

HCASA Open Water

Last summer saw a large number of Open Water events either cancelled or severely limited due to the rather poor weather conditions.

The combined SER and HCASA Championship was no exception to this in early September at Southsea, the sea condition was far too dangerous to permit the event to continue, we did, however, continue on the Sunday with the PNSC Pier-to-Pier event. The Southern Region event at Weymouth was yet another casualty of the weather, reducing the “local” ASA and British Swimming events significantly.

I had stated early last year an intention to take a County Age Group team to Holme Pierrepont for the ASA National OW Age Group event, sadly let down very late by a very critical club coach so this had to be cancelled – you will recall that I informed the Management Committee of this immediately as you were identifying a need for additional unplanned expenditure elsewhere. This opportunity has now gone as the Age Group/County competition no longer exists in the ASA Calendar

Late in September I travelled to Jersey to witness their Open competition at St Catherine’s Bay – I was very impressed with their commitment to this discipline and to the numbers of participants in the events – again curtailed due to sea conditions!!

That said, I am very keen to support Jersey in growing their events for 2009, they have already committed this to be a Junior, Open 5km and Open 10km events, with alternative venues already in planning should the weather turn Easterly again!!!!

2009 will hopefully provide better opportunities – or at least better weather, with the joint SER/HCASA event taking place in Southsea again on 5 September and the Jersey event (3km Junior/Masters) 5km (Senior/Masters) on 13 September at St Catherine’s Bay.

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