



Annual Report for the Year 2014

'Nothing great is easy' Capt Matthew Webb



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13 February 2015

Annual General Meeting

Saturday 7th of March 2015 at 1400 hours (2pm)
Dover Town Hall
High Street / Biggin Street, Dover, Kent

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the 2014 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. Regalia Report
9. Dinner Report
10. Election of Officers
11. Election of Committee
12. Motions
13. 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 1418 on Saturday 15th March 2014 at Dover Town Hall

PRESENT

Nick Adams (President), Michael Oram (Chairman), Julian Critchlow (Vice-Chairman), Kevin Murphy (Hon. Secretary), Katherine Batts (Treasurer Co-Opted).

Committee: Lance Oram, Eddie Spelling, Michelle Toptalo, Ian Down, Sakura Adams, Mike Ball, Boris Mavra

Members: Angela Oram, Jim Boucher, Charlie Gravett, Tanya Harding, Ned Denison, Paul Foreman, P James, Emma France, Chris Osmond, Judy Hargreaves, John Thorpe, Denise Richards, Wendy Trehiou, Rachel Langton, Clair Harris, Victoria Moore, Sam Jones, Cliff Golding, Marcus Wadsworth, Neil Streeter, Jane Murphy, Keith Garbutt.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Sally Minty-Gravett, Freda Streeter, Frank Richards, Richard Chatterjee, Ellery McGowan

2. MINUTES OF LAST AGM

The minutes were unanimously approved and signed.

3. MATTERS ARISING

None

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Circulated with Agenda and read out in full.

Emma France asked what HMRC stood for and was advised it was HM Revenue and Customs.

Mike Oram explained the predicament of the CS&PF and that in the first few years we were a small operation but now had grown phenomenally in size and as an organization were looking to go down the CASC route (Community Amateur Sports Club) . This was an ongoing project that the committee was currently working on.

5. HON SECRETARY'S REPORT

Circulated with Agenda and a Précis given to members.

6. HON TREASURER'S REPORT

It was placed on record the appreciation to Jim Boucher who had worked jointly with Kathy throughout the year and produced the Balance sheets placed in front of the AGM today.

The Treasurer apologised to members present as the 'Notes' page had been omitted from the final report

Cliff Golding raised a question re Office expenses and what these were exactly for. Mike Oram clarified the situation.

Emma France thanked Jim Boucher and Mike Oram for having the accounts available in full at the AGM which is something she had asked for at the previous AGM.

The accounts were accepted unanimously by members present.

7. OBSERVER LIAISON REPORT

Circulated with the agenda.

Tanya Harding raised the question as to why it appeared that some Observers were doing back to back swims whilst others were not asked to observe, those who had not been asked found this to be offensive.

Mike Ball explained that he kept a log of all phone calls / text messages on the designated CS&PF Observer phone and could show that many people did not respond to calls or messages, he added that Tanya as the previous Observer Liaison would know exactly how hard it was to put '*Bums on Seats*'.

Sam Jones raised a question in respect of one Observer who slept whilst on a swim and it was she who had written the report but had not got paid for doing so and infact the swim was abandoned. Mike Oram assured members present that neither he nor the Committee was aware of such a situation.

Mike Oram requested Sam Jones to write a report on the situation and that it would be raised, investigated and discussed at Committee level and a solution sought and reported back..

Emma France asked what happens if an Observer falls asleep, does the Pilot take on that roll or abort the swim?

Mike Oram said it was the Pilot's responsibility to ensure the Observer does not sleep,

- Observer must be kept awake
- Will not be used again and not paid
- Stressed that illness was a different matter and this must be recorded.

John Thorpe felt that it was acceptable for an Observer to sleep for an hour on a long swim but requested that procedures were put in place.

Mike Oram stressed we need more Observers, Ian Down commented that the swimmer has a contract with the Pilot but we the CS&PF have an obligation to provide Observers on swims, a technicality could be no Observer therefore no swim.

Cliff Golding proposed a vote of thanks to Mike Ball for doing this unenviable task in his first year.

Mike Ball recorded his thanks to all the Pilots for their help and Paul Forman stated we have had 2 deaths in 2 years so we therefore need good Observers.

7a PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Circulated with Agenda

Ned Denison said he appreciated the letter he had received from our President.

Nicholas Adams took the Chair to conduct the election of Officers and Committee.

8. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Chairman - Michael Oram (proposed by Nicholas Adams & seconded by Lance Oram)

There being no further nomination Nicholas Adams was unanimously elected.

Treasurer- Katherine Batts (proposed by Michael Oram & seconded by Angela Oram)

There being no further nomination Katherine Batts was unanimously elected.

8. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE

Four committee places available

Nominations: (all standing for re-election)

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) .

There being no further nominations all were unanimously elected.

Michael Oram took the Chair again.

9. MOTIONS-One item CS& PF rules Update

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

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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.

Following a brief discussion a vote was taken which was unanimous to adopt this rule change.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The meeting wished to send their best wishes to Freda Streeter who was recovering from an operation and Frank Richards who was unwell.

The Chairman asked Sam Jones and Neil Streeter to come forward to receive the Barrie Darling award for the CS&PF pilot / crew of the year as Neil could not attend this evenings dinner.

Meeting closed at 1541



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CS&PF AGM 7th March 2015

President's Report

I am rather pleased that I have been asked to write a second President's Report, having opened up my heart and thoughts for all to read last year.

My sections on 'Ego Swimmers' and 'English Channel Rules' opened up lively debate, which is a healthy thing. As a lifelong dyslexic, I sometimes struggle to express my thoughts on paper accurately, but I still stand by the underlying messages from last year.

Isn't once enough?

I have often been asked, "Why would you want to swim it again?" A really good question.

For some it's about clocking up numbers, others about trying to beat their previous time, others to show they can still do it, others to break a record, others because they don't want to leave the sport and this keeps them involved, and some simply because they were drunk in a pub when the decision to swim again was made!

For me the pleasure is not entirely in the success, but in the actual act of swimming the Channel. I usually enjoy all of a swim, rather than the usual reply Channel swimmers give: "It was bloody horrible, apart from the end bit". I enjoy being in the Channel; feeling/seeing/hearing/tasting it; there's nothing quite like it. I love getting close to France and taking in all the information one can see, and working out exactly where I am, and extrapolating from there.

