

## SWIMMING TECHNICAL OFFICIALS DEVELOPMENT (2008 - 2009)

During the last year / 18 months we have had a large volume of individuals who have taken on either the Timekeepers (no longer called the Club Timekeepers) course as well as a significant number starting their Judge Level 1 Swimming Technical Officials workbooks. A number are progressing onto the Judge Level 2 & 2S workbooks, following successful assessments.

Again this year saw individuals from our County participate in the Judge Level 3 (Referee) process using candidate workbooks, practical poolside experience, theory coursework, written exams and final assessments. This year Pam Mattos successfully passed her practical assessment and Linda Charlesworth completed both the written and practical assessments. Congratulations to both these individuals who are now fully qualified Referees.

There are other individuals who are either in the process of taking their exams or awaiting results. Watch out for more Hampshire Referee's in the near future.

Applications for technical officials training have been:

<b>New Applications for Qualification</b>	<b>Jan – Dec 2008</b>	<b>Jan – To Date 2009</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Judge Level 3 (Referee)	5 (*)	1	(*) – Some candidates have yet to complete their written exams.
Judge Level 2S (Starter)	6	2	
Judge Level 2	5	4	These are candidates who moved on from Judge Level 1 qualification.
Judge level 1	98	49	Large numbers are still undertaking worksheets, but some have since dropped out
Timekeeper Candidates (not part of Judge 1)	80	12	We have seen a significant number move on to Judge 1 workbook during latter part of 2008.

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My particular thanks must go to all the Course Leaders around the County, who have assisted the candidates with their workbooks and guided them through the process. Leaders have been Pauline Hogg, Sue Lambert, David Greenaway, Sharon Hamblin, Graeme Lowe, Mark Randles, Linda Charlesworth and Dave Kember. Thanks to all these colleagues for their support.

I personally have also undertaken a few courses of my own, recently including the Isle of Wight who had 26 Judge Level 1 applicants. Thanks to Tracey Yeates for her efforts in getting the venue and candidates organised.

Whilst we run these workbook sessions and assist new colleagues, I also must thank all those officials, who have acted as mentors or undertaken practical assessments. The way the system works now, allows us to see individuals working on the poolside and we can therefore assess their capabilities using a variety of qualified individuals at a variety of different events.

We have all learnt from the experiences and I have started to develop notes for course leaders to assist them with the process of arranging Initial and Interim sessions with their candidates, followed by practical assessments using the British Swimming forms.

New innovation has been the introduction of Young Officials by the ASA. Whilst this originally did not involve myself or my County colleagues we have now taken on the role of instructing not just young people outside the sport, as was the original scope of the scheme, but now encouraging our young swimmers from within our clubs to undertake the training. The scheme rewards these individuals with a "goody bag" and a certificate on satisfactory completion.

Whilst we do not think this will bring floods of new volunteers to become qualified ASA Swimming Technical Officials, we see this as a start with the possibility of growth in future years. Thanks to Sue Lambert, Graham Stanley, Mark Randles and Linda Charlesworth for being the driving force to move this forward.

George Adamson  
Swimming Officials Development Officer