

# BIRMINGHAM MASTERS

## March 2017 Newsletter

Edited by Steve Langford ([steve.p.langford@gmail.com](mailto:steve.p.langford@gmail.com))

### Forthcoming Meets

The online entry is now open for the Midlands Masters Championships, this year taking place at the Pingles Leisure Centre in Nuneaton. This is the biggest meet of the year for Birmingham Masters swimmers. We will be entering relay teams, so once you have decided on which day(s) you're attending, please let Keith Ingram ([keith.ingram99@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:keith.ingram99@yahoo.co.uk)) or Katie Walker-Stabeler ([katiwalkersta@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:katiwalkersta@hotmail.co.uk)) know, so they can work out the relay teams. We will also be organising a meal on the Sunday late afternoon - further details to follow.

**Midlands Masters (Nuneaton) - Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2017**

Closing date: 1<sup>st</sup> May 2017

Website for entries:

<http://www.midlandchampionships.org.uk/entry/masters17/index.htm>

### Other Club Targeted Meets:

**Gloucester (Gloucester) - Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2017**

Closing date: 26<sup>th</sup> March 2017 - you've missed it!

Website for entries: [www.gloucestermasters.com](http://www.gloucestermasters.com)

**Midlands Open Water (to be confirmed) - to be confirmed - probably in July**

**Severn Mile Open Water (Shrewsbury) - to be confirmed - probably August**

**National Short Course Championships (Sheffield) - Friday 27<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

Further details: <http://www.swimming.org/asa/calendar/asa-national-masters-championships-25m-2017>

**South Yorkshire (Sheffield) - Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2017**

Closing date: 31<sup>st</sup> October 2017

Website for entries: <http://www.swimming.org/asa/calendar/south-yorkshire-open-masters-2017>

## Other meets of interest:

**British Long Course Championships (Aberdeen)** - Friday 16<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 18<sup>th</sup>  
June 2017

**ASA National Open Water Festival (Rother Valley Country Park, Sheffield)**  
- Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> July 2017

**Fina World Masters Championships (Budapest, Hungary)** - Monday 7<sup>th</sup> to  
Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> August 2017

**Arfon meet (North Wales)** - to be confirmed - usually October

**Etwall Eagles Meet (Derby)** - to be confirmed - usually late November

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/](http://www.bldsa.org.uk/) and there are further details on the "Great Swim" series of events at [www.greatswim.org/](http://www.greatswim.org/).

## Reminder of session times

Current sessions:

Tuesday	20.30-21.30	KES Boys' pool
Wednesday	21.00-22.00	Munrow Pool, at University of Birmingham
Thursday	20.45-21.45	Harborne Pool
Saturday	08.30-10.00	KES Boys' pool
Sunday	17.00-18.30	KES Boys' pool
(6 hours pool time)		

The sessions at the Munrow and Harborne pools are not coached. Schedules will be distributed via email in advance.

We currently have no opening date for the new University pool. They have promised us a month's notice, and we've heard nothing yet. When those sessions are up and running:

Tuesday	20.30-21.30	KES Boys' pool
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>18.15-19.30</b>	<b>New Birmingham Uni pool @ 25m</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>20.15-21.30</b>	<b>New Birmingham Uni pool @ 50m</b>
Saturday	08.30-09.30	KES Boys' pool
Sunday	17.00-18.30	KES Boys' pool
(6 hours pool time)		

### Welcoming a new committee member

BMSC is a members' club, run by its members. The committee is elected at the AGM and we are always looking for fresh ideas and people keen to get involved. A new addition to the team is Caroline Saxon, our Open Water Captain. Learn more about her in our 'Meet the Members' section at the end of this newsletter.

As our illustrious - even legendary - Chair, Sue Cramb, carries through with her threat to step down from the position, we are currently looking to move around the various roles on the committee - so if you are interested in helping out, it really doesn't take up much time and adds an extra dimension to being part of your club. Just speak to any committee member (mug shots on the notice board) for further details.

### Congratulations - a new Undery!

The Masters team of the 2040s continues to grow, as Pete and Harry Undery announce the arrival of Edward Arthur Undery, on 18<sup>th</sup> February, weighing 6lb 9oz.

### Kit sales

Jim will be putting together an order for club hats in the near future, so this is the time to get one personalised with your name on it. Speak to Jim or look out for an order form on the poolside in the next few days.

