

BIRMINGHAM MASTERS

January 2015 Newsletter

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

Coach's message

Hi all...A great start to 2015 when BMSC won back the Shrewsbury Masters Trophy... and congratulations to Keith - 2 British records - 100m IM and 100m Fly (by an amazing 10 seconds!) - all on his 75th birthday!

So as we move forward in 2015 towards Midland Masters...I hope that we can have record entries for this meet? It's always a great weekend for the team.

On to training, as always if you can get an extra session in, that's always good. Equally keeping the sessions going that you come to. The sessions are well attended at the moment, with Friday being the lowest, so if you have a Friday evening spare, then come down. Like wise if there is any way I can change sessions to suit your needs, feel free to talk to me...

All the best for 2015...

IAN

Annual clubs' subs

Annual club subs are once again due. Rather than handing out letters, Keith is sending emails to all current members, giving the details for renewal online. Please look out for his email, and contact Keith (keith.ingram99@yahoo.co.uk) if you have any queries. Formerly, all members would sign each year to confirm whether they are happy for photos/videos being taken, used for stroke analysis, and their image appearing on the club website, etc. As the renewal process is now being conducted online, it will be assumed that your wishes are unchanged, from last year / when you joined. If you wish to change your instructions in this matter, please contact Keith.

KE Pool Closures and Parking restrictions

Swimming sessions on the following dates have been cancelled by the school:

- Friday 23rd January - School event
- Friday 30th January - School event

Parking on school site

The danger from high winds damaging the Fives Courts roof has now passed and we are allowed to use the Parade Ground for parking once more.

However some members prefer to park on the main drive. Please note there is no parking permitted on the main drive on the following date (however parking on the parade ground by the pool is still permitted):

- Wednesday 21st January

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)

Forthcoming Meets

The Club is targeting the following meets next year and urge members to enter. We will seek to put together relay teams as well. If you are entering one of these meets, please inform our team captains Katie Walker-Stabeler (katiwalkersta@hotmail.co.uk) and Mark Pitts (markpitts13@gmail.com), who will arrange relays if there are enough swimmers available.

Staffordshire (Stafford) - Saturday 21st March 2015

Closing date: 1st March 2015

Website for entries: <http://www.swimming.org/asa/calendar/staffordshire-masters-seniors-open-meet-2015>

BMSC members often take part in this meet, although in the past it has taken place in Wolverhampton Central Baths. Note that this year it has moved to Stafford.

Gloucester (Gloucester) - Sunday 19th April 2015

Closing date: 14th March 2015

Website for entries: www.gloucestermasters.com

BMSC won the team trophy last year - let's get a good team going and retain the silverware!

Midlands Championships (Leamington Spa) - Friday 15th to Sunday 17th May 2015

Closing date: TBC

Website for entries: TBC

This is the biggest meet in the calendar for BMSC. On the Sunday afternoon, we always have a drink in the pub followed by a late lunch / early dinner. Highly recommended.

British Long Course Championships (Manchester) - Friday 12th to Sunday 14th
June 2015

Closing date: TBC

Website for entries: TBC

Keith Ingram is competing in these championships and reports that getting convenient, inexpensive accommodation can be difficult. He recommends the Luther King House. Car parking is free and the cost of accommodation is very reasonable. They have double and twin rooms with en-suite for £101.37 for two nights and that can be less if people opt for shared bathroom facilities. A triple room with shared facilities is £104.50 for two nights (less than £35 each).

National Short Course Championships (Sheffield) - Friday 23rd to Sunday 25th
October 2015

Closing date: TBC

Website for entries: TBC

Another major event for BMSC swimmers. Accommodation is co-ordinated centrally - further details to come in the summer.

Open Water:

Windermere Relay Swim - We're not sure whether Diana is recommending this event, or warning everybody off. Ask her for further details
(diana.steele@talk21.com)

Severn Mile Swim (Shrewsbury) - August 2015

Closing date: TBC

Website for entries: <http://severnmileswim.moonfruit.com/#>

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/.

Twitter

Birmingham Masters is now on Twitter!

Go to <https://twitter.com/birminghammast1> to find out the latest news about the club. You don't need to have a Twitter account to see this page, though if you do join, you can have the latest updates sent directly to your smart phone.

Christmas Party

Another fabulous Xmas dinner and disco took place at Edgbaston Golf Club on 29th November. Huge thanks to everyone involved in organising the event. They are already busy booking the venue for Xmas 2015.

A highlight of the evening was the annual awards. Here is a list of this year's awards...

