



County Championships 2025 Debrief

18 March 2025 at 7.30pm

Summary

The meeting focused on reviewing and planning improvements for next year, including discussions on scheduling changes, program structure, and organizational aspects. Participants addressed various logistical issues, such as volunteer coordination, equipment management, and communication strategies, while also considering potential modifications to competition formats and welfare support. The team emphasized the importance of maintaining a positive atmosphere and collaboration among clubs.

Gemma the meeting and Chantal presented the coaches' feedback and proposed changes for the next year's event. The main points discussed were the scheduling, dates, and the program structure. It was highlighted that Swim England is reviewing the structure of Regional and County Championships and while this is in progress the team agreed to keep the current structure for the next year, as they did not want to make significant changes only to have to revert them later due to Swim England's changes to the competition program. The team also discussed the importance of maintaining a positive atmosphere and fostering collaboration among volunteers and participants.

Swimming Schedule Changes for Upcoming Year

It was proposed that there are several changes to the swimming schedule for the upcoming year.

- swapping the 800 and 1,500 meter races on the first and second Saturdays to accommodate the intensity of the longer distance
- alternating the morning sessions to ensure fair breaks between events
- moving the age group relays and mixed relays to a separate date in June or July, after exams and before nationals, to avoid conflicts with club championships and other meets. This would also provide an opportunity for swimmers to qualify for the 100 IM event, which would be held on the same day. The proposal was well-received by the coaches

County Summer Event

It was proposed to hold a separate county event on July 4th, 2026, for relays and 100 IM races. This would alleviate pressure on the main championships, which would retain their usual dates in January and February. The group agreed this is a good idea, as it would shorten the main event days and provide an additional county-wide gathering later in the year. The potential for making this new event more celebratory, possibly including exhibitions of other aquatic disciplines like artistic swimming and water polo (between the 2 county clubs) was discussed. The proposal to be presented at the next main meeting for approval.

Improvements and Feedback

Various changes were discussed including warm-ups - a separate lane for older swimmers, and the introduction of a power lane for para-athletes. Review of qualifying times, age groups – need further discussions on these topics and agreement of the approach by the selection coaches

Challenges were discussed with respect to

- laptop sharing
- volunteer registration
- trophy engraving
- seating arrangements.

There was also discussion concerning potential changes to roles such as the volunteer's coordinator and suggested improvements for the technical side and also the issues experienced with the officials briefing.



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Swimming Event Organization and Communication

The organisation was discussed and the coordination. It was agreed that the website was effective for sharing information, and suggest adding more specific details about each venue to the site. The Google Drive system for sharing files worked well, but it was recommended to date the files for clarity. The group plans to maintain a similar structure for next year's event, with the same four clubs hosting. Issues with equipment or technical issues that arose this year, such as printer problems and sound system challenges were discussed and the need to address these early.

Task Division

The division of tasks was discussed and it was agreed to assign certain roles to specific clubs, such as catering and trophy collection, to streamline communication and reduce the workload on the volunteer coordinator role. It was also decided to maintain the current system of spreading out tasks like marshals and bag marshals among all clubs. It was emphasized that there is a the need for proper qualification checks for the welfare officers. The team also acknowledged the need for better communication and coordination among the clubs.

Catering, Trophies, and Task Force Proposal

Need to check if Ayako wants to handle trophies and medals going forward.
Keep the stationary coordinator role, an issue with wristbands being lost was discussed.
It was also proposed that there is a task force structure and that they could start looking at allocating weekends to clubs in the near future.

Welfare Officer Training and County Championships

issues with welfare officers was discussed and it was noted that while welfare officers were visible, they lacked proper training and experience to handle situations effectively.
It was agreed that more discussion is necessary on how welfare can be better supported next year. It was highlighted that this is explicitly excluded from the role description of the county welfare panel.