Whatever the reason, we are getting more 'repeat offenders'; 105 have done two crossings, 34 have done three, and 37 swimmers have more than three Channel Swims under their Speedos. I think this is a good thing. It increases the availability of expertise to those starting out in the sport, and it demonstrates that it can't be that miserable if people do it more than once.

I wish I'd failed!

Not something you'd expect to hear me say, but on occasion I do actually wish I hadn't made it to France.

Speaking with 'serial offenders' is often a cathartic opportunity to be brutally honest with each other and ourselves. When someone like Marcy (my hero) sets off, everyone *expects* her to make it to France without any problems. People sometimes find it hard to believe that 'serial offenders' can struggle physically or mentally, but they do, and they usually keep those

feelings internal for fear of negatively impacting on the confidence levels of those that look up to them.

As one clocks up more swims, it does become slightly easier physically, but mentally the burden of expectation can weigh heavily on ones mind and make it tougher. Hence, this feeling that I am not alone in having, that once I can get a failure under my Speedos, the built up pressure of expectation will disappear.

So what's the message here then? Swimming it for the 2nd/3rd/4th/... time isn't always easier.

Isn't swimming the Channel 1-way enough?

Another trend that we are experiencing is the number of swimmers attempting 2-ways and 3-ways, and the success rate for these swims has been coming down accordingly.

Often swimmers can be heard to say this when they're going for the 2-way: "I felt fine at the end of my 1-way Channel swim, and felt I could have swum back". As someone that has done both successful and unsuccessful 2-way swims, I can assure you it's FAR FAR FAR harder than two 1-ways. More often than not a 1-way swim is done in daylight, with perhaps a little bit of darkness at the start when you're fresh, or a night-time finish in the balmy French inshore waters. Swimming back to England overnight when all the other swimmers are heading back to home sipping champagne is a lonely place; this is where the challenge tests even the strongest of swimmers. You need the weather to be kind to you for a far longer window, and that's hard to predict.

I feel the challenge of a 2-way swim is on occasion underestimated, and given we are seeing the success rate decrease, I feel obliged to give the 'warning on the packaging' that some swimmers don't always read.

How good does one need to be to contemplate attempting a 2-way Channel Swim? Some basic statistics: The average first leg of all successful 2-way Channel Swims is 11 hours 5 minutes. The average second leg is 13 hours 29 minutes. The average age of 2-way successful Channel Swimmers is 31 years and 9 months old.

This doesn't mean that you have no chance of success if you are way outside of these numbers, but it does mean your chances of success are reduced.

The 'Special K Club'

This is a dirty little confession, and one I am not terribly proud of!

Many years ago at a very well known open water swimming club in the middle of London, a drunk autumnal night out ended up in the creation of a 'Special K Club'. To be a member one had to participate in the challenge of swimming a kilometre in the open water venue at least once a week. This became progressively more challenging as we entered winter, and the temperature dropped. One by one swimmers decided they'd had enough and quit the 'Special K Club', but the most determined and competitive members still churned out the kilometre swims at least once a week. The 'victor' was the only one to complete the kilometre when the conditions got rather nippy, with the water at 35°F, and the others still in at that point couldn't

make the distance. This was all done with zero safety/medical cover, and with huge amounts of peer pressure dished out to complete the swims!!!

I am not proud to admit that I was a member of that club.

Having 'got this out of our system', most of us now happily swim far shorter distances when the temperature is below 5°C, and drink copious amounts of tea.

I have great respect for those that want to push their limits, as it is a great way to learn about yourself and your own limits. Over the past few years we have seen massive growth in 'ice swimming', and the formalisation of what swimmers have been doing for centuries around the world. I do slightly object to being told I am not a 'proper ice miler' as what I did in the past wasn't under a specific banner, but hey ho, that's my problem.

I celebrate, and applaud, the creation of a governing body for overseeing Ice Swimming, as they have provided a recipe for swimmers to adhere to, so that the risks of swimming in very cold water are reduced. This will certainly make what swimmers have always done informally, safer.

However, there will always be life-threatening risks associated with swimming in very cold water, and the problems these risks result in can manifest themselves, and become extremely serious, in a matter of minutes rather than hours. I accept the probability of something tragic happening has been reduced, but it has not been eliminated. With a large increase in participants, the sport now has a greater chance of a tragedy each year. This worries and frightens me.

WHEN something goes seriously wrong, it will be terribly sad for all involved, but it will also jeopardise the rest of open water swimming, with more scrutiny being cast over all that we do, including Channel Swimming. Looking back at our 'Special K Club' activities, what I am most ashamed of is the fact we were pushing ourselves for our own satisfaction and gratification without much concern that any accident would jeopardise a club that had been around for 140 years.

Swimmers should assess the risks of what they do themselves, and then decide if it's for them. They should train thoroughly, and build up to big challenges. They should consider what impact things going wrong will have on those around them. They should 'swim their own swim' and not allow peer pressure to push them further than they're capable of; 'last man standing' swims in icy water are a recipe for disaster in my eyes, and we have seen this recently.

Similar to very cold water swimming, the time one is at greatest risk is during training, and rarely on the big day. On the big day everyone is there to look after you, and all safety measures are in place. Training is when you're pushing your boundaries, and rarely does the safety of the training replicate the safety provision of the big day.

Please please be careful during training, and look after each other.

Swimming the Channel isn't for everyone

Most people, if they put their minds to it, can get their hands on a pair of running trainers, open their front door, and start running. Few people can easily find the money required to

swim the Channel, and even fewer are in a position where they can make the required sacrifices that the training demands. However one looks at it, Channel Swimming has 'high-barriers to entry'.

I started out in the sport of Channel Swimming as a fifteen-year-old beanpole with very little talent, and even less knowledge about the sport. I consider myself very lucky to have had parents that supported me to the hilt, and the money side of things wasn't something I had to worry about myself. This is not the norm.

