

BIRMINGHAM MASTERS

July 2012 Newsletter

Edited by Steve Langford (stevelangford@blueyonder.co.uk)

Coaching

The coaching is currently going through some reorganisation. Congratulations to Andrew, on beginning a new job in medical recruitment. He is therefore currently only able to coach the Sunday sessions. Flora and Ian have stepped in - huge thanks to both of them. Furthermore Flora will be off to university in October. Watch this space for developments...

Harborne Pool sessions

These new "casual" sessions have begun. There is a lane set aside every Thursday morning between 6am and 9am, for BMSC members and any member of the public we can entice to join us. There are printed sets kept behind the desk, for the first person to arrive to set out on the poolside, and the intention is that at the top of each hour, the swimmers will commence the set. Don't worry if you arrive at odd times - just join in with the programme at whatever point the others swimmers are at.

There are no fees to be paid to BMSC for these sessions, and if you are a holder of a Passport to Leisure Card, you can get into the pool either half-price or free of charge.

We hope you will find these extra sessions useful. Give them a try and please give your feedback to committee members, as we will be reviewing how successful these new ideas are.

KE Pool Closures and Parking restrictions

Some closure dates additional to the list given in the last newsletter:

- Friday 27th July Unavailability of coach / Olympic Opening Ceremony
- Friday 26th, Saturday 27th and Sunday 28th October
Short Course Nationals, Sheffield

As previously notified, there will also be no training at the King Edward Pool on the following dates:

- Tuesday 28th August KES Concessionary Day
- Friday 28th to Sunday 30th September

Midlands Championships meet

- Saturday 6th October KES Open Morning
- Wednesday 10th October KES Founders Day
- Saturday 17th November KES Open Morning

Currently we are not aware of any dates on which there is no parking permitted on the school drive. However, no doubt there will be future occurrences. Please note the advice below.

Parking on school site

The Chief Master has specifically stated that under no circumstances should any person park their vehicle on the double yellow lines throughout the site, at the Ruddock Performing Arts Centre and most definitely not on the grass verges.

When no parking is allowed on the main school drive, club members may park at:

- Sports hall
- Parking bays leading up the Chief Master's drive (but not in front of the CM's house and garage)
- Playing field off Bristol Road (please remember although it may look like the gate is closed, it is not)
- Birmingham University car park, Edgbaston Park Road (next to the Gun Barrels), Saturdays and Sundays and after 4pm Monday to Friday

Forthcoming Meets

The Club is targeting the following meets...

Midlands Championships (Leamington) – Friday 28th to Sunday 30th September 2012

Closing date: 3rd September 2012

Web site for entries: www.westmidlandswimming.org.uk/

National Short Course Championships (Sheffield) – Friday 26th to Sunday 28th October 2012

Closing date: TBC

Web site for entries:

<http://www.swimming.org/britishswimming/calendar/event/british-gas-asa-national-masters-and-senior-age-group-championships>

These are both massive galas for BMSC and we encourage everyone to participate. Pauline is arranging accommodation once again for Sheffield, and a booking form is attached. Please get it back to her or Sue Cramb by 24th September. The hotel is ideal – very close to the pool – and Pauline has negotiated some terrific rates for sharing, especially as a “three”, so it's time to make some friends!

Other galas, that many BMSC members may be interested in, are:

Barnet Copthall Sprint Meet – Sunday 9th September 2012

Closing date: Friday 24th August 2012

Web site for entries:

<http://www.swimming.org/britishswimming/calendar/event/barnet-masters-sprint-meet>

Etwall Eagles Meet (Derby) – A Saturday in late November

Closing date: TBC

Web site for entries:

<http://www.swimming.org/britishswimming/calendar/event/etwall-eagles-masters-meet>

Details of meets around the country are available at:

www.swimming.org/britishswimming/calendar/view/list - just filter for Masters Competitions. Open Water events can be found at the website of the Long Distance Swimming Association, at www.bldsa.org.uk/ and there are further details on the "Great Swim" series of events at www.greatswim.org/.

If you are entering a meet, please inform Luke Swain (swainl@pbworld.com) or Claire Potter (claire_j_potter@yahoo.com), who will arrange relays if there are enough swimmers available.

