



Annual Report for the Year 2013

'Nothing great is easy' Capt Matthew Webb



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CS&PF AGM 15th March 2014

President's Report

Writing a President's Report is new to both me and the CS&PF, and I have been given free rein to write what I want; very exciting and a tad dangerous!

I so love the sport of Channel Swimming. Each and every year I meet the most amazing, talented, humble and delightful swimmers who achieve amazing feats of endurance; I am proud to be able to call so many of them friends. This year has been no surprise in this department, as we have seen some phenomenal swims, but sadly I cannot go into details as this would duplicate Kevin's report. However, rest assured we are all hugely proud of them and their achievements.

When I took over the role of CS&PF President, the job description was blank, and past presidents had been far less active than I wanted to be. I saw little point in taking up the post and doing nothing, when I had plenty of energy and time to give to the Federation. I was deeply honoured to have been voted in to serve for a second three year term as President.

One of the 'jobs' I created and relish, is writing to each solo swimmer, both successful and unsuccessful. I think of this as a real honour, and I greatly enjoy doing it as I get to hear of all the heroics going on in the Channel. I also believe making contact post-swim with swimmers is so important, as often there is a void that opens up in one's life once a swim is over. Talking through ones feelings with someone that's been in that place before can help greatly.

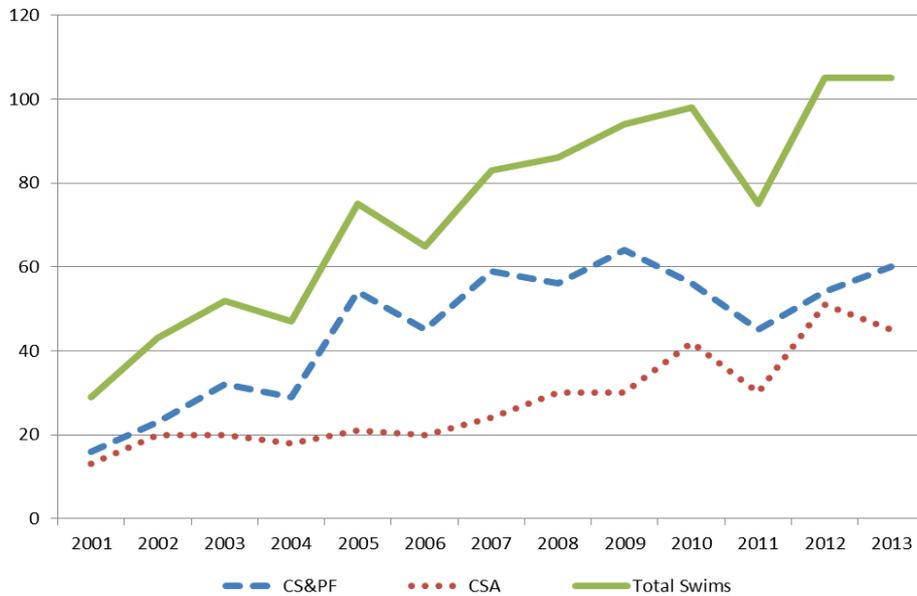
Another niche I have carved out for the President, is one of confidently representing the Federation worldwide, and creating beneficial working relationships between us and the ever increasing number of swim organisations. This tends to be done behind the scenes, but rest assured much is being done on your behalf to maintain the reputation of the CS&PF and hence the reputation and validity of your achievements. One recent good example of this is the positive manner in which CS&PF Channel Swims are treated by the MIMS organisers.

The Growth of Channel Swimming

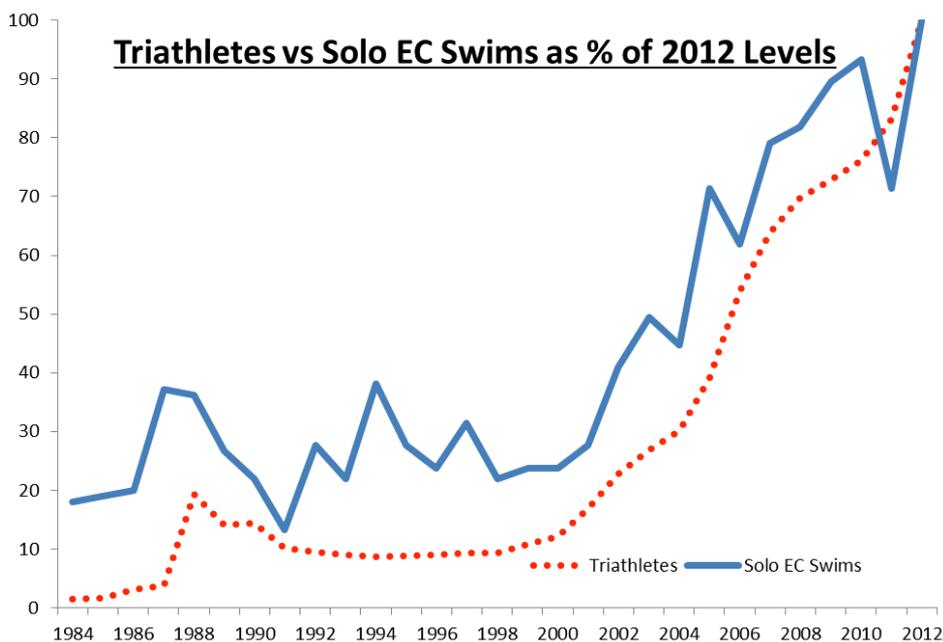
At the CS&PF, we look forward much of the time, and strive to do things better in the future. We are not standing still, nor resting on our laurels; we can be better, and we will be better. In 2013 we had 165 swims, taking into account both solos and relays. This is a phenomenal amount, and we are close to reaching our capacity as an organisation and collection of six highly skilled, professional expert pilots. How we deal with this huge number of swims can, and will, need streamlining and we are working on ways to make this happen.

Analysing the sport quantitatively is difficult, as does one look at all swims attempted, just successes, solos, relays, all relay categories etc. Given that the success rate of solos is roughly constant, and the split between solos and relays doesn't fluctuate too much, looking at numbers of successful soloists gives an easy snapshot of the sport. The other benefit of this analysis, is that the data is easy to find.

Successful Solo Channel Swims



You can see that the CS&PF has taken off meteorically since we started solo swims in 2001. Prior to 2000, the 'normal' number of successful solos was around 20-30 per year in total. Obviously this rise in solos is not necessarily due to the existence of the CS&PF (we are not that blinkered and vain), but due to society in general wanting more challenges. This rise has also been seen in other 'extreme' sports. See the comparison of solo EC swims to the number of members of UK triathlon clubs below:



My take on the data above, coupled with anecdotal evidence, is that the CS&PF began reaching 'capacity' in 2007/8 and a lot of the new aspirants in the sport could not swim with us and therefore swam with the CSA instead. Currently the CS&PF complete a significantly greater number of relays than the CSA, which means overall the CSA are still escorting fewer swimmers per year than the CS&PF.

Taking all of this into account, the CS&PF don't have much spare 'capacity', whilst the CSA has slightly more than us remaining. This might seem interesting, but not terribly relevant. However I disagree. The number of people wanting to swim the Channel is increasing, and we have a fixed capacity which is reaching its bursting point.

The challenges I see ahead are:

- Slots will become harder to find, and one will need to book further ahead
- The season will be lengthened further into June and September/October
- Slots being booked up 'en masse'
- Slots will become 'commodities' and traded

There are no easy solutions. I personally fear for those truly naive solo swimmers, new to the sport, signing up for June/October swims. If slot 'trading' became prevalent, I believe it would be to the detriment of the sport, and certainly not in the spirit.

Channel Swimming living on a cliff edge!

What we basically do as swimmers, is swim across two very busy shipping lanes, from one country to another. We are now doing this more often! As far as the authorities are concerned, along with guardians of safe travel through the Channel, it would be far easier and safer for all users if Channel Swimming didn't happen.

We are always one nightmare decision/dictat/ruling/law away from being shut down altogether. Not being over dramatic about this, but Mike Oram has kept Channel Swimming open pretty much single-handedly for many years now, through his encyclopaedic knowledge and persistence in meetings with the authorities.

As your Federation, we do all we can to improve the safety of the sport, and put processes and systems in place that clearly demonstrate that we are responsible and take due care and responsibility. Our setup is highly regarded and respected by many within the official authorities, and this has been our ace in negotiations so far.

Most of you know that both the CS&PF and CSA are limited to six escort boats in the NE shipping lane at any one time. Superficially this does seem rather monopolistic/oligopolistic, but that's another debate. There are now other pilots/companies, not registered with either the CSA or CS&PF offering to take swimmers across with a RIB as a pilot boat, along with a far less professional/qualified infrastructure on the water compared to our pilots. I can see this becoming more of a problem, and could seriously impact on our activities.

At all times there are ongoing negotiations with various bodies, to keep the Channel open for swimming. We do, and will continue to, do our best on your behalf.