I have been very fortunate in life, and believe in social responsibility, and that I have a 'debt' to society and the sport that needs repaying. There are those that come to swim the Channel, make it to France, and then are never seen again. We cannot demand that people 'give back', nor should we, as charity should be driven by your own desire to help others, rather than an obligation or incentive to do so.

I believe we should be trying to make the sport of Channel Swimming more accessible, so that it's not simply those that can afford it that get to swim, and to experience the amazing community and opportunity for personal growth.

However, the pilots need to make a living; they can't do it for free. The CS&PF has expenses associated with observing and registering swims, so we can't do it for free either. So what can be done in light of the fact that the costs can't be reduced, and might even go up?

I am hugely privileged to work in a school that puts more money into scholarships every year than any other school in the country. I have seen first-hand the life-changing benefit that scholarships can have on a young person's life. I am a huge supporter of lowering the 'barriers to entry' for items that are perceived not to be for the 'masses', be those items education or the sport of Channel Swimming. I want to see a 'Channel Swimming Scholarship' introduced within the next five years, which will be a means by which someone with zero money or knowledge can become a Channel Swimmer each year.

So how do we get from where we are today to that point when this vision comes to fruition?

It is not the job/remit of the CS&PF to make this happen; it is not what the Federation was established for. It is not any one person's responsibility or duty to make it happen.

I'd like to see it happen from OUR collective desire to make it happen. It's not just money that's needed to make it happen; it's local mentoring and support from those with the experience, and that could be any one of you. If this is something you feel you have the time and inclination to help establish or support, please do get in touch with me; I need help to get this off the ground!!!

Are you up for helping an aspirant?

There are so many things you need to swim the Channel: Money, some degree of swimming ability, extreme willpower, time, unerring family support and a large amount of guidance. One thing that is invaluable when you're starting out on your journey, is a swimmer that's been in your position, whom you can ask questions of. Preferably this mentor will be someone who lives near you, as there is nothing quite like going for a swim with someone, and then chatting away for hours afterwards over a hot chocolate and good feed.

I'd like to see a 'slicker' way of putting the experienced and inexperienced swimmers together. I'd like to make stepping forward to offer help easier, and without risk of excessive spamming. I'd like the resource to be dynamic and interactive.

I am not sure if the CS&PF and our website is the best vehicle for making this happen, but I will investigate it further. I am keen for this to be entirely non-commercial, so services and advice that one would have to pay for, will not be included.

If you think this concept has legs, or you have ideas as to how it can be done, or you're someone keen to help Channel aspirants, do please get in touch with me.

Terrorism, Fresh in the French (and our) Minds

It was with horror that we watched the latest acts of terrorism via every media outlet, this time on French soil. Our hearts and prayers went out to them. I used the word 'latest', as sadly this was not an isolated event in the times we live in, and neither will it be the last.

The Terrorist Threat Level in the UK is now at SEVERE, and most of us in the UK have seen signs of this first hand. This situation is mirrored over on the other side of the Channel in France.

As someone with no police/military/intelligence service training or experience, it seems on the surface that what we do could be considered a risky activity by the authorities: We pile onto a small boat, cross two shipping lanes at a snail's pace, move very slowly around the French coastline, often in the dark, someone swims to shore sometimes with an accompanying dingy, and then theoretically the same number of people and amount of 'stuff' heads back to the UK on that small boat.

We all understand the sport, and appreciate the integrity of those involved. However, explaining what we do in the above manner to someone that knows nothing about Channel Swimming, and who wants to protect their country/border, could be a tricky 'sell'!

I believe we will see more 'interest' in our activities, and more unplanned 'visits' from intimidating boats with guns, often in the dark. I believe the CS&PF are in the best possible position to placate and reassure these 'visitors' that we can be. Our pilots have jumped over EVERY administrative and physical hurdle in relation to their qualifications/paperwork for themselves, their crew, and their boats. I can only hope everything is as watertight outside of the CS&PF as it is within.

I have a feeling 2015 will be an 'interesting' season.

Time for Change

I now have one year left as CS&PF President, having served five years of the maximum six years in the role. Along with my departure as President, there are other personnel changes that could happen in the next year or two, and as a community we should be putting some thought into how we react to these changes, and plan accordingly.

I believe the limit on the time one can hold the post of President is a healthy thing. I also believe that having the capacity to get 'new blood' into the organisation is healthy.

My slight worry is the lack of continuity that big change can bring, and the possibility of losing organisational memory. Our sport is very cyclical in its nature; we hear the same questions and debates on the chat groups and forums on a rolling two-year basis, the same challenges to the organisation keep rearing their ugly heads with slight tweaks. I'd love the CS&PF to be able to keep moving forward without losing all of its ties to the past and the experiences of those that have 'been around the block'. However, working hard for the Federation as a volunteer takes it out of you, and it's unreasonable to expect endless service.

What can be done? For starters I'd like to see someone in the Vice-President's role, along with more co-opted members on the committee for specific roles, experiences and expertises.

Into the French Inshore Waters now

You are near the end of my report now. One final push readers!

2014 was another marvellous season, with some amazing achievements, from some inspirational people. I have once again been incredibly proud to be part of our sport, and to be involved with the CS&PF. It is the swimmers, helpers, families and volunteers that make our community so special. Thank you to one and all, and here's to another safe and successful season.

Big love

Nick Adams
CS&PF President



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Chairman's Report 2015 AGM

It does not seem like a year since I last had to put finger to keyboard to write a Chairman's report. Time has flown past over the last 12 months and it all seems to still be getting busier.

My congratulations go out to all our Channel swimmers who entered the waters of the Dover Straits with a dream of reaching France. Quite a few managed to reach the French beaches – 59 solo swims 1-way and 1 solo 2-way – plus 60 assorted relay swims and 1 relay 2-way. Added to the successful results were the 22 solo swims and 12 relay swims classed as unsuccessful. I say “classed” because from my view point as both the CS&PF Chairman and a registered escort pilot I think all can consider their attempts to be a success in one way or another. The learning curve, training effort, friendships and often a completely different outlook on life are considerable when you step outside your box and exceed all your expectations. If everyone was successful then there would not be the challenge, and no reason for pushing the limits in the search of success.

