OPEN WATER NEWS

FEBRUARY 2012

Welcome to the new edition of Open Water News. I will start by wishing you all a Happy New Year and by wishing us all a sunnier and less windy 2012!

There are some important changes taking place this year. Many events are in different places on the calendar and for the first time we are holding the Regional Championships inland at Chichester Watersports Centre. Dover Regatta returns to the Series and we are looking forward to a full set of events this year without any interference from the weather. **Please note that due to circumstances beyond our control the event will now be held at Southsea, the date remains the same.**

As well as moving to a new venue there are important changes in the Regional Championships that will affect Age Group and Youth swimmers. This year our Regional Champions will gain direct entry to the National Open Water Age Group Championships at Sheffield on 21st&22nd July without the need to reach the pool qualifying standard. To allow this to happen we have introduced new distances of 1.75 and 2K.

Any swimmer who wishes to compete for this place MUST enter the distance appropriate to their age, unfortunately we will have to run the 1.5k and 3k events at the same time so those who are challenging for an age group place at 1.5k will not be able to compete in the 3k.

Ages and distances at National Championships are as follows;

Girls/Boys 12-14 1500m
Girls/Boys 15/16 1750m
Girls/Boys 17/18 2000m

ALL AGES ARE AT 26th JULY 2012
Championship conditions are available as a download from the Open Water page.

As most of you are probably aware those of you who entered last year's cancelled event are being offered free entry to the 2012 event. IT IS NECESSARY FOR THOSE PEOPLE TO COMPLETE AND RETURN A 2012

ENTRY FORM. Entry packs will be available to download from March please take the time to complete clearly, especially your email contact details, as all information will be provided electronically and via our web page. We are running our event in conjunction with London Region so there will be a few more boxes to tick this time.

Following the cancellation of both days at Southsea we were unable to present Series prizes at the end of2011 so we will be presenting 2011 awards at the Championship event on 7th July.

We are also looking to increase the number of qualified Open Water Officials within the Region. If you are interested all the information can be found at http://www.swimming.org/britishswimming/swimming/open-water/# . Please contact me at s.e.openwater@gmail.com if you wish to receive details of officials training within the Region.