However, I personally see this becoming more tiring and troublesome, and one day we might need to call upon you, the membership, to stand up and be counted. To rise up and fight for Channel Swimming to survive. This is an Armageddon situation, but as our leader Mike says, “Hope for the best, but plan for the worst”!

The Emergence of the 'Ego Swimmer'

We all swim for different reasons. Personally I swim because I love swimming, love being part of an amazing community and believe some form of exercise at the core of one's life is a good thing. What I am about to write probably won't be too popular, but this is my report, so it's going in!!

My observations of the majority of Channel Swimmers in times gone past, were that they were noble and modest people doing extraordinary things. However, more recently I have seen the emergence of more and more 'high profile' swimmers doing all that they do in the social media spotlight. Yes, this does help the charitable side of their activities, but I feel it is all too often a stretch for the limelight and celebrity status. Frankly I am very bored of the growing number of swimmers trying to find world records, however obscure, to break and sell themselves on.

Swim to swim. Don't swim to shine.

Help others when you have the tools to do so, don't just help yourself.

These are the foundations that this great sport is built upon; utter selflessness. You just have to be humbled by the 'Beach Crew' and their selflessness to get an understanding of the spirit of the sport.

Yes, Webb and Ederle were 'media whores', but they can be forgiven as they really were special!!

Apart from 'Ego Swimmers' changing the feel/nature of the sport, I feel that it will lead to people biting off more than they can chew more often, leading to more problems in our sport. This isn't just happening in Channel Swimming, but in ultra-distance triathlons, Ice Swimming and many other 'extreme' sports.

Guardians of 'English Channel Rules'

This title does sound rather arrogant, but I will explain.

Channel Swimming is a very much established sport, and in the past ten years or so, both social media and open water swimming in general has blossomed worldwide. Does one 'cause' the other; that's another debate. What I do know, is that there is much discussion about open water swimming and 'Channel Swimming rules' being cited as the gold standard from which most organisations evolve their own rules, with changes according to local requirements.

What this means, is that often the CS&PF and our officers/committee are asked for opinions in online debate about rules/situations, but on the whole we try and stay out of such debates. You might have wondered why we do so, and why we are not representing you 'fully'.

Despite some of the officers/committee being highly knowledgeable and respected by the swimming fraternity, it's very hard to express a personal opinion and not drag your name of office/CS&PF into the debate too. The Federation is too precious to us, for us to risk damaging it merely to try and voice personal opinions.

That said, we do a great deal behind the scenes to help existing and new organisations, sharing our experiences and knowledge. As is said: "The more you know, the less you need to show". Rest assured, we certainly do our bit for the swimming community on your behalf, but don't shout about it.

We are not going to stand still, pat ourselves on the back, and promote our rules as the finest rules ever to exist. I recognise and acknowledge that we must spend more time on our rules, to clarify in some situations, and evolve in others. I consider this very important, and something we will be investing our time in.

State of the CS&PF

We are in great shape, and have much to celebrate. Our 'people capital' is our real strength. We have a talented, experienced, passionate and hard working committee. We have great support from our members/swimmers, and the generous offers of help keep pouring in. I thank you all from the bottom of my heart for this.

We have an awesome group of experienced and highly qualified pilots, and swimmers naturally clamour to get bookings with them. Feedback I receive concerning their professionalism, and willingness to go beyond the call of duty, are a pleasure to read. We are incredibly lucky to have them in our 'stable'.

Mike Ball has taken on the role of Observer Liaison Officer, and made a tremendous success of it. How he manages to find observers for a 3am kick off, only hearing of the need at 10pm the night before I don't know! Some of Mike's success has to come down to the positive relationships he's forged in the sport; people want to help Mike. I would like to publicly thank Mike for getting an observer on every swim in 2013.

Jim Boucher and Kathy Batts were new to the committee in 2013, and worked remarkably well together on the CS&PF finances. Sadly Jim stepped down early this year, and it's a great loss to us, but I can't force everyone to stay forever!!

We have launched our new clothing range in 2013, and it's taken off beyond our wildest predictions. We sold more clothing in 2013 than we'd sold since the creation of the CS&PF! Jim Boucher and Michelle Toptalo really drove this forward, and did the hard legwork behind the scenes. One mustn't forget to thank the team selling the kit in various locations.

As a swimmer, one is not terribly interested in new administration forms, but I have to bring it to your attention that the new forms are SUPERB!!! The design of the forms fit in with our new professional 'corporate image', and they are far simpler to fill in. Behind the prettier facade, the content has been completely reviewed, and now it's easier for both swimmer and CS&PF to establish what is contractually down to them. It is clear to swimmers that they must assess and accept the risks themselves, thus protecting the CS&PF going forward. A big thank you must go out to Mike Oram, Boris Mavra, Ian Down and the rest of the committee.

The website, www.cspf.co.uk do I need to say more? You've all been there already. It's AWESOME. Well done to Boris Mavra and all that have contributed to the site. It is only going to get better!

Future of the CS&PF

As well as dealing with current admin and problems, your committee are always looking for ways to improve.

We are currently exploring ways in which we can do more of our day to day admin online, so that more of the workload can be shared. Our website is very much 'future-proof', and at the backend there is a very powerful database which we are designing from the ground up to suit our needs. We will not rush this process, but a few 2014 swims will be using the new system, in parallel with the paper version, so we can massage out the teething problems. Ultimately this will keep our costs down, and make the whole process of registering swims easier for the swimmers.

As our Chairman, Mike Oram, has outlined, I would like to see us successfully go through the application to become a CASC (Community Amateur Sports Club), which will have benefits for the CS&PF as to how we are looked upon regarding tax. This will take a great deal of work, which Mike Oram has been spearheading.

We will work closely with our pilots, and do all we can to help everyone/everything comply with all the new MCA and Immigration rules/laws which will affect 2014 swims.

We will improve further our accounting systems, and establish methods to pay observers and the paid officers of the CS&PF, that will stand the test of time.

I would like to see a greater pool of observers out in the Channel, and to harness the expertise of the 'old hands' to better train those new to observing.

I would like to see more people step forward and help the CS&PF with our website content. If this is something you are interested in, just drop me an email.

We will continue to listen to the members. I believe that we work for you the members and the CS&PF, rather than the other way round. It's YOUR Federation, and we need your support. Together we will be stronger, and become even more successful.

This has turned out to be rather long! It has been rather cathartic for me to write, and if you have managed to read to this stage you've got a very high boredom threshold and should consider swimming the Channel!

Big love as always,

Nick Adams
CS&PF President



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Annual General Meeting

Saturday 15th of March 2014 at 1400 hours (2pm)
Dover Town Hall
High Street / Biggin Street, Dover, Kent

Agenda

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the 2013 AGM
3. Matters Arising
4. The Chairman's report
5. The Hon. Secretary's Report
6. The Hon. Treasurer's Report
7. Observer Liaison Report
8. Election of Officers and Committee
9. Motions – One item: CS&PF rules update
10. Any other business

To be followed by the Annual Dinner in Dover Town Hall
1830hrs (6.30pm) for 1915hrs (7.15pm) sitdown

Minutes of Annual General Meeting

Held at 1400 on Saturday 2nd March 2013 at Dover Town Hall

The following minutes were taken by Melissa Spears

PRESENT

Nick Adams (President), Michael Oram (Chairman), Julian Critchlow (Vice-Chairman), Kevin Murphy (Hon. Secretary), Catharine Slevin (Treasurer).

Committee: Angela Oram, Lance Oram, Eddie Spelling, Michelle Toptalo, Tanya Harding, Ian Down, Sakura Hingley, Mike Ball, Boris Mavra

Members: Angela Oram, Jackie Cobell, Dave Cobell, Jackie Lancaster, Margot Anderson, Pam Bessell, Sue Croft, Gary Fagg, Amy Smith, Jane Murphy, Sam Jones, John Thorpe Chris Osmond, Judy Hargreaves, Ned Denison, Sally Minty Gravett, Charlie Gravett, Wendy Trehou Cliff Golding, Simon Murie, John Cunningham Rolls, P. R. Foreman, Michelle Toptalo, Kevin Blick, Annette Stewart, Trevor Colman, Rob Puldcott, Suzie Dodds, Mark Fabik, Kathy Batts, Ann Willi, Angela Oram, James Willi, Peter Taylor, Neil Streeter, Freda Streeter, Ellen McGowan, Zoe Sadler, Irene Wakeham, B E Wakeman Lloyd Clarke, Bryn, Dymott, Emma France, Paul James, Kristy McIntrye, Deirdre Ward, Victoria Thorpe, Melissa Spears

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Duncan Heenan

2. MINUTES OF LAST AGM

The minutes were unanimously approved and signed.

3. MATTERS ARISING

None – Refer to AOB

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Circulated with Agenda.

5. HON SECRETARY'S REPORT

Circulated with Agenda.

6. HON TREASURER'S REPORT

Finances are healthy.