A few swimmers will return to try again, a few to play and enjoy the company and friends they have found; Channel swimming often becomes an addiction and a dream. Possibly we should add a health warning on the application form as it can be, and often is, addictive and a life changing experience. I will leave any further expansion on the swim results to our Secretary Kevin Murphy and our President Nick Adams as they have all the stories at their finger tips.

Wearing my other hat as a pilot we have had to carry out a lot of updating boat certification wise to allow us to carry on working in French and EEC sea areas. The new regulations were/are not the easiest to get sorted but essential to enter French waters. The summer of 2014 saw our boats personally stopped and our boats and crew papers checked on 5 occasions by both the British and French authorities. There are stories of other escort boats being visited by both the British and French Coastguard cutters and of the local charter fishing boats being warned for operating in French waters without the correct certification. Life is getting harder out there.

As part of the Channel swimmers community we share the narrow stretch of water between Great Britain and Europe with a lot of vessels, (600 a day on average) made up of commercial, fishing and pleasure. Our swims require us to cross a closed international boarder; in both directions. To this is added the various immigration and terrorism problems. All these considerations have meant that our escort boats now carry copious amounts of electronic gadgets, are tracked continuously; plus we have to submit all sorts of paperwork and spend a lot of time talking on the VHF radios.

Please bear this in mind when you are sending in your swim paperwork. If you are late or miss the deadlines you create a problem for us. We are supposed to have all the seasons swims registered with the British and French Coastguards by the first week of June each season. The Channel swimming organisations are restricted to 6 registered escort vessels each which only gives us 12 working at any one time. They are however still managing to put around the 300 mark of swim attempts in the water every season and they need your help to meet the deadlines to do this.

When Angela and I became involved in Channel swimming way back in 1982 we thought we were just getting involved in a retirement hobby. (We originally retired in 1980 and sail away into the sunset). Our first introduction to a Channel swim was late in the 1982 season after we had sat with Ray and Audrey

Scott one afternoon to explain our boating history and hear what was involved. We escorted the Fettes Collage relay, England to France 13 hours 25 mins – Relay number 62 E/F. The result was we were instantly stung by the bug and have taken part and watched as things have changed considerably over the past 33 years.

In 1982 there were 11 relays & 45 solos = Total of 56 swims.
9 relays were successful and 24 solo swims were successful.

In 2014 there were (I think) 87 relays & 83 solos CS&PF swims = Total of 170 swims
75 relays were successful and 61 solo swims were successful

I only know the successful figures for the CSA ltd 58 solos and 30 relays= Total of 88 swims

Adding a guessed figure for the unsuccessful CSA Ltd swims makes last years total around 300.

What a difference, what a success story. One can see why the British and French Coastguards have tightened up on the Channel swim options and on the registered escort boats. Let's hope that there are no more surprises for us in 2015. A lot of changes have been put in place for our pilot, crews and escort boats to comply with over the past couple of years with a batch of new laws and rules being imposed on us. The good thing is Channel swimming has received recognition by the French authorities which is referenced and marked as permissible within the terms of the new French rule -- Rule 28: Nor par de Calais. This is while all the other types of crossings that were classed as unorthodox or in the extreme endurance brackets have been stopped (unless you can get specific written permission).

What we have seen however is an increased interest in the escort boats and their crews and a lot more legislation in place to allow them to work. The EEC - MLC 2006 - rule for commercial vessels, big and small, operating in European waters was a much bigger problem to overcome than originally expected, although I am happy to say all the CS&PF pilots boats and their crews have managed to conform and have full certification now.

Moving on --- Personally I can not thank our committee and the CS&PF volunteers enough for all their effort, impute and hours they have donated to make the Federation so successful and give us another year of development and forward pace. We have re-applied to HMRC for Community Amateur Sports Club recognition and hopefully with the rule changes on the table at this AGM we can complete and achieve recognition at long last.

The CS&PF web site has gone from strength to strength with Boris at the helm. You now have an almost full revision of all the CS&PF forms plus a few extra ones to help you along. You can watch in real time all the escort boats as they work the Channel crossings, and download the charted courses on the completion of a swim. You can refer to past swim tracks. Online forms and payment facilities have been introduced and PayPal has been added to make transactions much easier, especially for our overseas swimmers. See www.cspf.co.uk

Regalia is up and running along with a good stock of popular items. Our accounts are being sorted, organized and correlated by Kathy. The committee debates are often long and demanding, both at the meetings and by e-mails – which possibly means they are producing the results we need to go forward. We still have a lot more to do, all I can say is we are doing the best we think we can for the continued success and development of the Federation. It looks like 2015 is going to be another hectic year both in the water and in the management field.

Michael Oram -- CS&PF Chairman



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CS&PF AGM 7th March 2015

Secretary's Report

Five words sum up 2014. It was another record year.

The sun shone. The sea was warmer and the CS&PF had 61 successful solo swims, including one two-way, along with 62 successful relays, including 2 two-ways.

There were 22 unsuccessful solos and nine unsuccessful relays.

It was also a year of technical innovation with a new CS&PF database overseen by our webmaster Boris Mavra.

The annual dinner broke records for numbers and stretched the capacity of Dover Town Hall to the absolute limit. Can we find any more space in 2015?

In that stretch of water we either love or love to hate it was a year with so many inspirational achievements; especially for the golden oldies – and the terrific teens.

On 20 August Australian Cyril Baldock slipped into the sea, from Shakespeare Beach, at the age of 70 years and nine months. Just 12hrs 45minutes later, piloted by Mike Oram, he clambered on to the rocks at Cap Gris Nez to set a record as the oldest ever swimmer to conquer the Channel – five months older than Guernsey's Roger Allsopp in 2011.

Cyril's stroke rate started at 71 per minute went to 73 and was still 67 at the end. Not bad for a 70 year old.

As our observer, Loretta Cox, said: 'An incredible swim and a fantastic achievement.'

Waiting and watching was Otto Thaning from Cape Town - 73 years old and an eminent heart surgeon in South Africa. A returnee, like Cyril (1984) and Roger (2006), he also had a previous successful Channel swim to his credit in 1994.

On 6 September, again piloted by Mike Oram, Otto conquered the Channel in 12hrs 52mins to take the record from Cyril. The CS&PF observer Laura Austin reported, a 'phenomenal' swim for a man of 73. Otto's avowed aim was to prove that age was no barrier to achievement. He certainly did that.

