and 200m Breaststroke and 200 IM (her record breaking swim). Kerry also won a silver medal in the 100 IM and a bronze medal in the 400m Freestyle.

Robbie won 3 golds in the 50m, 200m and 400m Freestyle (his record breaking swim) and silver medals in the 100m and 1500m Freestyle.

Rachel Hanna (Highland Swim Team) won gold in the 100m and 50m backstroke and Chris Chasser (South Aberdeenshire Squad/Westhill and District) won silver medals in the 100 and 50 Butterfly.

The Meet Information for the Scottish National Age Group Championships is out and on the Scottish Swimming website, as is a small addendum regarding the 800m free for boys and 1500m free for girls. The meet is following a very similar format to last year with qualifying and consideration times. The main change this year is that non-Scottish swimmers from outside Scotland will have to achieve the qualifying times in order to enter. This restriction was introduced to allow more Scottish swimmers to compete whilst still providing good competition for our swimmers at the top.

All Clubs should note that the ASA Age Group and Youth Championships will be running on different dates to those previously published and should check the British Swimming website for the latest information.

District Meets

The Age Group Meet was a little quieter than expected due to some Clubs sending swimmers down to Sheffield for a long course meet and because of the absence of Banchory Beavers who withdrew as a team due to the tragic and untimely death of Alex Michalski. We all remembered Alex and thought of his family and friends during a minute's silence at the start of the competition.

Notwithstanding the meet being rather quiet and many of us feeling a little subdued, there were some excellent performances with North District records being recorded by Elliot Martin (COAST/Cults Otters), Lizzie Hughes (COAST/Aberdeen Dolphins) and Euan Inglis (COAST/Aberdeen Dolphins).

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Entries for the Age Group Championships close this weekend with plans for March well underway with Inverness ASC again holding the meet for North District.

Representatives from Scottish Swimming will be in Inverness running a roadshow to help teachers and coaches understand the teacher/coach licensing process by answering questions and giving advice. Teachers and coaches who have collected evidence will be able to have their licence processed on the day (not sure if this will be Saturday or Sunday at present).

Swimming Pools

Bon-Accord Baths finally opened and two Club Meets have been held successfully so far this year. We are hoping to hold the North District Sprints there in October.

As the result of discussion at the North District AGM about the long proposed long-course competition facility in Aberdeen, a meeting was held between the District Executive and Ashley Howard and Peter Bilsborough. This was very constructive and ideas have been exchanged but progress is slow.

Records

The National Swimming Committee has not met since my last report so no new National records have been ratified.

Calendar & Licensing

I would like to remind all Clubs that in applying for a licence they are agreeing to abide by any swimming regulations relevant to the licence they are applying for. **The licences for all licensed meets that take place in North District must be returned to Alan Thomson with the necessary sections completed and with any relevant enclosures** (even those meets which are not accredited and at which there is no referee present). Please read the requirements of your licence and comply with them.

Clubs and organisations who fail to comply with the conditions of the licence issued may be refused licences for future meets.

All Clubs are now invited to let Alan or me know when they would like to hold meets in the 2007/8 swimming year so that the calendar can be planned accordingly. District Regional Programme weekends are provisionally reserved as weekends 15/16 September 2007, 15/16 December 2007 and 8/9 March 2008 but these may be subject to change according to availability for some or all squads.

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