Emma France 'again' requested a balance sheet be available for circulation and one was passed to her. See AOB for future AGM.

Cathie Slevin asked if accounts should be put on the internet. Michael Oram asked Ian Down's opinion. Initial thought from Ian is that they shouldn't but he said he will look into it.

7. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

President - Nicholas Adams (proposed by Michael Oram & seconded by Angela Oram)

There being no further nominations Nicholas Adams was unanimously elected.

Vice-Chairman- Julian Critchlow (proposed by Kevin Murphy & seconded by Jane Murphy)

There being no further nominations Julian Critchlow was unanimously elected.

Hon. Secretary-Tanya Harding (proposed by Michael Oram & seconded by Angela Oram)

Kevin Murphy (proposed by Emma France & seconded by Freda Streeter)

The candidates each outlined why they felt they should be elected. Michael Oram and Emma France outlined why they were proposing the candidates.

Kevin Murphy gained the most votes in the and was re-elected.

The election of the Hon. Secretary prompted some discussion:

Michael Oram emphasized the need to have a full-time Secretary and hence his proposal of an additional committee position (to support a growing job and help cover absences) and his proposal of Tanya Harding for position of Secretary. He was concerned that Kevin's five week Swimtrek guiding trip would impact the processing of swim applications. Kevin countered that the process would function uninterrupted with his wife Jane remaining in the UK for all but 10 days to receive postage (only 5-10% come this way) and with the use of a laptop and internet connection in his accommodation. Charlie Gravett suggested Kevin Murphy inform any swimmers with outstanding medicals of his Swimtrek dates to ease this concern. Kevin said he would do this. Lloyd Clarke mentioned making the application process web-based in the future.

8. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE

Three committee places available

Nominations:

Ian Down (proposed by Kevin Murphy & seconded by Jane Murphy – standing for re-election)

Tanya Harding (proposed by Michael Oram & seconded by Angela Oram)

Sakura Hingley (proposed by Kristy McIntyre & seconded by Mark Fabik – standing for re-election)

Michelle Toptalo (proposed by Emma France & seconded by Freda Streeter – standing for re-election)

Ian Down, Sakura Hingley and Michelle Toptalo were duly elected.

Serving on the committee for second year and not required to stand for re-election:

Lance Oram, Eddie Spelling, Mike Ball and Boris Mavra

9. MOTIONS

Motion 1. Adding of Assistant Hon. Secretary to item (a) of section 7 MANAGEMENT (proposed by Michael Oram & seconded by Angela Oram)

- a) The general management, conduct and direction of the Federation shall be vested in the general committee which shall consist of a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Honorary Secretary, *Assistant Honorary Secretary*, Honorary Treasurer and Seven (7) elected full members. The committee will have the power to co-opt up to three additional members with voting rights for specific duties.

Motion was put to the vote and dismissed (15 for, 23 against)

Kevin Murphy questioned Motion 1, asking how it could work unless it was a Husband and Wife who lived at the same address? Cliff Golding asked whether the new position would receive an Honorarium or what proportion of the Hon. Secretary's Honorarium. Michael Oram confirmed that the Honorarium is for the office not the people. It was asked whether the Hon. Secretary could have the right to select their assistant and Michael Oram answered that he would be happy with this arrangement. Ian Down explained it was not possible for one Committee member to select another.

Motion 2. Change the wording to item (d) of section 7 MANAGEMENT. Two versions proposed.

Version A. (proposed by Michael Oram & seconded by Angela Oram)

d) The CS&PF officers and committee members (excluding President and Vice President) to be elected by rotation with half (1/2) being elected every year over a two year period.

The CS&PF officer positions are to be elected from CS&PF members who are serving or have served on the CS&PF committee.

Nominations for the appointment of the Officers and to fill the Committee positions, each proposed and seconded by full members, shall be given in writing to the Secretary at least twenty-one days (21 days) before the date of the Annual General Meeting and made available to full members.

If the number of nominations exceeds the number of vacancies, then a paper ballot shall be taken, each full members present at the meeting having one vote in respect of each vacancy. Elected members shall take office at once. Full members shall sign in at the beginning of the meeting, giving their CS&PF number and collect a voting card.

Version B. (proposed by Kevin Murphy & seconded by Jane Murphy)

d) The CS&PF officers and committee members (excluding President and Vice President) to be elected by rotation with half (1/2) being elected every year over a two year period.

The CS&PF officer positions are to be elected from CS&PF members who are serving or have served on the CS&PF committee. If there are no nominations for officer positions from among CS&PF members who are serving or have served on the CS&PF committee, the secretary will notify the membership accordingly and the election of other full members of the CS&PF to officer positions will be permitted.

Nominations for the appointment of the Officers and to fill the Committee positions, each proposed and seconded by full members, shall be given in writing to the Secretary at least twenty-one days (21 days) before the date of the Annual General Meeting and made available to full members.

If the number of nominations exceeds the number of vacancies, then a paper ballot shall be taken, each full members present at the meeting having one vote in respect of each vacancy. Elected members shall take office at once. Full members shall sign in at the beginning of the meeting, giving their CS&PF number and collect a voting card.

Motion was put to the vote unanimously passed Version B.

Motion 3. 10. Swimming rules – Item 2 & Item 3 reference closing dates (proposed by Michael Oram & seconded by Angela Oram)

To read –

2. Your CS&PF application ***and medical*** forms must be submitted before 31st April.

(words “and medical“ added)

Delete item 3-

3. Medical form must be returned and accepted as complete by mid-May at the latest.

Motion was put to the vote and unanimously passed.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- Request for a summary of financial data (including Honorarium details) as provided by the treasurer to be added as an appendix to future AGM minutes.

- Cliff Golding raised a concern over the data protection of swimmer’s medical information that is passed onto the Hon. Secretary and specifically the risk of having this information on Email on a Laptop. Ian Down proposed a review of safe storage at the next committee meeting.

- Issuing ‘stories’ to the swimmer may need to be a topic for the next AGM, concern over regulating them more if they are going to be used in legal contests.

Meeting closed at 1600

Chairman's Report 2014 AGM

It's that time of year again, -- AGM and Chairman's report to be fitted into a couple of pages and trying to include everything that has happened. This year so much has happened that I think I will have to stray from the usual path and share the reporting of all the news around a bit.

With this in mind I am leaving the Hon Sec, Kevin Murphy and your President, Nick Adams, to hopefully update you on all the swim activity. All I will say is it has been another full and very eventful year with lots of swimmers dreams turned into reality.

There have been some great swims, and some great efforts produced in what was another very busy season. The erratic weather conditions meant the pilots and their crews had to pick their way through a great deal of uncertainty and try to find the good (and not so good) days to be on the water, but nothing stopped the enthusiasm and determination to get wet. Our sport is still growing fast and the limits are being pushed hard.

As Chairman my position within the CS&PF and the committee is to try and keep everything on an even keel and progressing forward. There has been a lot to do over the past 12 months making it hard to find enough time to fit everything in around the committee members "day jobs". We, as a committee, have been working away in the background doing many of the things that are not readily obvious to our members, but essential to the smooth running of your organisation.

Some items, like the new web site and all its news and information plus swim courses, the new branding and logo, smart regalia, the revised and refreshed swim application forms, observers' forms etc are for all to see and appreciate.

However, behind the scenes is a support team of volunteers putting it all in the cooking pot to give our swim membership as much help as we can to make their training and efforts successful. Many hours are spent in discussion and debate to make sure you have the best we can give you.

Members do not often see all the hard work people like Jim & Kathy have put into the Treasurers position, the time Boris and Nick have spent developing the web site, Mike Ball searching for observers when the weather changes suddenly to allow a set of swims to be fitted in at the last moment – talks and discussions with the Coastguards on both sides of the Channel to protect our interests.

Then there is all the office work to get through, with a lot of it not on time or correct first time around! My thanks go out to the committee as a unit for what they have achieved to date and I would like to think I speak for all the members reference this "thank you".

Alongside all this day to day activity your committee have been trying to sort out the CS&PF registration as a Community Amateur Sports Club (CASC) and its registration with HMRC.

This application started back in 2010 / 2011 and it has been an uphill battle since then but, hopefully, it is in its final stages now (if we are accepted) .

To try and achieve this first stage of bringing the Federation into a more manageable and effective organisation and finalise the application for CASC registration the committee have had to take a long look at the CS&PF rules and revise them to fit in with the government legislation. This has required us to alter some of the original wording and membership parameters.

Before you at this 2014 AGM meeting is a motion to accept these rule changes. I am asking you to work with your committee and vote to accept this motion so that we can progress with HMRC. Without these alterations our application for CASC status will be much harder to make and possibly not able to be accepted.

The changes are not big ones. To outline them;

The committee have taken out the “associate membership” and are asking you to agree to everyone being “full members”. This is so that everyone has the same voting rights and everyone has the same options within the Federation framework.