Best male swim - Mick Marshall
Best female swim - Katie Walker-Stabeler
Club member of the year - Steve Langford
Most committed member - Jim Hunt
Swimmer of the year - Judy Wilson

We would like to build records of the awards presented over previous years. If you have any information on who won what in the past, please email Harriet Undery - harrymoss@yahoo.com

Kit sales

Jim has now sourced shorts, ideal with wearing over costumes at swimming galas. A sample should appear on the poolside in the next few days, along with an order form. Please take a look - they should complement our new team t-shirts perfectly. Jim will also soon be putting in an order for personalised hats. If you are interested, please fill in the order form on the poolside and give the money to Jim.

Speak to Jim for further details, and for all your kit requirements:

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!

T30

Thank you and well done to everyone who took part in the T30 Challenge. Keith is now putting together winning relay teams out of the swimmers who entered their results online. Hopefully the club will have some impressive results to report!

Whilst it was a windy journey to Shrewsbury the expected early morning rain did not happen and the sun shine during the day brightened up the pool area. All 14 swimmers who entered arrived and swam. This year we entered six relays, winning five and placing 3rd in the other one. This added 54 points to our tally and our overall 300 points was the most that we have ever scored, enabling us to finish 99 points ahead of Loughborough Town. The Trophy is back with us and let us now win the Gloucester Trophy in April also. This was the first time that Piers has swum in a Masters Meet and all of his times were quicker than those entered. This was a first meet for Claire Hotchkiss also and a powerful maximum points performance adds another great addition to our relay squad this season. Joe Marsh missed the 25-29 British Record for the 50m Butterfly by six hundredths of a second. He had an unfortunate DQ in the 100m I.M. for a total submersion at the Back to Breast turn that consigned him to second place overall. I can see him being part of some devastating mixed relays this year. With overall wins for Claire Hotchkiss, Alison Peakman, Caroline Swain, Bob Lord and Keith Ingram, 2nd for Peter Undery and Joe Marsh and 3rd for Steve Langford, Mark Pitts and Harriet Undery, it was a great meet all round. It was especially good to see Bob Lord back swimming after a series of medical issues over the last few years. He will undoubtedly go much faster as the season progresses. In fact all of the squad will go faster once the effects of missed training over Christmas and too much food goes away. I was probably the only one to cheat by putting in some hard work over Christmas in order to get two British records. I owe everyone a big thank you for all of your kind words. A special mention must be made to our two lovely mascots Finley and William. They seemed to enjoy the day as much as we did and were as good as gold.

Meet the Members

Name: Keith Ingram
Age-group: Category L
Swimming origins: I did not learn to swim until our family moved to Brazil when I was eleven. Playing catch at school there, quickly improved speed, running racing dives and getting out of the pool fast. Back in England at Taunton I swam with my School team and the local club and County. I carried on swimming into the late 1960s when family and work commitments brought it to a halt. I ticked over with occasional swimming until I discovered Masters Swimming in 1988 and joined Sparkhill (the origins of Fox Hollies Swimming Club). The masters section became independent and is now our present club. It is hard to believe that I have been involved in Masters Swimming for 26 years.

Proudest moment: Many but two are right up there. In 1958 a young rival was expected to win the Taunton Swimming Club 100 yards Freestyle and explained in my hearing to some of the young girls that he was going to fill the trophy with beer. That was the driving force that propelled me under 60 seconds for the distance. I was completely shattered but beat him to the touch. His disarray when I invited him to fill the trophy for me was amusing. I owe him a debt of gratitude really, because the episode taught me the importance of the race plan that I was driven to devise. Also achieving a 3rd place in the World Masters for 400m I.M. in 2010 was special.

Sporting Hero: Steven Redgrave for his sheer determination, professionalism and dedication to win Gold at five successive Olympics.

Hobbies: Chess, which is really a serious competitive activity that goes back to the time my father (a very good chess player) taught me to play aged 4. I joined Falkirk chess club aged 8 and still compete today in the Birmingham Chess League (Currently Division 1 Individual Champion), I represent the Warwickshire County 1st team and play in the 4 Nations Chess League.

Favourite Drink: Real ale and red wine

Sad fact: My father died when I was away at boarding school and I missed out on a one-to-one adult relationship with him. I was lucky to have an uncle to show me what my right arm was for.

3 words: Planning, competitive, determined

Name: Suzanne "Suzy" Hurst
Age-group: Category D
Swimming origins: Bexley Swimming Club, Sidcup, Kent
Sporting achievement: Winning Busa in 50m Free in a Kent record at the time, with my parents watching.

Sporting Hero: Past - Daley Thompson. Present - Jessica Ennis

Favourite Drink: Tea, cider

Fun fact: Bungee jumped and sky dived in New Zealand.

3 words: Tired! Honest. Competitive.