

North District Swimming Convenor Report April 2006

Squads

All the 2005/6 Regional Squad days have now been completed and the test results collated and disseminated. Richard Gordon has been reviewing the Regional Squads programme using feedback from Lead Coaches, Coaches and District Convenors. The consultation period is now over and the report should be with us soon. We don't yet know if his findings will impact the way in which these squads are managed nor on the way the training and testing is delivered as yet. We do know that Scottish Swimming is looking for an increase in the numbers of swimmers taking part in this section of the programme with 600-800 swimmers expected to join the Regional Squads nationally this year.

The new criteria and times for National and Regional Squads are now out and were given to coaches who attended the Scottish National Age Groups last weekend. I think that we are all fairly confident that these times are realistic and reasonable and as such are hopeful that our swimmers will have suitable goals to aim for at a level appropriate to them. The information should be available shortly (if it isn't already) on the North District website along with standards for loading directly into Hy-Tek team managers.

Apologies to Sean Dawson from Elgin ASC - I missed him off the list of Scottish squad swimmers published in my last report – Sean is a member of the Scottish National Youth Development Squad.

District Meets

The North District Age Group Championships all went smoothly and Inverness did an excellent job organising, many thanks to them. The weather did give us a lot to ponder in the days leading up to the meet and during the meet itself. Nevertheless, a final decision was made on the Thursday to go ahead even though there were some difficult conditions. Luckily, across most of the North East things did improve and leading up to the meet we were able to use the North District website – www.sasanorth.org.uk - to advise swimmers and coaches that we were going ahead and to provide emergency contact details for the morning of the competition itself. All things considered there were very few withdrawals and all the events went ahead as scheduled although it was decided to shorten the breaks to bring forward the "going home" time for everyone. I know that this was appreciated by swimmers, coaches and swimming technical officials alike.

There were some good performances from our swimmers and plenty of qualifying times for the National Age Groups were achieved. A few North District records were broken but no-one managed to beat them on the Record Challenge events. They'll have to try again next year!

Meet information for the District Opens and the District Senior Development Meet has been sent out to clubs.

Meet information for the National Opens is also now available on www.swimscotland.co.uk. These will include 100m and 200m swims for boys 14 and under and girls 13 and under during the afternoon sessions.

Records

The only Scottish record ratified since our last meeting is David Carry's 200m Scottish Senior Short Course Record, broken in Trieste.

Scottish Age Group records have been broken by the following North District swimmers – Robbie Renwick, Lizzie Hughes and Tom Primavesi.

Pools

There has been acknowledgment both locally and in parliament of the need for a long course training and competition facility in Aberdeen. Whilst there is still nothing concrete (no pun intended) the campaign has been given publicity thanks to the success of North District swimmers in Melbourne and gained momentum with the recognition that our swimmers have been, and will be, forced to move from the North in order to achieve on the world stage.

Licensing

I would like to draw everyone's attention to the changes in the licensing procedures and charging for meets.

There are now 3 levels of licence –

Level 1 - International, National & District Meets

Level 2 - Other Accredited Meets

Level 3 - Non Accredited Meets

All licence applications cost £10 regardless of the level. For details on all aspects of Licensing and Accreditation see section SW7.0 of the Swimming Regulations. These are available in the “downloads” section of www.scottishswimming.com or from the Scottish Swimming office on request.

I would also like to advise Clubs that apart from inclusion in the National and District Calendars, meets cannot be advertised without the appropriate licence number.

The new licence application form should be available soon. ☺

Commonwealth Games

The performances of Scottish swimmers in the Commonwealth Games lived up to and surpassed all our hopes and expectations. The Scottish team won 12 medals, half of them gold.

This has been well reported nationally and internationally so this will only be a short section with a North District slant, easy to do because North District was so well represented!

David Carry won gold medals in the 400 freestyle (Scottish record) and 400IM (British record), and he and **Robbie Renwick** formed half of the silver medal winning 4 x 200m freestyle team (Scottish record), and the 5th placed 4 x 100m freestyle team (Scottish record). David also reached the finals of the 200IM and 200 free (Scottish record) and Robbie the final of the 400 free.

Hannah Miley reached the finals in both the 400m and 200m IM and the semi-finals of the 100m fly. **Kerry Buchan** reached the finals in 100m and 200m breaststroke and the semi-finals of the 50m breaststroke.

Fiona Booth reached the semi-finals in the 50m and 100m breaststroke. Fiona is no longer a North District swimmer but it only seems like only yesterday that she was training and competing here and I have included her because, as with the four swimmers already

mentioned, there are North District teachers, coaches, officials, poolside helpers and others who will have contributed to her progress prior to her departure.

The two team coaches for Scotland's Commonwealth Games swimmers are both from North District – **Gary Paterson** (South Aberdeenshire) and **Eileen Adams** (City of Aberdeen). It is obvious when looking at the team's performances (medals, PBs and records broken) that, with Head Coach Chris Martin, our North District coaches did a great job, not only with their own swimmers in getting them on the team, but for the whole team in their preparation for the Games. Fantastic!

This April report finishes with a short script from Gary which he prepared for this North District delegates meeting.

Once every four years Scotland has the opportunity to compete as a stand alone nation. As a total of 71 countries converged on Melbourne and an unprecedented 43 to the aquatic centre the stage was set for something special, the results of which are now etched into our memory of great sporting achievement in our national history.

Melbourne 2006 is an experience that will be with me for the rest of my life, however it is one that I am confident we can all be a part of once again.

With 4 North District swimmers and 2 North District coaches as a part of the team we must all join in the celebration and be proud of our joint contribution.

Thanks