With this goes the thought that the CS&PF will not increase the fees for 2015. Leaving them at the same rate as 2014 will help absorb the effect of the full membership rule. Any changes for “associate membership” will not affect the 2014 swim season registration.

The 10 year membership is the other item that we have recommended we remove. This is working on the same precedent as above for a level playing field of a one class bi-annual period status for all new members. The 10 year members who have membership running at the moment will however not be affected until their membership periods come to an end. I am happy to answer any questions if anything needs further clarification.

This application to HMRC for CASC recognition is only the beginning of a long road of re-organisation to allow the Federation to fit into its ever increasing workload associated with the popularity and development of open water swimming. We are growing fast. Growth means the work load is increasing. The CS&PF is run by volunteers on a non profit basis and to fit it all to the time available is proving demanding to say the least. Success has its problems, as members you all need to be aware of the amount of effort required to develop an organisation that can stay at the top of its league whilst catering for the increasing numbers of people wishing to take up our sport.

Outside the committee work I need to pass on and advise the membership that legislation is increasing.

More rules and regulations are being loaded onto both the pilots and the Channel swimming bodies by the French authorities, the British Government, and directives from the EEU. There will be a few changes needed and seen in the near future.

In mid June the French authorities introduced a new law – rule 28 Prefecture Maritime de la Manche – this has defined by who and how Channel attempts can be made.

In Mid August the EEU, enforced by the British MCA introduced new rules and requirements for the manning and management of small commercial craft. This will seriously affect the way the escort boats are operated.

The tax laws and the Government's attitude to business, sporting bodies and clubs underwent a new round of reforms. These are still being defined and will be introduced during 2014 to 2017. To add to all this there are new immigration laws in place, and coming into force reference our closed border with France and Europe.

The English Channel is getting busier; Dover has major expansion plans in hand for the harbour. These involve new ferry berths and lorry parking in the Western dock area, moving the marina to the outer harbour alongside the Admiralty pier. There is going to be an increase of use of the Western entrance for ferry movements and a big increase in ferry and commercial traffic. All this will affect the use of the harbour for training and the movement of escort boats both inside and just outside the harbour.

Both the British and French Coastguards are undergoing structural changes and working methods. This involves the re-structuring of our local Coastguard centres on both sides of the Channel. Not much information is forthcoming at the moment, but rumours are rife.

“Nothing Great is Easy” is a phrase that is having its effect ashore as well as in the water. My hope is for you all to be able to continue to enjoy your chosen sport while understanding what has to be done to keep it available to everyone who wants to “fulfil dreams & push their limits”.

Michael Oram – CS&PF Chairman.

Secretary's Report on the 2013 year.

Wendy Trehou is surely our hero. All of us in the CS&PF know just how much courage, endurance and willpower it takes to swim for more than a day and a half non-stop.

Her 39hrs. 9mins. two-way Channel swim was the third longest swim ever in the English Channel – and this from a lady who has battled and beaten cancer.

Neil Streeter, the crew, support team and observers wrote in their report: "What a remarkable woman. What a truly incredible swim."

Of course that does not detract from all the other achievements in the summer of 2013. I wish I could mention them all. The swimmers went on a journey of discovery and achieved beyond all normal limits.

Here, we should remember and pay tribute to Susan Taylor. She swam with CSA Ltd but she was a friend to many of us. The tragedy of her passing reminds us that what we do is an extreme sport and there are risks involved.

Marcy MacDonald completed her third two-way swim in 24hrs.25mins. Piloted, as usual, by Mike Oram, it took her overall tally to 14 crossings, equalling the US record.

Now I have to say that Mike and I have our ups and downs in the relationship between chairman and secretary but you'd expect that. Debate is healthy when making decisions and the CS&PF is his baby. It is now in its teenage years, having grown and succeeded beyond all expectations. As a result, there are some growing pains but be assured, they are being dealt with and the CS&PF is going from strength to strength.

It's hard enough swimming the Channel front-crawl. France's Sylvain Estadieu did it butterfly in 16hrs. 42mins. – the first 'fly Channel swim by a man.

The fastest CS&PF swim of the year was New Zealander Casey Glover in 9hrs. 14mins. trained by Philip Rush and piloted by Chris Osmond.

No less worthy was the longest one-way success - 22 hours 31minutes by the CS&PF co-treasurer in 2013, Kathy Batts. The tides were so strong off Cap Gris Nez that stationary buoys had bow waves as she was swept past the Cap three times but both Kathy and the pilot, Eddie Spelling, stuck at it.

The oldest CS&PF swimmer of the year was Donald Riddington Born in 1945, his time was 19hrs 45mins to claim the title of oldest ever Australian Channel swimmer.

How about this for a lifetime achievement. Sally Minty-Gravett completed a remarkable fifth swim in five decades in a time of 17hrs.48mins.

Another remarkable achievement, Rachel Hessom became the first woman to complete the Arch to Arc challenge without wearing a wetsuit. She ran from London to Dover, swam the Channel in 14hrs.31mins., piloted by Lance Oram, and cycled to Paris.

At 17, Freddie Florin (14mins.31mins) was the youngest CS&PF swimmer of the year. Alexia O'Mara (14 hours 32 minutes 11 secs) was believed to be the first epileptic to swim the Channel.

The Serpentine Swimming Club produced 12 solo Channel swimmers this year including three 'old hands' adding to their tally of crossings - CS&PF President Nick Adams, CS&PF committee member and website wizard Boris Mavra and CS&PF dinner joint M.C. Kevin Blick. There were also nine first-timers, four of them piloted by Paul Foreman.

A two-way relay with six swimmers is tough. Razorbacks (21mins. 56mins.) and To France and Bach (28 hours 17minutes) had only four swimmers each. Charity For Kids (25hrs. 8mins.) made it with five and Croisóige Mara (20 hours 28 minutes 30 seconds) stayed with the standard six to claim the Irish two-way Channel relay record.

Junior relays, Six Girls No Buoys (13mins. 6mins) had an age range of only 12-14 while Barracudas Ocean Runners (11hrs.55mins) from Perth, Australia were all 15.

All those who came, swam and conquered were an inspiration. It was a privilege for the CS&PF to play a small part in their successes. They deserve our congratulations.

Their success is also the success of our pilots and is a tribute to their expertise.

For those who did not succeed, we look forward to them coming back stronger after the experience and to their success in the future.

Personally, I owe a debt of gratitude to all those who have helped me during the year in my role as secretary, especially our president Nick Adams, our chairman Mike Oram, our co-treasurers Kathy Batts and Jim Boucher, our observer liaison officer Mike Ball, all the members of the committee, the observers and the volunteers who give so much of their time to help swimmers turn a dream in a reality. Thank you.

The statistics were:-

8 two-way solo swims attempted – 2 successful – 5 made it one way - 1 was aborted on the first leg due to weather.

84 one-way solo swims attempted - 50 successful

4 two-way standard (six-person) relays attempted – 2 successful – 2 made it one-way

37 one-way standard (six-person) relays attempted - 32 successful

2 special category four-person two-way relays attempted – 2 successful.

1 special category two-person one-way relay attempted – 1 successful.

11 special category three-person one-way relays attempted - 8 successful

9 special category four-person one-way relays attempted - 6 successful.

5 special category five-person relays attempted - 4 successful.

2 special category seven-person relays attempted – 2 successful.

1 special category eight-person relay attempted – 1 successful.

Total number of swims: 164 attempts. 119 successes

Total solo registrations: 118

Total relay registrations: 74

Total TRI (wetsuit) solo crossing registrations: 4

Total TRI (wetsuit) relay crossing registrations: 1

Total of all registrations: 197

Good luck to the class of 2014. We look forward to many more successes.

Kevin Murphy

(CS&PF Hon.Sec.)

Report of the Hon Treasurer

For me 2013 was a steep learning curve but I would like to thank the Committee and Members for their patience whilst new procedures were adopted.

The year started with Cathie Slevin still in place as Treasurer with Jim Boucher and myself working as Co-Treasurers with the view that one of us would stand for election in 2014. Due to personal reasons Cathie stood down as Treasurer in March 2013 and Jim stood down in January 2014, it would be remiss not to say thank you to both Officers for their input to the organization.

So what changes have there been, we took on board members concerns raised at the previous AGM in respect of safe storage of items such as Medicals, Treasurers reports, Applications forms and started renting a secure lock up in the Dover area. Historical documents are stored there with three Committee members having access. Within a short period of time the lock up had changed from a place of storing historical documents to one that also stored our new Regalia. It is now so much easier with deliveries going straight to there, Regalia is stored, swimmers placing orders on the beach with Irene Wakeman and Michelle Toptalo one week and the following week their garments available to collect. I would like to thank Irene and Michelle for their sterling efforts in selling our Regalia and getting items from storage.

We are in the process of looking at payments for garments via the Web site and items being distributed but this is a long way off as like most things a volunteer would be needed to take orders, package and then post but rest assured we are looking at this.

