

Introduction

This is my first report as North District STO Convener after taking from Kevin Paterson at the end of 2016. This is an opportunity to say a thank you to Kevin for his support during the transition and for handing over such a well organised set of documentation, processes and procedures for managing the officials in our district. We are fortunate that although Kevin has stood down as STO Convener, he continues to deliver training courses and share his extensive knowledge with our district officials.

As was reported in the last STO Report, Jenny Young has decided to “hang up her whistle” as a North District Referee after many years of service. We got an opportunity to wish Jenny all the best at the North District Age Group Championships where she was also presented with the JY Coutts Memorial Award for Outstanding Services by the North District President, Durno Jessiman.



North District STO Committee

One of my first tasks as STO Convener was to confirm the members of the STO Committee for the coming year. It is great news that the existing members of the existing STO Committee have agreed to stay on, and their continued support and guidance will be very much appreciated in 2017. I'd like to welcome Sean Dawson to the committee following his appointment as Meet Officials Convener, and also say a huge thank you to Durno Jessiman as the outgoing Meet Officials who has fulfilled that role for a number of years.

The 2017 members of the STO Committee are :-

- STO Convener – Steve Robertson
- STO Administrator – Helen Guy
- STO Timekeeper Administrator – Eleanore Ferguson
- Meet Officials Convener – Sean Dawson
- STO Committee Member – Kath Cartwright
- STO Committee Member – Kevin Paterson

Officials Training

Referees

- We have one new trainee referee starting the training programme this year – Ian Johnstone, from Orkney who will be trained by Ian Gibson.
- We have three trainees from the 2016 programme who continue to work towards their Referee qualification and we wish them luck for the exam in May (Matt Huntington, Dianne Smith and Alison Bain).
- Brian Hendry has been undergoing his training as a Scottish Swimming Meet Referee and will have his final assessment at the Scottish National Age Groups in May. Good luck Brian.
- Durno Jessiman has been selected to join the British Swimming Referee Development programme in 2017.

Training Statistics

	Timekeeper	Judge 1	Judge 2	Judge 2s	Referee	AOE	Recorder
Applied for Training in 2016	368	56	29	7	3	1	21
Qualified in 2016	368	39	16	6	0	1	10
Applied for Training in 2017	23	6	2	0	1	1	3
Qualified in 2017	23	4	6	1	0	0	0

- **Timekeepers** - 2016 was a bumper year for new timekeepers in the district with the highest number as far back as my records go. A very big thank you to Eleanore Ferguson as the ND Timekeeper Administrator and to all those delivering the timekeeper courses across the district. A very big welcome to all our new timekeepers to the role of a Swimming Technical Official.
- **Judges** – There was a healthy number of Judge 2's started their training this year and als a big thank you to Helen Guy for manaing the constant flow of judge applications. Unfortunately Judge 1's were the lowest for a number of years and with on average it taking 468 days, from first workshop to assessment, for a Judge 1 to become qualified we need all the clubs to encourage the huge volume of timekeepers to progress on to becoming judges in 2017.

Assessments

The district are in great shape with regards to assessments and at present there is a very short waiting list for judges to get their assessments thanks to the efforts of all the district referees in the last few months of 2016 and the beginning of 2017.

National Events

It will be busy year for National Events in the North District with a total of 4 national events coming to Aberdeen and Inverness before the summer. The Scottish National Age Groups, Scottish Masters, British Masters and Scottish Open Championships. This is an honour and a great opportunity and I hope that our North District officials will support as much possible.

North District Technical Officials T-Shirts

I have re-stocked the North District Technical Official White Polo Shirts so anyone who would like to buy a T-Shirt should get in touch with me directly. In preparation for the North District Age Group Championships we also re-stocked the blue officials polo shirts used for finals. As reminder please to all officials attending a North District championship final session, if you have a blue finals polo shirt please bring it with you. We actually ran out at the meet in February and a further order has now been placed.

Photo Gallery



Jenny Young receiving the JY Coutts Memorial Award for Outstanding Services at the North District Age Group Championships in February 2017. The laughter unable to be contained as the stems of her flowers ended up the nose of our North District President.



Delivery of the new stock of North District Technical Official T-Shirts!



Kevin Paterson attended the ASA National Winter Meet in November 2016.