He had this message for all those who helped him: 'I don't think I adequately thanked all those who contributed so selflessly to my swim, in fact I don't believe that it is possible to do that sufficiently to make it clear just how much I feel indebted to so many, and so humbled by the love and attention that was given to me in so many ways.'

Many other swimmers will echo those words.

Now for a terrific teen. One day after Otto's swim, 16 year old American Charlotte Samuels from New Jersey entered the water from Shakespeare Beach for what turned out to be an epic battle against the Channel. Piloted by Eddie Spelling, she refused to give up and landed in France 20hrs 44mins 27secs later.

The CS&PF observer on board, Robert Knibbs, reported: 'As Charlotte came ashore it became clear from various messages that she had broken the world record for the youngest to swim the triple crown of open water swimming -round Manhattan, the Catalina Channel to Los Angeles and the English Channel, all in the same year.'

Respect and inspirational are the words that come to mind.

The same goes for a whole host of swimmers whose efforts should be up in lights alongside Otto, Cyril and Charlotte..

Bob Fernald, 47, from New Hampshire, USA, recorded the fastest one-way swim under the CS&PF banner – piloted home by Lance Oram in a time of 10hrs. 50mins. Vicky Miller, 28, from Balham, London, (11hrs. 7mins.) was our fastest woman and fastest British swimmer, piloted by Paul Foreman.

Win or lose, everyone who takes on the Channel tests themselves way beyond the normal limits with a very special brand of courage and determination.

American Dori Miller, 43, now living at Bondi Beach, Australia, completed a two-way in 26hrs. 21mins, Lance at the helm.

Tony Bailey, 48, from Bethnal Green in London had a titanic struggle to get across one-way on breaststroke in 25hrs 26mins while Germany's Peter Huecker, 57, did it in 23hrs 5mins on front-crawl. All credit to their pilots Eddie Spelling (with Tony) and Neil Streeter (with Peter).

Neil's crew, Sam Jones, 42, from Dover, spent all summer helping others make it to France – then jumped in and did it herself on 19 September in 16hrs 38mins.

There was heartbreak for 17 year old Camille Anderson from Wingham in Kent – her pilot Paul Foreman had to order her out of the water after 13hours when deteriorating weather conditions made it unsafe to continue. She did not want to come out but it was the right call.

Liudmila Popova, 32, from Moscow became only the sixth Russian to conquer the Channel. Her pilot James Willi stepped into the breach when Chris Osmond had to retire through ill-health early in the season. We wish him well and thank him for all his efforts on behalf of Channel swimmers for 14 years.

India's Rohan More, 28, must surely have had the most unusual training regime. He succeeded after persuading his local pool, where he was living in Abu Dhabi, to repeatedly lower the water temperature to 16c in the middle of the night so that he could train.

Sri Chinmoy's Angikar Sasa Djordjevic completed a remarkable triple ironman triathlon from Dover to Heidelberg in Germany. He swam the Channel without a wetsuit on the 6th of September in 18hours 41minutes then cycled from Calais via Brussels, Maastricht and Aachen to Bingen (on the Rhine near Frankfurt) then ran the 127km from Bingen to

Heidelberg where he finished on the 11th of September in a time of 5 days 5 hours during which time he touched five countries - the UK, France, Belgium, Holland and Germany.

Karteeck Clarke made it across for the eleventh time. It was number ten for our president Nick Adams, including one double, and number four for Mike Cross.

Rounding off the season, Kate Todd,43, from Hove, East Sussex, made a late decision to go ahead with an attempt and became the last CS&PF solo swim of the year on 2 October.

As we know, relays are also tough. Add seasickness to the task of jumping into the sea in mid-Channel, when you least want to, and stir well with the job of actually swimming.

Surrey based four person relay, Cosmic Rays, made it to France and back in 24hrs 45mins. Holland's six-man Channel Team Wassenaar did the two way in 28hrs 16mins.

James Salter, 49, and his son Finn,17, from Cote Bampton, Oxfordshire, completed a unique two person one-way relay in a time of 14hrs 57mins.

Two charities, Aspire and Diabetes UK were back with a number of teams and raised tens of thousands of pounds for their good causes.

Those increased sea temperatures helped at the beginning of the season. It was 14c instead of an expected 11c when, early in June, I had the privilege of observing the first swim of the year, the Overlord 70 relay commemorating the 70th anniversary of D Day.

I wish I could mention every solo swimmer and every team. Their struggle to succeed is an inspiration. We salute you all.

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 Treasurer Kathy Batts, our observer liaison officer Mike Ball, our webmaster Boris Mavra, all the members of the committee, the observers, our dinner organisers Michelle Toptalo and Emma France, the many other volunteers who give so much of their time, the pilots who turned swimmers' dreams into a reality, and of course the wives, husbands, partner, families and supporters who helped make it all possible.

Special thanks must go to our recorder Julian Critchlow who is retiring as Vice-Chairman and to Michelle Toptalo who is retiring from the Committee. Both deserve our gratitude for all they have done and all they will continue to do - because they have promised to continue working on behalf of the CS&PF

Thank you all.

The statistics were:

SOLOS

1 Successful 2-way solo swims

58 Successful 1-way solo swims

2 Successful first leg of unsuccessful 2-way attempts

STANDARD RELAYS

1 Successful 6 person standard 2-way relay swim

35 Successful 6 person standard 1-way relay swims

SPECIAL CATEGORY RELAYS

2 Successful 2 person 1-way relay swims

3 Successful 3 person 1-way relay swims

1 Successful 3 person first leg of unsuccessful 2-way swim

1 Successful 4 person 2-way relay swim

10 Successful 4 person 1-way relay swims

7 Successful 5 person 1-way relay swims

1 Successful 5 person first leg of unsuccessful 2-way swim

1 Successful 7 person 1-way relay swim

UNSUCCESSFUL

22 Unsuccessful solo 1-way swims

4 Unsuccessful standard 6 person relay 1-way swims

1 Unsuccessful 3 person relay swim

1 Unsuccessful 4 person relay swim

2 Unsuccessful 5 person relay 1-way swims

1 Unsuccessful 8 person relay swim

Good luck to the class of 2015.