Payments to observers are now claimed for on an official claims form and payment issued by me once the Secretary is in receipt of the Observers report, I would like to say thank you to the Observers for embracing this procedure.

At the start of the year the Bank Mandate was altered requiring more than one signature on cheques over a designated amount, thus introducing a tighter control when issuing payments.

While Jim Boucher was part of the Committee he worked tirelessly on the way forward and implications with the HMRC, it was and is a minefield, all his findings and reports are in the capable hands of our Chair to progress this matter forward.

So what is in store for 2014? If elected as Treasurer I need to look at an accounting system with the help of my colleagues, the one we currently have is unfortunately no longer compatible with certain Windows programs we use.

Finally thank you to Mike Oram and Kevin Murphy for the support they have given me during my first year in this role.

Kathy Batts

Hon Treasurer

CS&PF Regalia

The CS&PF took the bold step to rebrand in 2013. It started with the new logo being produced by Jenny Rice, and a lot of hard work between Nick and Sakura Adams. They negotiated with all-weather clothing company Fourth Element to produce an exciting new range of clothing including: All weather Cyclone jackets, isobar fleeces, hoodies, polo shirts, Captain Webb t-shirts, hats and swimming hats.

The range was tested by the committee early in 2013 and went on general sale in early June. Irene Wakeham proved her weight in gold (and a bit more – she is tiny!) selling to the masses on Dover beach. On one occasion she was surrounded by swimmers from all nations queuing up to get kitted out.

At the end of the season Jim Boucher and Michelle Toptalo offered a limited period of sales by post. This proved to be a success, enabling those who might have missed out during the season to treat themselves.

At the end of the year new regalia sold was £10320 a considerable increase on previous year's sales.



Michelle Toptallo
CS&PF Committee

CS&PF Dinner 2013

The annual CS&PF dinner in 2013 was our biggest yet with 273 people enjoying a great evening of celebration. Art work displayed by K Blick was fully appreciated by everyone, even if the portrait of Freda did terrify a few!

Knitted swimmers proved to be a popular addition to the dinner. The dolls had been knitted by many volunteers from our local beach crew Freda and Irene to a US knitter who sent us two dolls, one of which had a little blue winky! Particular thanks should go to Freda Toptalo who knitted 30 dolls, Irene Wakeham who knitted the pilots and beach crew, and Ivy, the innocent lady found knitting on the seafront who spent the next 3 months knitting swimmers! The dolls were sold at the end of the evening in aid of the RNLI.

The raffle was a huge success with top prize of a Swimtrek holiday on offer. The sale of dolls, raffle and donation by the federation made the total donated to the RNLI £3590.00

Cliff Golding had hosted the dinner for many years, but in 2013 he opted for hot veg and a nice comfy seat instead. This left Emma and Michelle the unenviable task of stalking possible replacements. It took a while but finally they found our very own Ant and Dec in Kevin Blick and Rob Ouldcott. Our new hosts did a great job and guests enjoyed their fresh faced witty banter along with a stunning video montage produced by Emma and a presentation of awards to the most important people in the room – the swimmers.



Michele Toptalo
CS&PF Committee

CS&PF Website Report

4 March 2013

CS&PF's new website (<http://cspf.co.uk/>) was launched on 2 March 2012; during the two swim seasons since, it has quickly become established as the go-to place for all Channel swimmers. There are many contributors to its success, from CS&PF members providing the content to various individuals and firms helping with the specialist inputs like design or boat-tracking software (<http://cspf.co.uk/acknowledgements>). Here are some figures showing year-on-year site performance: we look forward to its continuing success and popularity.

Period		1 Mar 2012 – 28 Feb 2013	1 Mar 2013 – 28 Feb 2014	difference
Visits		49,869	168,663	3.38 x
Unique visitors		21,092	59,676	2.82 x
Page views		252,721	778,887	3.08 x
Busiest day		22 Jul 2012	21 Aug 2013	
Busiest month		Sep 2012	Aug 2013	
Most popular pages by views	1	Home (24,986)	Swim Routes (185,070)	8.96 x
	2	Swim Routes (20,633)	Tracking (173,386)	12.15x
	3	Tracking (14,270)	Home (55,056)	2.2 x
Top Countries by visits	1	UK 29,753 (59.66%)	UK 100,501 (59.59%)	3.37 x
	2	USA 6,217 (12.47%)	USA 14,624 (8.67%)	2.35 x
	3	Ireland 3,328 (6.67%)	The Netherlands 12,349 (7.32%)	

Other facts and figures:

Total number of pages indexed by Google		4,320
Google rank		4
Top Google searches	1	cspf
	2	channel swimming and piloting federation
	3	cs&pf
Top ranked on searches	1	cs&pf
	2	cspf swim
	3	channel swimming and piloting federation
Tweets and Twitter followers		221 and 403

A Message from the CS&PF Observer Liaison Officer

In march last year I was asked to become the Observer Liaison Officer as the position had become vacant. I was given support from the 'Elders' of the CS&PF for which I am very grateful.

An observers meeting took place in June at the 'White Horse' public house in Dover. This was aimed at new observers. Both new and experienced observers gave up their time to attend. Over the two hours information was provided as to the completion of the new observer forms, the rules, and above all what is expected of an observer who is representing a premier organisation! Experienced observers in attendance kindly assisted me with help and additional 'props'.

A date will be set for a meeting this year and will be sent out as an email.

The season began in late June and this put me to the test in getting observers ready for each of the six support boats. (At this point I would like to thank all the pilots for their help to smooth the way).

The weather was kind to us in 2013 with about 105 crossings. Most of the swims took place on the allocated tides. This had a 'knock on effect'. As swims were completed, pilots were taking full advantage and warning the next swimmer to be prepared for the next tide.

With a bank of thirty observers, 'back to back' swims were often requiring observers to stay at sea.

Of course everybody has a private life with weddings, holidays and other commitments and therefore obtaining observers at weekends proved a challenge for me. I would like to thank all of the observer corp for turning out at 'silly o'clock' and often at very short notice. On one occasion this was within an hour of a call from a Pilot!

As I have previously said I have a bank of about thirty observers on my data base and if I had one hundred that would still not be enough!

I am always looking for new recruits. Last year when the going got tough I even thought about the old Navy way of 'press grangs'.

The CS&PF Website provides superb insight as to what is required to become an observer (many thanks Boris Mavra and Nick Adams for your help).

Basically if you are over 18 years of age and wish to become a trainee (this age is a requirement for insurance purposes), I would like to hear from you.

I would assign you to a swim with an experienced observer who will guide you as to what is required. If all goes well and assuming that you are comfortable with being at sea for a long time and in various conditions, you will be assigned to a support boat and be able to observe your own swim.

It must be emphasised that you are there purely to observe, take notes and above all try your best to stay awake!

The nearer you live to Dover would be an advantage especially for those short notice calls.

You will be paid expenses for your efforts and it has be agreed at committee level to pay £120 per swim and this will increase for two way swims.

Any person interested in this extremely rewarding job, please contact me by email at :-

Mikeball@talktalk.net with your full contact details and I will phone you back.

Lets hope the weather Gods smile upon us for anothe rg reat season.

Kind regards

Mike Ball

Captain Webb had two observers during his 1875 Swim



Election of Officers & Committee

Only full members will be eligible to vote.

Voting will be by ballot paper. Full members please sign in at the beginning of the meeting giving your CS&PF number and collect a voting card.

Election of Officers – Item 7

Officers & Committee members standing for election

CS&PF officers

Chairman: Michael Oram

Proposed by: Nicholas Adams
Seconded by: Lance Oram

Treasurer: Katherine Batts

Proposed by: Michael Oram
Seconded by: Angela Oram

(Michael Oram is standing for re-election. Katherine Batts has served as co-opted co-treasurer for the past year. Officers elected serve a two year term.)

Election of committee - Item 8

Three committee places available

Michael Ball:

Proposed by: Nicholas Adams
Seconded by: Kevin Murphy

Boris Mavra:

Proposed by: Kevin Murphy
Seconded by: Jane Murphy

Lance Oram:

Proposed by: Michael Oram
Seconded by: Angela Oram

Edward Spelling:

Proposed by: Nicholas Adams
Seconded by: Michael Oram

(Michael Ball, Boris Mavra, Lance Oram and Edward Spelling are standing for re-election. Committee members elected serve a two year term.)

MOTIONS – Item 9

Motion 1. Revision of CS&PF rules :

19th February 2014 -
Proposed revision of the CS&PF Rules
for presentation at the 2014 AGM -----

Proposed by Michael Oram (Chairman)

Seconded by Angela Oram

Added or change wording – xxxxxxxxx

Delete wording – xxxxxx

1. [NAME](#)
2. [OBJECTIVES](#)
3. [MEMBERSHIP](#)
4. [SUBSCRIPTION](#)
5. [FINANCIAL YEAR](#)
6. [INTERPRETATION OF RULES](#)
7. [MANAGEMENT](#)
8. [DUTIES AND POWER OF THE COMMITTEE](#)
9. [DUTIES OF THE HON. TREASURER](#)
10. [SWIMMING RULES & FEES -- ADMIN & CS&PF SWIM FEES](#)
11. [RULES FOR CHANNEL RELAY TEAM](#)
12. [ADDITIONAL RULES](#)

1. NAME

The FEDERATION shall be known as the CHANNEL SWIMMING & PILOTING FEDERATION (CS&PF).

