

SASA NORTH DISTRICT
OPEN WATER SWIMMING REPORT
TO THE 2014 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Levels of participation

Participation in open water events among district swimmers in 2014 was less than last year. Swimmers still tend to enter events on an individual basis rather than as an organised contingent club. There remains a disappointing level of participation within the North which is lower than other districts. However, the spread of clubs is increasing with participation this year from various different clubs in the district.

North District Open Water Championships

The North District Open Water Championships took place at Loch Morlich on 19th July. There were 67 swimmers with 102 entries some swimmers competed in 2 events. Most of the entrants were from North District clubs. This was a record entry. This year's event had more age categories including a master's event based on an age handicapped basis. There are plans to include a relay event in next year's championships. The event ran smoothly and weather conditions were excellent! Safety provision was principally supplied by the Red Cross with support from a team of canoeists.

Medals won at the Open Water Grand Prix

One North district swimmer was placed in this year's Scottish Open Water Grand Prix.

Men's Junior: 5th Gregor Barnett Deveron ASC

Scottish Championships 16/17th August Loch Venachar

Men's 2k Open <i>fastest ND swimmer</i>	Bobby Oag	Orkney ASC
Men's 2k 17 – 24 years	6 th Ryan Kaczmarek	Deveron ASC
Mens 2k 25 – 34 years	1 st Bobby Oag	Orkney ASC
Men's 2k 35 – 44 years	2 nd James Bromham	Inverness ASC
Women's 2k Open/ <i>fastest ND</i>	Eilidh Prise	Westhill District
Women's 2k 17 – 24 years	5 th Eilidh Prise	Westhill District
	7 th Jessica Philip	Deveron ASC
Womens 2k 35 – 44 years	Pamela Flett	Silver City Blues ASC
Men's 5k Open <i>fastest ND swimmer</i>	James Bromham	Inverness ASC
Men's 5k 13 – 14 years	2 nd Gregor Barnett	Deveron ASC
Men's 5k 35 – 44 years	2 nd James Bromham	Inverness
Women's 5k Open <i>fastest ND swimmer</i>	Pamela Flett	Silver City Blues
Women's 5k 15-16 years	5 th Emily Smiles	Deveron ASC
Women's 5k 35-44 years	1 st Pamela Flett	Silver City Blues ASC
4 x 500 m mixed relay	4 th Orkney ASC	
	7 th Deveron ASC	

Inverness Swimmers

Helen Beveridge completed a solo swim across the Catalina Channel in the USA on 1 October, the 314th person to complete this swim since the first successful swim in 1927. This is a 21 mile marathon swim registered with the Catalina Channel Swimming Federation and is one of the three swims that make up the internationally recognised 'triple crown' of marathon swimming (English Channel, Catalina Channel and Manhattan Island). So a great achievement.

Helen also completed an inaugural four-woman-veteran relay swim of Loch Ness on 19 July and was the first lady home in the BLDSA Coniston veterans swim over 3.25 miles. She also completed a four-way swim of St Mary's Loch at the annual BLDSA swim event in September.

Sandra Lea competed in the FINA World Masters Championships 3k open water swim held in August in Canada and she came 5th in the 75-79 age group.

Open Water Swimming in Scotland

Andrena Hammond was appointed Head Open Water Coach for Scottish Swimming in May.

Open Water swimming continues to develop in Scotland as a whole despite a number of barriers. Some of these are self imposed within our association where few clubs actively support their members in competing in these events and there are many misconceptions.

The domestic calendar provides a Scottish Championship and Championships in all four districts. Combined with some club level events there is a competition available almost every weekend during the summer.

A successful 5k indoor event was held in Aberdeen at the new pool and we plan to repeat again next year.

There is a growth in mass participation swims. The great majority of these are not members of clubs. This should represent a sizeable potential market for new members of Scottish Swimming. Morag Hughes former Open Water convenor swam Loch Morar on August 22 in very challenging conditions she enjoys the challenge of rough conditions and see them as a big part of open water swimming. Temporary membership now allows swimmers to take part in an event without becoming registered.

Irrespective of what the districts open water committee does, the success or otherwise of the district in open water events will be largely dependent on the attitude of the clubs and whether they include open water races among the aims for their endurance swimmers.

Team Funding Swimmers from North District clubs have typically represented the District when competing as part of the Scottish Development Squad, this year we had no swimmers selected. In previous years a contribution of £125 for two swimmers was asked for in line with what other districts were providing. It is recommended that the same level of subsidy is provided for 2015.

Jennifer Ewen
Open Water Convenor

SASA North District – Open Water Swimming Budget 2015

Subsidised district swimmers selected for Scottish Open Water Development Squad, £125 per head to a maximum of 6 swimmers (actual number likely to be 2-3)

Assuming 3 swimmers at £125 each	£375
Information and training event	£100
Contribution to SASA Open Water Swimming Grand Prix Prize Fund	£150
Total	£625