

# Suffolk County ASA

## Development Championships Report

On the whole it has been a very successful Championships. There have been a few hiccups on the way but hopefully the event has been well received. There was an increase in the number of swimmers taking part which did result in rather a long day on Sunday.

The takings on the door were up significantly this year as was the income from entries, which has helped to offset the increase in catering for the officials due to Jacey's not being available.

Some suggestions where we could improve the event for future years are:

- Re-schedule some of the events from Sunday to Saturday evening session as this was relatively short (finishing by 8pm). A slightly longer session 2 would help to reduce the long Sunday, especially session 5.
- Clubs need to ensure that swimmers are registered at Cat 2 prior to submitting entry forms.
- Now that these championships are growing in their own right, do we need to separate them totally from the County Championships so it is managed and run as a separate event. Whilst there does need to be communications between the two event managers, it would be easier if each event is co-ordinated by the one person.
- With the adjustments to the main County Championships, we also need to consider changes to the Development Championships –
  - Do we make 'upper' qualifying times equal to County Championship entry times so that swimmers can only compete in events at one championship?
  - What adjustments to we need to make to lower qualifying times?
  - Are we still providing the correct events for swimmers at this level of competition?
  - Is it still feasible to run the Development Championships in current form over one weekend? I believe we have already begun to discuss increasing it to a third day.

With my "Deben" hat on, I was very unhappy with the abuse the volunteers received on the door from spectators. This was mainly on the Saturday when spectators wanted to come in from 12 O'Clock (even though warm up wasn't until 2pm!). Some were particularly unpleasant and the language used really was not acceptable. I appreciate that there is not a great deal that can be done about these rather unpleasant people, but perhaps the County would consider writing to all club secretaries and ask that they remind spectators that we are all volunteers running this event. It may also be worth putting on the paperwork which is sent to the clubs, that spectators will not be admitted until the pool is set up and ready and that it will certainly not be until 30 minutes prior to the first warm up time – at the earliest.