We look forward to many more successes

Kevin Murphy, CS&PF Hon Secretary



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Report of the Hon Treasurer

The Treasurers report is probably the one report our Members are not especially interested in as it just covers the finances and not the huge successes that have occurred during the season!! This being said it is only right and proper that I report on the previous year and produce a balance sheet for our members.

The finances are very healthy at the moment as can be seen from the balance sheet with £87781 amount in the bank..

So what changes have there been during 2014? In 2013 we took on board members concerns raised at the 2012 AGM in respect of safe storage of items such as Medicals, Application forms etc and hired a storage facility in Dover which also doubles as the storage facility for our Regalia, within a year we had outgrown the space so have moved to a bigger lock up on the same site.

We have continued our insurance policy with Perkins Slade and also taken out additional insurance for the Regalia Stock we are holding.

Our Banking Business Manager went onto maternity leave in late 2014, what difference does that make I hear you ask, well lots, I made contact with our new Business manager and finally managed to arrange online payments which means in 2015 all payments made to Observers will be paid directly into their Bank – no more cheques being sent out. We still have a tight control over the issuing of payments.

The raffle at our annual dinner is such an incredible event and again in 2014 we matched the monies raised to make a donation to the RNLI in Dover of £3082, an official cheque presentation took place and photographs can be seen on our Website.

Next year we will stop surcharging for Credit Card and the new PayPal facility - but our fees will have to go up a little to cover the charges imposed on us.

It would be remiss of me not to thank Jim Boucher for producing the Balance Sheets and making sense of the income and expenditure I have produced for him, I am indeed indebted for this. I am also grateful for Irene collating the income for the Regalia and either paying the monies into the Bank or passing onto Kevin Murphy to pay in for me.

Finally thank you to Mike Oram and Kevin Murphy for the continued support they have given me during my first year in this role, along with that of the other Committee members..

Kathy Batts
Hon Treasurer

CS&PF Annual Accounts 2014

Profit & Loss

INCOME	2013 AGM	2014 AGM
Applications & Membership		
Admin Fee	27,500	28,700
Membership Fee	9,347	9,670
PDQ Bank Charges	(368)	(238)
Swim Fees	22,800	22,080
TOTAL applications & Membership	59,278	60,212
Dinner & AGM's		
Dinner net (cost)	328	(1,398)
TOTAL Dinner & AGM's	328	(1,398)
Federation Income		
Other	90	0
TOTAL Federation Income	90	0
TOTAL Regalia Sales	10,320	9,065
TOTAL INCOME	70,016	67,879
EXPENSES		
Regalia Cost of Sales:	8,466	7,936
Operating Expenses:		
Fees - Clubs & Associations	431	300
Insurance	1,428	1,574
Observers Expenses	17,971	20,470
Travel	500	872
AGM Costs	0	256
Trophies & Presentation	1,045	1,264
Certificates	924	250
Office:		
Admin & Expenses	1,978	2,458
Committee Travel	418	421
Payments to Officers	24,379	23,928
Office Equipment/Consumables	1,616	1,029
Postage	747	633
Professional Advice	1,500	0
TOTAL Office	30,637	28,470
TOTAL Federation Expenses		
TOTAL EXPENSES	61,401	61,393
SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR	8,615	6,486

Balance Sheet

		2013 AGM	2014 AGM
		£	£
Assets	Cash In Bank		
	Business Tracker	81,100	85,523
	Current Account	13,633	2,258
	Cash in Hand	-	-
	Regalia Stock	11,622	16,692
	TOTAL Assets	106,356	104,474
		-	-
Liabilities	Creditors		
	10 Year Memberships	2,354	2,781
	Other	1,132	160
	Accruals		
	Payments to Officers	10,354	-
	Donation	-	-
	Other	-	3,480
	Office expenses accrued	950	-
	TOTAL Liabilities	14,789	6,421
	TOTAL Net Assets	91,567	98,053
	Capital		
	Retained Profit B/fwd	82,951	91,567
	Current Year Profit	8,615	6,486
	TOTAL Retained Capital	91,567	98,053

Supporting Notes:

1. Admin & Swim Fees – data from analysis by Hon Sec/Treasurer
2. Membership Fees – annual memberships received plus 1/10 of 10 year memberships included in income, with the prepaid element of 10 year memberships appearing as a creditor in the Balance Sheet.
3. Dinner Net Cost – this includes our donation to RNLI of £3,082 corresponding to raffle income of £1,541 matched by CS&PF funds. The higher net cost compared to 2013 is due to lower costs than quoted charged to CS&PF.

4. Regalia and Stock

This is a large item in the Balance Sheet (£16K). £3,480 has yet to be invoiced to us for the bags, but this has been accrued and is reflected in the stock value.

5. Other Creditors – uncashed cheque
6. Observers Expenses – higher cost reflects higher rates paid from 2014.
7. Payments to Officers – calculated as % of Swim and Admin Fees as set out in our rules.
8. Bank Balances – reconciled to end of year Bank Statements and adjusted for cheques issued in 2014 that are cashed in 2015.

A Message From the C.S. &P.F. Observer Liaison Officer

In March two years I was asked to become the Observer Liaison Officer as the position had become vacant. I was given support from the 'Elders' of the C.S. & P.F. for which I am very grateful. Having completed my second year in the post, things are starting to settle.

An observers meeting took place in June at the Royal Yacht Club 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'. Pilots were invited and offer advice from their prospective points but were unable to attend for various reasons.

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

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 2014 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/team to standby for the following tide.

With a bank of thirty observers, 'back to back' swims were often requiring observers to stay at sea. The younger observers took full advantage of this!

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 more than one occasion this was within half 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 not be enough? As with previous seasons I lose some and gain others.

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

The C.S. &P.F. web site provides a 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 very much 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 posted 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 very best to stay awake!.