Words imputing the singular only shall include the plural and vice versa.
Words imputing the masculine gender shall include the feminine gender.
Words imputing persons shall include organisations.

2. OBJECTIVES

(a) To promote the sport of long distance open water swimming world-wide and assist organisations and swimmers to attempt such swims in all ways possible.

(b) To promote, assist, observe and authenticate swimmers and sports persons in their attempts to cross the "English Channel/ La Manche" by swimming and "any other means" of crossings such as rowing, canoeing, sailing et cetera.

(c) To assist, with advice and information, the organisation of attempts to cross "by any means" acceptable to the relevant authorities the "English Channel/La Manche".

(d) To assist in setting up and/or observing and authenticating such swims and "crossings by other means" as indicated in b and c above and provide arbitration facilities to adjudicate, if asked, in the event of any dispute between any clients, bodies and members.

(e) To form a register of recognised pilots and assist with the professional requirements, advice, information and guidelines to enable them to operate on a professional basis. To act as a contact between the pilots, the government departments and any sports persons requiring such services. To promote a standard that makes the Federation a leading authority, in co-operation with the government bodies, on organisation and safety requirements of such crossings.

(f) To formulate a set of rules and guidelines under which such attempts can take place and become a governing body for such attempts. To subscribe to or become a member of any association, club or governing body as deemed necessary to forward the aims of the Federation. To allow other associations, charities, clubs, institutions and public bodies to become affiliated, subject to acceptance, to the Federation if they can benefit from or assist the Federation. To produce application forms, contracts, guidelines and any other information that is required to assist the Federation and its members.

(g) To apply for any permissions and governmental requirements as are, or shall be required to allow such events to continue. To modify or adjust any of the powers of the Federation to allow its best operation.

(h) The Channel Swimming and Piloting Federation is a non profit making organisation. Any funds remaining after expenses, services, rent and running costs etc. have been paid and accounted for will be paid into the Federation accounts and used solely to peruse the objectives of the Federation. Should the CS&PF be wound up for any reason any funds remaining after debts and expenses have been cleared will be transferred to be used for other approved sporting or charitable purposes only Federation information will be posted on the Federation Web sites.

3. MEMBERSHIP

Membership is open to all persons, associations, clubs and other bodies who have an interest in long distance swimming world-wide, and attempts to cross the English Channel/ La Manche by swimming or "any other means" of crossing requiring an escort/pilot. A candidate for membership must complete the Federation's enrolment form and be proposed and seconded by full members of the Federation. They may then be elected by the Committee. The Committee can propose and second applicants for membership.

All Federation pilots must have CS&PF pilot membership and be qualified as required by the Authorities and the Federation. Proof of current qualifications must be deposited with the Federation each year before the season starts and any changes and updates advised.

Pilot recognition will be revised by the committee annually. All recognised pilots are to agree to follow the guidelines laid down by the committee as part of their recognition.

Pilots will be made Hon. Members (with power to vote) for the years in which they are recognised, registered and escorting crossings.

Observers will be made Hon. Members (with power to vote) for the years in which they act as Observers.

Honorary life members can be nominated by the Committee or a CS&PF member and a vote taken at the Annual General Meeting. If accepted they will have full voting powers.

Full biennial **& 10 year** membership is available for each group.

Each FULL member shall have one vote.

All membership will run from 1st January to the 31st December for a 2 year period. New membership will run from the acceptance date of membership to 31st December of the second year.

Full biennial membership from the year 2013 = £20.00

10 year membership is 4.5 x annual membership fee, from the year 2013 = £90

Joint biennial **& 10 year** membership is available to couples.

Only one vote per joint membership will be allowed.

Joint biennial membership, from the year 2013 = £30.00

10 year membership is 4.5 x annual fee, from the year 2013 = £135

Family biennial **& 10 year** membership is available to family groups (children up to 16 years). Only one vote per family membership will be allowed.

Family biennial membership from the year 2013 = £30.00

10 year membership is 4.5 x annual fee, from the year 2013 = £135

Associate membership is available to clubs & individual members of relay teams.

One vote per associate group of members will be allowed.

At least one member of a club or a relay team must become a full member of the Federation.

Associate membership fee from the year 2013 = £15

4. SUBSCRIPTION

Future subscription fees shall be proposed by the Committee and set at the Annual General Meeting.

5. FINANCIAL YEAR

The financial year of the Federation shall start on the 1st January end on the 31st December up to which date all accounts and reports shall be made.

6. INTERPRETATION OF RULES

The Federation's decision on the interpretation of these Rules and any other question is final and binding.

7. MANAGEMENT

(a) The general management, conduct and direction of the Federation shall be vested in the general committee which shall consist of a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer, and seven (7) elected full members. The committee will have the power to co-opt up to three (3) additional members with voting rights for specific duties.

(b) The positions of President and Vice President shall be proposed and seconded by the CS&PF officers and committee members, the nominations will then be put to the AGM for a vote and their selection confirmed at an AGM. Positions can remain vacant.

The President elect can choose to attend and vote at committee meetings.

The President elect should hold the position for no more than 2 consecutive 3 year terms then stand down for at least 1 term of office.

(c) The decision of the Federation in all disputes, questions referred to them, or matters over which they have control, shall be final and binding upon the members. Members shall have the right to appeal, in person if desired, at the next full Committee or General Meeting. The Committee shall have the power to make, amend or suspend by-laws from time to time for the proper management and good order of the Federation.

d) The CS&PF officers and committee members, (excluding President and Vice President) are to be elected by rotation with half (1/2) being elected every year over a two year period.

The CS&PF officer positions are to be elected from CS&PF members who are serving or have served on the CS&PF committee. If there are no nominations for officer positions from among CS&PF members who are serving or have served on the CS&PF committee, the secretary will notify the membership accordingly and the election of other full members of the CS&PF to officer positions will be permitted.

Nominations for the appointment of the Officers and to fill the Committee positions, each proposed and seconded by full members, shall be given in writing to the Secretary at least twenty-one days (21 days) before the date of the Annual General Meeting and made available to full members.

If the number of nominations exceeds the number of vacancies, then a paper ballot shall be taken, each full members present at the meeting having one vote in respect of each vacancy. Elected members shall take office at once. Full members shall sign in at the beginning of the meeting, giving their CS&PF number and collect a voting card.

(e) The Agenda of the business to be transacted at all General Meetings shall be sent and posted on the CS&PF web site at least 14 days before such meetings. No resolution, except such as relates to the adoption of the Reports at the Annual General Meeting, shall be moved at any General Meeting unless notice thereof, duly signed by a proposer and seconder, stating its terms, has been delivered to the Secretary at least 21 days before the meeting, for inclusion in the Agenda.

The Chairman may at his discretion, however, accept amendments arising out of discussion of items of the Agenda, and he may also allow non-controversial matters which he may consider reasonable, to be raised and discussed.

(f) 75% of the administration fee for each swim registered in the current year shall be made available to allow for administration and the operation of the CS&PF office. (to go to the Secretariat as an Honorarium.

(g) The Observer Liaison officer shall receive up to an Honorarium of 5% of the swim fees for the management, expenses, appointment, allocation and co-ordination of the CS&PF observers.

(h) The Honorary Treasurer shall receive up to 5% of the administration fees for the management, expenses, and work carried out reference the CS&PF accounts.

(i) The committee shall have the power to appoint an Observer Liaison Officer, Pilot Liaison Officer and Coastguard/negotiation officer from within the committee membership. The committee can form sub committees for specific purposes to be chaired by a committee officer member.

A quorum of at least five committee members including at least two officers shall transact the business of the Federation.

8. DUTIES AND POWER OF THE COMMITTEE

(a) To carry out the rules and transact the business of the Federation.

(b) To meet at least two times a year.

(c) To appoint members to fill any vacancy that may occur among the officers and committee until the next AGM or General meeting.

(d) To appoint sub-committees that which will report to the committee.

(e) To exercise financial control over the funds of the Federation and to present annual Accounts and Balance Sheet at the Annual General Meeting.

(f) To uphold and promote the objectives of the Federation.

(g) To assist swimmers and sports persons in their enquiries and attempts at crossing the English Channel/La Manche and authenticate claims of swimmers that to have swum the Channel within the rules.

(h) To recognise CS&PF pilots and pilot boats for escort duties and to register the pilots and pilot vessels with the British and French authorities annually.

(i) To record details of all swims, and retain documents used in connection therewith. For a swim to be officially recognised at least two members of the committee must read, check and ratify the observer's report that has been submitted along with any other paperwork requested

and considered relevant.

