

BIRMINGHAM MASTERS

March 2014 Newsletter

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

Coach's message

As we come up to the Midlands Masters I have put a lot more speed work in the sessions, with focus on starts and turns... I hope that all of you will remember these points when competing!!... I just want to wish you all the best and you achieve your own personal goals. You have all "raised your game" in training and hopefully the ones who are not competing this year may consider events next year...you have all responded well to the variety of training. As always a plea to all to squeeze an extra session in a week in your busy work schedule, as this will go a long way in your personal training.

All the best...IAN

KE Pool Closures and Parking restrictions

There is no swimming session on the following dates:

- Friday 28th, Saturday 29th and Sunday 30th March
- Midlands targeted meet
- Friday 13th, Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th June
- Long Course Championships targeted meet
- Tuesday 1st July
- School event
- Friday 4th July
- School event
- Saturday 5th July
- School event

Parking on school site

The school has confirmed that members are once again welcome to park on the Parade Ground, just by the swimming pool. This is accessed via Park Vale Drive, the entrance being on the Bristol Road. The gate closes on a timer at night and at weekends, so you may find yourself unable to get in on Tuesdays and on Saturdays and Sundays. However if you are on site and the gates then close, they will automatically open when approached by vehicles exiting the site.

Some members may nonetheless still prefer to park on the main school drive, and this is still acceptable, apart from certain dates set by the school.

As informed in the last newsletter, parking is not permitted on the main drive nor the Parade Ground on the following date:

- Friday 28th March

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 or the Parade Ground, 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, Saturdays and Sundays and after 4pm Monday to Friday

Forthcoming Meets

The Club is targeting the following meets this year:

Midlands Championships (Leamington) - Friday 28th to Sunday 30th March 2014
Closing date: Sorry, you're too late! Good luck to everyone competing!

Long Course Nationals (Swansea) - Friday 13th to Sunday 15th June 2014
Closing date: To be announced
Website for entries: To be announced

Short Course Nationals (Sheffield) - Friday 24th to Sunday 26th October 2014
Closing date: To be announced
Website for entries: To be announced

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

Gloucester Masters Open Meet (Gloucester) - Sunday 13th April 2014
Closing date: Too late! Good luck, team!

Barnet Copthall Distance Meet (Barnet, North London) - Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th July 2014
Closing date: 27th June 2014
Website for entries:

<http://www.swimming.org/britishswimming/calendar/barnet-copthall-masters-distance-meet-2014>

15th FINA World Masters Championships (Montreal, Canada) - Sunday 27th
July to Sunday 10th August 2014
Closing date: To be announced
Website for entries: To be announced

Barnet Copthall Sprints Meet (Barnet, North London) - Sunday 7th
September 2014
Closing date: 27th August 2014
Website for entries:
<http://www.swimming.org/britishswimming/calendar/barnet-copthall-masters-sprints-meet-2014>

Details of meets around the country are available at:

<http://www.swimming.org/britishswimming/calendar/> .

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.

New charging structure - Standing Order payments

Over the last few months your committee has been reviewing the club's payment structure. Work has been undertaken based on an analysis of BMSC patterns of attendance at training, other Masters clubs and the needs of our club. Following this it has decided to introduce a new fee structure which will be based on an annual subscription and a monthly swim fee. This will come into effect on 1st September 2014. The fees are per person and will be:

Annual Subscription

Members £55

There is no change to the annual subscription. It is payable in January and will be collected in the usual way.

Monthly Swim Fees

£16 for 1 session per week

£26 for 2 sessions per week

£36 for 3+ sessions per week

The monthly fee will be payable by bank standing order on the first of each calendar month in advance. All full members must sign up to at least one session per week.

Single session Swim Fee

£5 per session

The single session fee will only be available for full members swimming over their chosen sessions in a particular week, prospective members in their trial period and country members swimming infrequent sessions.

We appreciate members will have questions so please read the following questions and answers. If you still have questions feel free to contact one of the committee members or you can email i.parker@warwick.ac.uk

Questions and Answers

What is the rationale behind this?

The committee has sought to align the payment structure with the objectives of increasing participation, greater consistency of income and reducing the burden of cash handling. It also brings BMSC into line with the payment structures of the majority of other Masters clubs.

Why has the committee decided to adopt a monthly payment system?

It is seen as the best way to satisfy the objectives set out above. For instance, the current cash system means the club's income often yo-yos through the year making it difficult to properly budget. Our main expenditure on pool hire and coaching is based on a monthly payment cycle so it makes sense to put the majority of our fees on the same cycle. It also saves certain people having to handle reasonably large amounts of cash (around £1,000 per month) and make trips to the bank to pay this in.

How did the committee decide what to charge under the new system?

The Club is run on a non-commercial basis and attempts to broadly balance its income and expenditure. The fees have been set at a level which will allow the Club to break-even and hopefully keep a small amount for contingencies. You will also see that the monthly fees are structured to encourage swimmers to attend more sessions.

Couldn't you just introduce a flat monthly fee for everyone?

A flat monthly swim fee of around £27 was considered, allowing swimmers to choose as many sessions as they wanted to do each week. However, analysis of our attendance records showed that most members do not currently swim enough sessions to make this an attractive option for them.