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

At this point I would like to bring to your attention where a local observer went beyond the 'call of duty'. A relay swim commenced as the conditions were more that acceptable. Within four hours the sea became very uncomfortable and the swim was aborted on safety grounds. The pilot decided to return to Dover at 23.00hrs. The team had no accommodation as they had checked out when the swim 'good to go'. The weather conditions were looking much better for the morning tide. The observer took all six members of the team and two supporters back to her house. She not only gave shelter for the night but provided copious amounts of porridge for breakfast!! Her and her husband then ensured the team were ready to go on the 07.00hrs tide. The team touched French soil later that day.

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

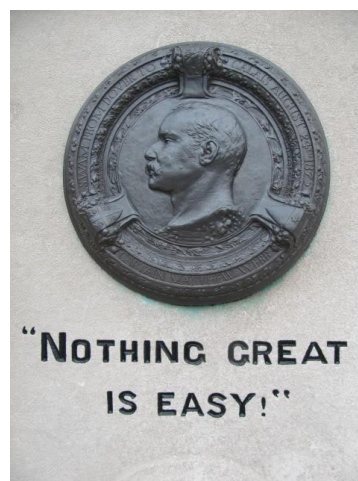
Any person interested in this extremely rewarding job, please contact me by e-mail at;

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

Let's hope that the weather gods smile upon us for another great season.

Kind regards

Mike Ball.



'Nothing great is easy' Capt Matthew Webb

Dinner Report 2014

The CS&PF annual dinner 2014 was as popular as ever selling out in 10 days. Kevin Blick and Rob Ouldcott did a great job of entertaining everyone and Emma France used her Christmas leave to kindly produce a photo presentation as a stunning reminder of the 2013 season.

The awards proved to be a popular part of the evening with the biggest cheers saved for Sylvain Etadieu for his insane channel swim using Butterfly, and Wendy Trehiou for her epic double crossing.

A big thank you must go to contributors to our raffle, their kind donations make for great prizes, but perhaps more importantly helped to raise £1541.00 for the RNLI which the federation then matched making a total donation of £3082.00.

The cheque was presented to the RNLI early in the season.



'Nothing great is easy' Capt Matthew Webb

Regalia

Following the successful introduction of the new range of regalia in 2013 sales continued to go well in 2014. Irene Wakeham once again proved to be an exceptional sales woman. On occasions she was surrounded by so many people we thought we may have lost her.

Nick Adams worked with our suppliers to produce a water proof bag which has already proved to be a big seller.

While the regalia is a fun reminder of swimmer's involvement with the federation it also makes them easy to spot when they are out and about in Dover. This helps them feel more at home as let's face it, everyone loves a channel swimming story.



Michelle Toptalo

Committee

'Nothing great is easy' Capt Matthew Webb

CS&PF Digital Resources Report 1 February 2015

Website (<http://cspf.co.uk/>)

CS&PF website continues to be a very popular resource for the Channel swimming community; it recorded another year-on-year increase in the visit statistics. With almost 900,000 page views and more than 67,000 unique visitors over the past 12 months it is an increasingly valuable online resource. The challenge for CS&PF is to maintain the current visitor levels and offer new content to the swimming community.

Period		1 Feb 2013 – 31 Jan 2014	1 Feb 2014 – 31 Jan 2015	difference
Visits		167,991	190,610	+13%
Unique visitors		59,232	67,688	+14%
Page views		776,824	870,524	+12%
Busiest day		21 Aug 2013	5 Aug 2014	
Busiest month		Aug 2013	Aug 2014	
Most popular pages by views	1	Swim Routes (185,116)	Swim Routes (251,593)	+36%
	2	Tracking (173,287)	Tracking (214,833)	+23%
	3	Home (54,848)	Home (51,579)	-6%
Top Countries by visits	1	UK 100,059 (59.56%)	UK 111,692 (58.59%)	
	2	USA 14,604 (7.36%)	USA 25,332 (13.29%)	
	3	Netherlands 12,360 (7.36%)	Australia 16,153 (8.47%)	

Other facts and figures:

Total number of pages indexed by Google		3,418
Google rank		4
Top Google searches	1	cspf
	2	cs&pf
	3	channel swimming and piloting federation
Top ranked on searches	1	cs&pf
	2	channel swimming and piloting federation
	3	Channel tracking

As before, we invite all members to contribute to the website with their swim stories and news. Any suggestions regarding the current or proposed new content are most welcome, please email webmaster@cspf.co.uk.

Twitter (<https://twitter.com/csandpf>)

CS&PF Twitter account was opened in February 2012; here are comparative figures at present and a year ago:

	1 Mar 2014	1 Feb 2015
Tweets	221	361 (+140)
Followers	403	542 (+34%)

Our Twitter account is linked to the website content management system: this enables us to tweet all news articles as well as any completed swims. Unfortunately these constitute most of our tweets as we lack resources to offer more varied content. We invite our members to suggest what they would like to see as well as contribute with relevant content.

Administrative Database

In 2014 season we introduced an online administrative system for recording and monitoring all paperwork online: thanks to the efforts of our Hon Sec, we now have a consolidated database of all our members in one list (Founders, Full and Associate members, 2-year and 10-year members etc.)

Operationally the database is now performing several tasks that used to be done manually of in separate systems:

- Recording of all members' contact details
- Recording of all swims
 - Payment status
 - Medicals and assessment swims
 - Swim outcome, observer and time
- Production of swim lists for coastguards
- Production of membership certificates
- Production of swim certificates
- Public pages for solo swimmers, relay captains and pilots

Most swimmers would be familiar with the last feature: a public page showing CS&PF office data on their solo or relay swim (links to these pages were attached in emails sent by the Hon Sec from the admin system). Similar pages were made for pilots showing status of each booked swim.

We invite our members to provide any feedback and propose new features they would like to see.

Solo Swim Database

Thanks to the efforts of CS&PF Vice Chairman Julian Critchlow, our website features the most complete list of solo Channel swims (<http://cspf.co.uk/solo-channel-swimmers>).

During the last year the whole database was recoded to enable Julian to upload the data directly from his Excel spreadsheets (see Julian's original on <http://home2.btconnect.com/critchlow/ChannelSwimDatabase.htm>).

This resulted in much improved timeliness as Julian was able to update the database several times during the swim season and keep it not too far behind CS&PF's "unofficial" swim list on <http://cspf.co.uk/cs-and-pf-swims>

We invite our members to email Julian (juliancritchlow@gmail.com) with any additional information or corrections.