(j) To take any other action to further the interests of the Federation.

9. DUTIES OF THE HON. TREASURER

The Hon. Treasurer shall oversee all the Federation accounts and the banking of all monies received and deposited on behalf of the Federation and delegate the responsibilities so involved. All Federation cheques shall be signed by any of the appointed signatories who shall be the Hon. Treasurer, the Hon. Secretary, the Chairman and one other officer **in accordance with the bank mandate.**

10. SWIMMING RULES & FEES -- ADMIN & CS&PF SWIM FEES

(a) Federation Fees:

Channel aspirants shall pay registration fees as fixed by the Committee annually and set at the Annual General Meeting. The fees are to cover the expenses of the Federation.

ADMINISTRATION FEE. (Payable with all swim applications)

Code A ----- This is a Non-returnable fee and it includes one swim certificate for successful crossings

ADMIN FEE for: Solo swim ---- £130.00

ADMIN FEE for: Relay swim -- £160.00

IF SUBMITTED AFTER 30 April 2013:

ADMIN FEE for: Solo swim ---- £160.00

ADMIN FEE for: Relay swim -- £200.00

(PLUS THE REQUIRED SWIM FEE AS BELOW)

For SOLO SWIMS

Code B ----- 1-way attempt £120.00

Code C ----- 2-way attempt £240.00

Code D ----- 3-way attempt £300.00

For RELAY SWIMS

Code E ----- 1-way attempt £120.00

Code F ----- 2-way attempt £240.00

Code G ----- 3-way attempt £300.00

An administration fee of £20 will be charged for each additional or alternative team member registered after April 30.

Swims/ crossings greater than 3-way, or for other swim courses not by the "direct route" are to be determined by the General Committee on their merits and the duties of the observer.

Fees for extraordinary swims not covered above to be by negotiation **and agreement of the committee.**

Any swim fees not used in the current year must be reclaimed by the 31st of December in that year. Any fees not reclaimed will be added to the Federation funds.

Each successful swimmer will receive one certificate (included in the administration fee) after the ratification of a successful swim report. Extra certificates may be ordered from the Secretary after ratification of a successful swim at the fees set for the year plus postage.

The swim will not be officially observed unless the appropriate Federation fees have been paid and the medical form and application form have been completed in full **and deposited with the CS&PF office** to the satisfaction of the Federation **and prior to the swim as dictated within the rules.**

(a) CS&PF medical and application forms will be sent out to all confirmed applicants as of the 1st January in the year of the swim. To receive these forms the office must have written confirmation from **both** the pilot and swimmer / team leader that the pilot swim booking formalities have been completed.

1. If you cannot complete any of the required stages within the time frame YOU MUST **CONTACT INFORM THE CS&PF OFFICE** to ask if a time concession can be allowed. No late application will be accepted unless the office agrees to new time constraints.

2. Your CS&PF application form and medical forms must be submitted to the **CS&PF office** before 30th April.

3. Your application must be completed and finalised by the 31st of May.

4. **The CS&PF needs to be able to required to be registered all completed swim applications for the season** with the British and French authorities by the first week of June, or as requested by the authorities.

5. The office must be informed and agree to any changes to applications after they are submitted. All applications and paperwork **submissions** must include swimmer/ team name, pilot and proposed swim date.

(b) Swims will be categorised as Standard, Special or Assisted according to the method and/or aids used.

STANDARD SWIM SUIT CLARIFICATION

No swimmer in a standard attempt to swim the Channel shall be permitted to use or wear any device or swimsuit that may aid his/her speed, buoyancy, heat retention or endurance (such as wetsuit, webbed gloves, paddles, fins, etc). The swimmer is permitted to grease the body before a swim, use goggles and one hat. Nose clips and earplugs are permitted. Any kind of tape on the body is not permitted unless approved by the **committee in advance and clarified** by the observer.

The swimmer may wear only one swimsuit in one or two pieces which shall not extend past the shoulder or below the knee. All swimsuits shall be made from textile materials. Caps may not be made from neoprene or any other material which offers similar heat retention properties (as determined by the CS&PF Committee). Silicone or latex hats are permitted.

The observer will have to **confirm approve** that the swimwear rules have been observed. The swimmer must be sure that their costume and cap are of an approved type before the swim starts as the swim will not be recognised if they are later found not to conform. If you have any doubt, please seek advice and/or approval from the CS&PF Committee prior to the swim giving sufficient notice for any research or investigations to be completed.

During a swim no physical contact with the swimmer shall be made by any person other than to pass food and drink or secure such items as light sticks for safety reasons.

The use of MP3 players and other electrical audio / **communication** devices shall not be allowed by the swimmer while swimming during any English Channel swim attempt **unless for safety reasons**.

SPECIAL SWIM

This is a relay category swim only and listed under Rule 11 "Relay swims"

ASSISTED SWIM

An assisted category swim will be to the same rules as a standard swim except for the allowance, by prior arrangement with the Federation, of the minimum additional aids or contact as is deemed necessary for the safety of the swim on medical or other agreed grounds. An assisted category swim will only be accepted after prior agreement with the Federation **committee**.

(c) For a swim to be officially recognised, the swimmer must enter into the sea from the shore of departure, swim across the English Channel (i) to finish on dry land, or (ii) to touch steep cliffs of the opposite coast with no sea-water beyond. Swimmers may finish in harbour water provided they land as in (i).

(d) For a multiple crossing to be officially recognised, the swimmer must, as soon as they make contact with the ground, land as directly as possible in accordance with rule 10(c). They must then return immediately to the water, where they may stand or sit for up to 10 minutes. During this time they must not be touched by any person, but may be handed food, grease, medicines or swimming apparel to be administered by them. They must then, in agreement with the Observer, make the most direct and reasonable way to water deep enough in which to swim, and commence swimming. In all the above conditions, the Observer's

ruling will be recorded and final, subject to official ratification by the Committee.

The time spent before the return swim starts shall be added to the time of the subsequent crossing.

(e) Every application for recognition of a swim must be accompanied by the Pilot's chart positions and by the Observer's Report, recording incidents, time, tides, method of feeding, etc. The Committee may call for additional evidence if they require it.

(f) The appointed Observer shall be in sole charge of the timing of the swim, and shall be responsible for observing compliance with the rules, subject to ratification by the Committee.

(g) The timing of a swim shall start from the moment the swimmer enters the water until they he completes the swim as laid down in Rule 10(c).

(h) On their arrival in the Dover area the swimmer must advise the Secretary and the Pilot of their place of residence. All documentation must be completed by the time limits laid down in the CS&PF information and any changes in dates or arrangements for Pilots etc must be reported as soon as possible but before the swim starts. The Pilots are required to give the Secretary and the Observer Liaison Officer a full 24 hours notice of the possible departure of the pilot boat. Failure to give such notice could mean that an Official Observer may not be able to be appointed and the swim will not be able to proceed.

(i) The Federation shall not observe solo attempts to swim the Channel by persons under 16 years of age. Swimmers shall be over 16 years at least 3 days before the swim starts, and for registration purposes, at the beginning of the swim period they are booked to swim in. The Committee shall be empowered to examine and to refuse to accept if thought necessary, the applications of persons to attempt to swim the Channel especially when they are over 55 years of age.

(j) Swimmers must be aged 12 years for at least 3 days before they can swim in a standard relay team, subject to correct registration and to their medicals being accepted. See relay rules 11.

(k) All aspirants must satisfy the Federation of their competence to make a realistic effort to undertake a successful attempt to swim the Channel. (See "additional rules" qualifying swim requirements on last page.)

All swimmers taking part in a solo swim must supply in writing proof/ratification of a 6 hour swim in water 61°F / 16°C or less or proof of completion in a recognised event for a period considered by the CS&PF committee to be an acceptable alternative within the previous 30 months.

All swimmers taking part in a relay team swim must supply proof/ ratification of a 2 hour swim in water 61°F/16°C or less or proof in writing of completion in a recognised event for a period considered by the CS&PF to be an acceptable alternative within the previous 18 months.

(l) The use of drugs by participants in Channel Swimming, other than for therapeutic reasons in accordance with medical advice, is regarded with complete disapproval and is considered

contrary to the spirit of the sport. Any swimmer unable to participate without the administration of banned drugs must submit their application to the Federation committee with ample time for its consideration. The Federation reserve the right to make random drug tests on Channel aspirants. The Observer may require a sample of any medication given.

(m) Only Federation registered pilots who are members of the CS&PF and hold the required qualifications will be recognised to pilot CS&PF crossings. Only Federation registered pilot boats with the required certification in force will be allowed to escort CS&PF registered crossings.

Pilot and pilot vessel documentation and certification are to be produced within 7 days if requested by the CS&PF office.