I often miss sessions due to other commitments. Can I continue to pay on poolside?

No. There is no option for a full pay-as-you-go cash payment. The single session fee is only available for the reasons stated above.

Can I come to any session in the week?

Yes. While each member will sign up to a specific number of sessions per week, there is complete freedom of choice within this.

Does the Sunday session count as one session, bearing in mind it is 1.5 hours?

Yes. All sessions will be treated equally for payment purposes.

If I miss one of my sessions one week can I carry it over and do an extra session the following week?

No. The system will work on a week to week basis. You would need to pay the single session fee for the extra session.

If I sign up for 1 or 2 sessions a week, what happens if I occasionally want to do extra sessions?

That's fine. If you sign up to either the 1 or 2 sessions per week option but want to do an extra swim you should pay the single session fee at poolside. It is worth noting, however, that it is cheaper to sign up for a higher number of sessions than pay cash on a frequent basis.

What happens when sessions get cancelled?

We know that the school do cancel hires due to events taking place. There is also the odd one-off such as the recent pool temperature issue. However these are relatively infrequent and do not justify a separate payment policy. If there is ever a major issue we will take a decision at the time. One thing the club can control is our own cancellations due to targeted meets. From September the club will no longer cancel sessions for this reason.

What happens if I need to take some time out, for example if I am injured?

We appreciate that injury, working away or other personal circumstances may mean members sometimes have to take a break from swimming for several months at a time. If you will be out for a period of 2 months or more, you can cancel the standing order and reinstate it when you return to swimming. Please let the Membership Secretary know one month in advance if possible.

What about those who join the club mid-month?

New members taking up full membership or members returning from absence (see previous point) after the first of the month can pay a pro-rated sum immediately for the rest of that month and then the full standing order on the first of the following month.

How will the club "police" this system? What's to stop a member signing up for 1 session per week but swimming more?

We believe that our members are honest and will not do that. However we will need to monitor the system as a matter of course for budgetary and membership purposes as well as training patterns so a register will be taken at each session. Any violations will be picked up as part of this.

What happens now?

This will be formally proposed at the club's AGM on Wednesday 21st May, at 7:15pm. Following ratification, members will be asked to provide the Membership Secretary with the number of sessions they intend to sign up for. They will also be provided with the bank details to enable them to set up the standing order in time for 1st September.

AGM

The club's Annual General Meeting will take place on Wednesday 21st May, at 7:15pm. This is an important event for the club, especially as this year the committee is proposing the new payment structure. The meeting is expected to last less than one hour and will be followed by a meal at a local curry house.

Kit

The order for the new kit went off last week, so that it will be available for the Midlands Championships in Leamington. We are sure everyone will look very smart in their purple polo-shirts with the club logo. Hats will also be available - sign up on the relevant sheet on the poolside. For further details regarding kit, please contact Jim:
jim.p.hunt@birmingham.gov.uk

Meet the Members

A regular feature in the Club's newsletter, where we give brief profiles on some of our members. Send us your details if you'd like to be included in future issues...

Name:	Suzanne "Suzy" Hurst
Age-group:	D
Swimming origins:	Bexley Swimming Club, Sidcup in Kent
Proudest moment:	Winning Busa in 50m Freestyle in a Kent record at the time, with my parents watching
Sporting Hero:	Past - Daley Thompson Present - Jessica Ennis
Favourite Drink:	Tea or alcoholic - cider
Claim to fame:	Bungee jumped and sky dived in New Zealand
3 words:	Tired, honest, competitive

Name: Sue "Janet" Cramb
Age-group: H
Swimming origins: I learned to swim in the sea in Folkestone and trained for a while in an open air pool full of unheated sea water. I then swam for Folkestone Pool Swimming Club.
Proudest moment: Every occasion I complete open water swims without going wildly off course or running aground!
Sporting Hero: Kriss Akabusi for his determination, enthusiasm and spirit, especially when he ran the anchor leg in the 4x400m relay in the 1992 Athletic World Championships, taking over in second place and beating the Americans.
Favourite Drink: A really good cappuccino. Closely followed by a G&T made with Bombay Sapphire gin.
Fun fact: Bob and I met at the swimming pool in Folkestone and have known each other for 47 years!!!
3 words: Mummy, foodie, wrinkly

Name: Robert "Bob" Cramb
Age-group: H
Swimming origins: Falkirk Otter (and Folkestone Swimming Club!) My coach was David McGregor and the star of the club was his son Bobby McGregor. I joined Warrender Baths Club when I went to university and one of my club mates amongst some very talented other swimmers was David Wilkie.
Proudest moment: Receiving the Men's Trophy at the British University Swimming Championships as Captain of Edinburgh University Swimming Team
Sporting Hero: I enjoy Formula 1 motor racing and saw a lot of the stars in the 70's but the real star was Jackie Stewart. Not only was he quick but he campaigned for proper driving safety, which makes it the safe spectacle it is today. And he was completely approachable and prepared to talk to his fans.
Favourite Drink: Good white wine of any grape variety!!! And in small quantities especially on Burns Night I like a peaty smokey malt.
Fun fact: I have a private pilot licence (but it is not current!); I would love to fly more but not only is there more regulation but Susan is not comfortable with me flying the plane.
3 words: Scottish, serious, sonsie.