Kit sales

Swimmers are looking smart in the new swim caps, sporting our latest sponsor's logo. These hats cost £5 each, or £6 with your name emblazoned upon it. Jim also has a range of t-shirts, hoodies and bags, in popular sizes. Jim can order personalised kit, unusual sizes and a range of different clothes, to individuals' orders. See Jim Hunt for more details, or email him at:

jim.p.hunt@birmingham.gov.uk

Please note that Jim will not be able to give out any kit without receiving the money upfront – even just a hat at a swimming meet. No money – no kit!

World Masters, June 2012 – A competition report by Keith Ingram

Riccione is an Italian holiday destination on the eastern side of the country and sits between Rimini to the North and Cattolica to the South, in a long ribbon along the Adriatic Sea. For almost the entire length, the beach is full of sunbeds, drawn up in military precision. More than a few swimmers discovered that use of these facilities

was anything but cheap. There were a few areas where it was possible to use the beach and swim in the sea for free, between Rimini and Riccione, but this was not convenient and the fact that this is not a popular tourist destination for the British public is probably due to the beach situation. On the credit side there is an abundance of things to do and see and the Italians were friendly and welcoming.

This was the largest World masters ever with 9600 swimmers and we soon realised that the numbers were substantially enhanced by a very large number of Italian swimmers. A substantial number of them had submitted a time within the entry requirements, but produced swims well outside the requirement, slowing the programme down considerably. It was commonplace for the early heats in every age group to go through with no one in the 10 lanes posting a significant swim. Spare a thought for the fast heat of the male 25/29 age group that set off at ten minutes past midnight for their swim! Hanging about in the heat waiting to swim with inadequate warm up provision was at best far from ideal.

Birmingham Masters were represented by six swimmers. The star was Ken Williams 75/79 who won a Silver with 50m Freestyle in 32.92 seconds and a Bronze with 100m Freestyle in 1:16.97. Objectively better was his 2:54.02 200m Freestyle 4th place, that reduced the British record by over 5 seconds. Elaine Bromwich took Bronze for 200m Breaststroke and placed 5th and 8th in the 100 and 50 metre distances for two "Top Ten" medals. Rachel Hares came for one day and swam a 200 I.M. for 17th place but then produced a terrific 34.57 seconds 50m Breaststroke for 3rd place and a British Record. Spyros, Hayley and I did not swim to our real ability and three top ten finishes for me were achieved in spite of modest swims.

We were able to field a mixed 240+ relay team that acquitted itself very well. In medley mode we were seeded 10th but finished 4th, just 0.2 seconds from 3rd place out of 25 teams and 10th for freestyle. A very creditable result and a near miss for a medal.

Bosworth Open Water, July 2012 - A competition report by Jim Hunt

THE BATTLE OF BOSWORTH LAKES

The Date Sunday 8th July the Year 2012

Starring

John Tenant as Richard the III

Weaponry: - Wet Suit Distance 1500m

Laurence Miller as Duke of Norfolk

Weaponry: - Mankini Distance 1750m

Allison Peakman as Elizabeth of York

Weaponry: - 3 Lily pads and well greased

Jim Hunt as Henry Tudor

Weaponry: - Budgie smugglers Distance 2000m

Mark Pitts as Duke of Buckingham
Weaponry: - Budgie smugglers Distance 2000m

Weather conditions: - sunny periods, overcast and showers

First into battle were (Jim) Henry Tudor, (Mark) Duke of Buckingham and (Allison) Elizabeth of York. Elizabeth of York came out victorious and was first in her age group, coming out of the water like one of those birds in the bounty bar advert. She got out, got changed, had her hair done, had a 3 course meal and about that time the Duke of Buckingham came out victorious - first in his age group - followed by Henry Tudor, who was second in his age group. Both Men had battle scars, which were chafing around the budgie smugglers, but they were brave.

Next was (Laurence) The Duke of Norfolk, who had to have a CRB check because he was swimming with a load of kids. At one point we thought he was going to lose his helmet (his hat, Girls) but he too was victorious in his age group, yet did suffer from Kelp rash.

Last but not Least was (John) Richard the III in his dynamic wet suit. Unfortunately he was automatically DQ'd, due to the fact he wore his wet suit, which was a shame as he would have won his age group. He did not enjoy his experience by the look on his face as he came out of the water. He looked like he had had a heavy night at one of those M&S parties.

Overall we did well with great results, considering there were only a few of us, so next year folks make an effort to come along. Even if you don't participate, it is a good day out, a good laugh and most entertaining - especially if you are watching me (Mr McGoo).