Pilot recognition will be reviewed on an annual basis. Pilot and pilot vessel details will be registered with the British & French authorities on an annual basis by the Federation office. It is the responsibility of the pilot/owner of the pilot boat to inform the Federation of any changes in circumstances which will invalidate the required qualifications and certifications.

(n) In no circumstances shall more than one swimmer at a time be allowed to make their attempt from the same pilot boat.

(o) Only one dinghy or inflatable at a time shall be permitted to operate with a pilot boat.

(p) During solo swims a swimmer may be accompanied in the water by 1 person only & not accompanied at all until after the first 3 hours. This accompaniment will be for a maximum of 1 hour & cannot be repeated until at least 2 hours have elapsed after the cessation of the accompaniment.

The second swimmer may swim alongside, but not in front, of the solo aspirant & must not impede the solo swimmer.

For health & safety reasons the pilot must agree to any request for a support swimmer before they enter the water to accompany the swimmer.

The pilot may, at his or her discretion, request that a second swimmer join the solo aspirant outside of these times for a short period on the grounds of safety. (i.e. if a swimmer suffers severe cramps). Similarly the pilot may ask for accompaniment at the very end of a solo swim if the conditions dictate. This is to be allowed even if the request is within 2 hours of a previous accompaniment.

No support swimming is to be allowed on a relay swim.

11. RULES FOR CHANNEL RELAY TEAMS

Relay team leaders are responsible for sorting out the team's paperwork and confirming in writing each individual team members 2 hour ratified swims. Team name and team leader MUST be clearly stated on ALL correspondence. Where possible all paperwork must be presented in its entirety come via the team leader.

Relay swims will be divided into the same categories as solo swims - Standard, Special,

Assisted. Any alteration from a standard crossing must be agreed by the federation committee before the start of the swim.

STANDARD RELAY SWIMS

SWIM SUIT CLARIFICATION

No swimmer in a standard attempt to swim the Channel shall be permitted to use or wear any device or swimsuit that may aid his/her speed, buoyancy, heat retention or endurance (such as wetsuit, webbed gloves, paddles, fins, etc). The swimmer is permitted to grease the body before a swim, use goggles and one hat. Nose clips and earplugs are also permitted. Any kind of tape on the body is not permitted unless approved by the observer.

The swimmer may wear only one swimsuit in one or two pieces which shall not extend past the shoulder or below the knee. All swimsuits shall be made from textile materials. Caps may not be made from neoprene or any other material which offers similar heat retention properties (as determined by the CS&PF Committee). Silicone or latex hats are permitted.

The official observer will have to confirm approve that the swimwear rules have been observed. The swimmer must be sure that their costume and cap are of an approved type before the swim starts as the swim will not be recognised if they are later found not to conform. If you have any doubt, please seek advice and/or approval from the CS&PF Committee prior to the swim giving sufficient notice for any research or investigations to be completed.

STANDARD RELAY TEAM

(a) "Each standard team shall consist of 6 swimmers each swimming for 1 hour. The names of the 6 persons shall be given to the official observer before the actual commencement of the swim. Thereafter there shall be NO changes in order or substitutions whatsoever.

Swimmers in relay teams shall be over 12 years old 3 days before the relay swim starts, and for registration purposes, the beginning of the swim period their team is booked to swim in. They shall be under 16 years of age for at least 24 hours after the swim finishes for it to be classified as a Junior Relay team swim.

Junior swimmers (over 12 & under 16 years of age) will only be allowed to swim in standard 6 person relay team swims.

All swimmers taking part in a relay team swim must supply written proof/ratification of a 2 hour swim in water 61°F/16°C or less or proof of completion in a recognised event for a period considered by the CS&PF to be an acceptable alternative within the previous 18 months.

In no circumstances shall more than 1 team be allowed to make their attempt escorted by the same pilot boat.

(b) Each swimmer shall swim for one hour each time he/she enters the water.

(c) The change-over/takeover from one swimmer to the next in a relay should take place

every 60 minutes with the new swimmer entering the water on a signal given by the observer. During the take-over the new swimmer must enter the water from behind & swim past the preceding swimmer. The previous swimmer must then exit the water as quickly as possible. The change-over should take no more than 5 minutes.

(d) Team members shall rotate in the same order throughout the swim. Pace-making or the use of a support swimmer is NOT allowed.

(e) The pilot may ask for the accompaniment of a safety swimmer at the very end of a relay swim if the conditions dictate.

(f) An Official Observer of the Federation must be present on any Relay Team swim for it to be recognised.

SPECIAL CATEGORY RELAY SWIMS

A Special category relay will be run under the same rules as a standard relay except for the allowance of the number of persons in the team. Teams can be 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 - 7 or 8 people. Teams of 2 or 3 persons will be allowed the option of choosing between 1 or 2 hour swim periods for the duration of the relay swim each member. The option must be declared before the start of the crossing and maintained through out the crossing.

ASSISTED CATEGORY RELAY SWIMS

An Assisted category relay will be to the same rules as a standard relay except for the allowance, by prior arrangement with the Federation, of the minimum additional aids or contact as is deemed necessary for the safety of the swim on medical or other agreed grounds.

An assisted category relay will only be accepted after prior agreement with the Federation committee.

ADDITIONAL RULES

The General Rules of the Channel Swimming & Piloting Federation shall apply at all times.

All swimmers must be fully paid up members of the Federation before they can swim.

All relay team members must be either full or associate members of the Federation. All At least one team member's of a each relay team must be a full member of the Federation.

All swimmers taking part in a solo swim must supply written proof/ratification of a 6 hour swim in water 61°F / 16°C or less or proof of completion in a recognised event for a period considered by the CS&PF to be an acceptable alternative within the previous 30 months.

All swimmers taking part in a relay team swim must supply written proof/ ratification of a 2 hour swim in water 61°F/16°C or less or proof of completion in a recognised event for a period considered by the CS&PF to be an acceptable alternative within the previous 18 months.

Crossings by "any other means" must be approved of and allowed by the authorities and the

terms of the attempt are to be **agreed approved** by the Federation before they are accepted. The authorities will be advised of all such applications.

Ratification forms for 6 hour solo assessment swims & 2 hour relay assessment swims are available on the CS&PF web site www.cspf.co.uk or from the CS&PF office.

CS&PF Trophies and Awards

The Eurotunnel Trophy

For the fastest CS&PF swim of the year

The Gertrude Ederle Award

For the most meritorious CS&PF swim of the year by a woman

The Des Renford Award

For the most meritorious CS&PF swim of the year by a man

The Peter Adams Award

For the CS&PF successful endurance swim of the year

The Frank Richards Endurance Award

For the CS&PF endurance swim of the year

The Audrey Scott Award

For the youngest successful CS&PF swimmer of the year

The Ray Scott Award

For the oldest successful CS&PF swimmer of the year

The Alison Streeter MBE award

For the fastest CS&PF 2-way swim of the year

The Barrie Darling award

For the CS&PF pilot/crew member of the year

The Dover Straits award

For the fastest CS&PF relay crossing of the year

The Longest Standard Relay Crossing award

For the longest CS&PF standard relay swim of the year

The Observers award

For the CS&PF observer of the year

The Most Meritorious Special Category Relay

For the most meritorious CS&PF special category swim of the year

The CS&PF "Special Thanks" award

For the supporters/volunteers contribution to the Federation

The "Seafarers" award

For the fastest British swimmer of the year

The JLDSC "For Special Recognition" award and cup

For the most successful CS&PF swim completed under exceptional circumstances

CS&PF Officers 1999 to 2014

<u>Year</u>	<u>President</u>	<u>Chairman</u>	<u>Secretary</u>	<u>Treasurer</u>
1999		Alison Streeter MBE	Michael Oram	Alan Rushton
2000		Alison Streeter MBE	Michael Oram	Michael & Angela Oram
2001		Alison Streeter MBE	Michael Oram	Michael & Angela Oram
2002		Alison Streeter MBE	Michael Oram	Derek Carter
2003	Frank Richards	Alison Streeter MBE	Michael Oram	Derek Carter
2004	Frank Richards	Alison Streeter MBE	Michael Oram	Derek Carter
2005	Frank Richards	Alison Streeter MBE	Michael Oram	Derek Carter
2006	Kevin Murphy	Alison Streeter MBE	Michael Oram	Derek Carter
2007	Kevin Murphy	Alison Streeter MBE	Michael Oram	Derek Carter
2008	Kevin Murphy	Alison Streeter MBE	Michael Oram	Derek Carter
2009	Nick Adams	Charlie Gravett	Michael Oram	Tanya Harding
2010	Nick Adams	Charlie Gravett	Michael Oram	Tanya Harding
2011	Nick Adams	Michael Oram	Kevin Murphy	Cathy Slevin
2012	Nick Adams	Michael Oram	Kevin Murphy	Cathie Slevin
2013	Nick Adams	Michael Oram	Kevin Murphy	Cathie Slevin / Kathy Batts / Jim Boucher
2014	Nick Adams	Michael Oram	Kevin Murphy	Kathy Batts