Indeed Jim is able to order all manner of kit, with the club logo emblazoned upon it. If you can imagine it, he can probably source it! Please speak to Jim for all your kit requirements. Email Jim with your request, he will email back with prices and details of the Club bank account, to which you should transfer the money. When the funds have cleared, Jim will order the kit, usually delivery time less than a week. Contact Jim at:

[jim.p.hunt@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:jim.p.hunt@birmingham.gov.uk)

### Kindly sponsored by PTL

A huge thank you to our sponsors - Portable Toilets Ltd - who have been supporting the club for over four years now. If you are in need of a portaloos, these are the people to see, and don't forget to mention that you heard of them thanks to Birmingham Masters!

<http://www.portabletoiletslimited.com>



During the week of 30<sup>th</sup> June to the 8<sup>th</sup> July I will be swimming the English Channel. I am very aware that some of the Birmingham Masters Swim Club members will still know me but many will be new to the Club - which I miss by the way! Anyway, having lived all my life in Solihull and then started swimming with Birmingham Masters Swimming Club since I was 31 (Lucy, my daughter was then only 1 year old!) I moved to Taunton some 11-ish years ago to live and work in the South West.

Many will remember the days Lucy used to firstly be taken out in the pram by the then coach, Eric's wife (Glenys) for a walk to the shops and back whilst I could have a sneaky Saturday morning swim. Lucy then graduated to being able to sit on the side and crayon whilst I swam - much to the amusement of the club swimmers and coach! Well she is now 19 years old and would rather be in the water than crayoning for sure! With work I was still able to meet the club on a Thursday night but gradually my work changed and now I only work in the South West so unfortunately do not get to catch up with many of the club members...although it looks like the Christmas do's are still a success!

I mainly swim with the Triathlon club here and also in the sea at Branscombe, Lyme Regis, Seaton. I am also lucky enough to live seven miles from Wiveliscombe Lido which opens again in May so that is always something to look forward to... it's like going back 25 years... wooden dressing rooms - cold shower unless the sun has heated the solar panel, but we do now have an automatic cover for the pool - progress indeed. I have made many new friends here, one to mention was Grant Butler (49) who lived in a village just up the road called Milverton. He was a very good friend to us, sometimes taking Lucy swimming for us whilst we drove directly to Taunton from work... usually late to meet them all at swimming. Unfortunately Grant passed away in his sleep last April due to an electrical failure in his heart, leaving an 8 month old boy Rufus, Kittie who is 6 years old and Melissa his loving wife.

When I decided that swimming the English Channel was the ultimate swim I wanted to achieve some two years ago, I embarked on the arduous training regime and the registration to take part. When my friends and colleagues found out about this event they insisted I swam it for a charity. After much consideration I decided upon the death of Grant that I should swim for **Cardiac Risk in the Young**. This charity help with bereavement support for affected families, support young people with heart

conditions, fast track testing for other family members who might be at risk and research in to understanding sudden death.

I am fully up to speed with training both on land and in the pool and am strangely looking forward to the actual event. In the next three weeks I am taking part in a swim camp in Menorca which is with the King of the Channel Swimmer Kevin Murphy and his crew. This will involve some six, eight and ten hour swims in the sea.

So I hope you found this little note interesting and I would like to thank any of you who decide to sponsor me and to thank those of you who already have. I do have a just giving page which is...

<http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/LorraineAyres>.

I would also like to say that I do miss you at Birmingham Masters and still think fondly of you all. I remember we did have some great laughs at the club - even if I never progressed out of the slow lanes!



Thank you.

## Meet the Members

Introducing our new Open Swim Captain...

Name: Caroline "Billy" / "Bird" / "Crazy fish" Saxon

Age-group: Category A

Proudest swimming moment: Winning the Open Water Grand Prix series and being selected for the GB Open Water swim team.

Sporting hero: Karen Pickering - she inspired me to swim when I was growing up and I watched her win the 200m Free at Manchester 2002, around the same time as I was doing the 200m Free at the Nationals.

Favourite drink: G&T.

Fun fact: I am a bit crazy (hence the crazy fish nickname) and I swim all year round in open water without a wetsuit, in temperatures as low as 2 degrees. I also wakeboard through the winter (but in a 5mm).

3 words: I'll sleep later.