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	Alison Streeter MBE	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

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 10

Officers & Committee members standing for election

Nominations for position as CS&PF officers

Vice Chairman

(Unopposed : Julian Critchlow is standing down)

Boris Mavra

Proposed by: Nicholas Adams

Seconded by: Rob Oulcott

Secretary

(As there are two nominations for the position of secretary there will be a vote.)

Tanya Harding

Proposed by: Michael Oram

Seconded by: Angela Oram

Kevin Murphy

Proposed by: Boris Mavra

Seconded by: Katherine Batts

Election of committee - Item 11

(Three committee places available)

Sakura Adams

Proposed by: Nicholas Adams

Seconded by: Kevin Murphy

Ian Down

Proposed by: Kevin Murphy

Seconded by: Jane Murphy

Michael Cross

Proposed by: Nicholas Adams

Seconded by: Michael Oram

(If Boris Mavra is elected as vice-chairman there will be one committee position vacant – due for reelection in 2016.)

MOTIONS – Item 12

Motion 1. Revision of CS&PF rules

(Replacing rules currently available on www.cspf.co.uk)

Channel Swimming & Piloting Federation Rules 2015

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, provide advice or other assistance in relation to any dispute between members of the Federation or between a member of the Federation and another entity body or person relevant to or affecting the Federation's Objectives.

(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 and adjudicate upon 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 enable other entities or persons to become affiliated or otherwise associated with the Federation for the purpose of benefiting or assisting the Federation or its reputation. (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 approved by the Federation

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 person requesting membership should complete either the CS&PF membership application form or apply via a CS&PF swim application form to be considered by the committee for membership.

All members and applicants for membership (whether applications are made in conjunction with a swim application or separately), must comply with the Rules including all processes and directions as are approved and implemented from time to time by the Committee of the Federation in accordance with the Rules. Every membership application, however made, is subject to the approval of the Committee

All applications for membership accepted in 2015 will run from 1st January to the 31st December for a 2 year period.

Any application for membership made at any time after 2015 will be treated as an application for full membership for one person (with an entitlement to one vote per motion or resolution) and running from the date of acceptance until 31st December in the same year. The Committee will determine the fees for membership.

Persons qualifying for a vote at the AGM in any year are (1) members on the membership list as at 31st December in the year immediately preceding the AGM and (2) members registered in the period prior to the AGM in the same year as the AGM.

Applications for joint memberships, family memberships or any other type of membership other than a full membership (or honorary membership), shall not be available with effect from 1st January 2016.

in any publications, guidance or instruction sheet or form of the Federation published, issued or otherwise in use from time to time shall form part of these Rules although in the event of conflict these provisions shall prevail over all such other instructions, rules and conditions

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, Secretary, 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 member 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 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.

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

(h) The 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.

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 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 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.

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

Fees and observations and other Federation requirements for requests to attempt swims / crossings greater than 3-ways, or for other swim courses not by the "direct route" are to be accessed and determined by the General Committee in its sole discretion

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 received by 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 must be used for every swim or crossing application and will be available from the office or for download from the CS&PF website from 1st January in the year of the swim or as soon afterwards as the Committee are able to provide the same.

1. If you cannot complete any of the required stages within the time frame YOU MUST CONTACT THE CS&PF OFFICE to ask if a time concession can be allowed. The CS&PF will consider any requests to do so on an individual basis: the grant or refusal of a concession in the case of one application shall not oblige the CS&PF to grant or refuse a concession in any other case. The CS&PF may impose such conditions (including time limits) as it deems appropriate upon the granting of a concession.

2. The CS&PF application form and medical forms must –be submitted to the CS&PF office before 30th April. Failure to do so shall cause an application to become invalid unless specifically ruled otherwise in writing by the CS&PF in its discretion.

3. Your application must -- be completed and finalised by the 31st of May. Failure to do so shall cause an application to become invalid unless specifically ruled otherwise in writing by the CS&PF in its discretion.

4. The CS&PF needs to be able to register 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 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 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 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 complete 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.

All swimmers taking part in a solo swim must complete a self assessment swim for at least 6 hours in open water at a temperature of no more than 61°F / 16°C and which is carried out specifically for the purpose or as an organised event which the Committee considers (in its discretion) to be a suitable alternative, in either case, which has taken place no more than 30 calendar months prior to the 1st June in the Year of application.

All swimmers taking part in a relay swim must complete a self assessment swim for at least 2 hours in open water at a temperature of no more than 61°F / 16°C and which is carried out specifically for the purpose or as an organised event which the Committee considers (in its

discretion) to be a suitable alternative, in either case, which has taken place no more than 18 calendar months prior to the 1st June in the Year of application.

Every application for a solo or relay swimmer must complete a Swim Assessment Form available for download from the CS&PF web site and submit this together with supporting proof/ratification of the self-assessment swim or (if an organised event wherein satisfactory participation is a matter of public online record) the website address at which such proof is evident.

(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 collating and submitting properly completed forms, supporting documentation and fees within the time permitted. No communication will be processed in the event of any failure to include prominently and clearly the Team name and the team leader's name. The CS&PF reserves the right to reject any submission which is incomplete and submitted by anyone other than 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 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 and 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. 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.

NOTES: 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 full members of the Federation.



Motion 2. Revision of CS&PF fees.

Motion for the 2015 AGM with reference to recommendations for proposed Fees revision

(Proposed and seconded on the basis that it does not need to be put to the meeting unless **Motion 1** is not approved by the meeting)

Proposed by Michael Oram
Seconded by Angela Oram

Admin fees

Admin Fee for Solo Swim	£145.00
Admin Fee for a Relay team swim	£180.00

If submitted after 30th April

Admin Fee for Solo Swim	£170.00
Admin Fee for a Relay team swim	£220.00

(Plus the Required Swim Fee as below)

For Solo Swims

Code B	1 Way attempt	£160.00
Code C	2 Way attempt	£360.00
Code D	3 Way attempt	£450.00

For Relay Swim

Code E	1 Way attempt	£160.00
Code F	2 Way attempt	£360.00
Code G	3 Way attempt	£450.00