

BIRMINGHAM MASTERS

July 2017 Newsletter

Edited for the last time by Steve Langford (steve.p.langford@gmail.com)

Next time, to be edited by Katie Walker-Stabeler

(katiwalkersta@hotmail.co.uk)

AGM news

The club AGM was held at The Plough, Harborne, on 12th July. Adam (from The Plough) had generously supplied the room, delicious pizza and soft drinks, free of charge. In turn, club members made a charitable collection, donating £115 to the Teenage Cancer Trust (a charity actively supported by Adam) and £70 to CRY (Cardiac Risk in the Young), for whom Lorraine Ayres tackled a Cross Channel swim earlier this month.

Sue Cramb opened the meeting with a recap of all the events of another exciting year, and finally was able to report that training sessions had now started in the University pool. She individually thanked each committee member and the Head Coach, for their contributions through the year. Finally she confirmed that she was stepping down from the role of Chair.

Elections took place for committee roles, and there was a great deal of interest in supporting the club in this way, with six new faces coming on board:

Chair:	Steve Langford
Secretary:	Luke Swain
Treasurer:	Ian Parker
Membership secretary:	Alison McKenna
SwimMark coordinator:	Sue Cramb
Welfare officer:	Caroline Swain
Website:	Pete Undery
Kit:	Suzy Hurst, Harriet Undery, Pauline Cooke
Newsletter:	Katie Walker-Stabeler
Coaching Co Coordinator:	Edmund Salt
Social Secretary:	Anna McCall, Sara Gamble, Emma Johnson
Men's Captain:	Carl Halford
Women's Captain:	Katie Walker-Stabeler
Open Water:	Caroline Saxon
Relays:	Keith Ingram
General committee members:	Joanna Cox, Adam Murcott
Independent Examiner:	Terri Halstead

Sue expressed how delighted she was that so many members were stepping forward and that she knows the club is in good hands. Steve expressed the club's huge appreciation for everything that Sue has done for Birmingham Masters over the last nine years, and presented her with a bouquet of flowers.

Session times

Current sessions:

Tuesday	20.30-21.30	KES Boys' pool
Wednesday	18.15-19.30	Birmingham Uni pool @ 25m
Thursday	20.15-21.30	Birmingham Uni pool @ 50m
Saturday	08.30-10.00	KES Boys' pool
Sunday	17.00-18.30	KES Boys' pool

(6½ hours pool time)

The committee recognise that the Thursday sessions, with only two lanes available to us, can be crowded, with a diverse range of swimming ability in each lane. We have asked the University for a third lane in this session, but this is currently not possible. Therefore please be understanding, if you attend this session, that you will be expected to fit in with the pace of the majority of swimmers placed in your lane.

While we await gaining a third lane on Thursdays, we will maintain the extra 30 minutes on Saturday's session. Saturday sessions will run 8:30am to 10am for the foreseeable future.

Please note that trials for new members can only take place in the KES sessions.

There is not the space available for Ian to check the standard of potential members during the Uni sessions, so, even if they only intend to take part in Uni sessions after joining, they will need to make the effort to attend a session at KES for their initial assessment of their swimming standard.

Forthcoming Meets

The next major meet for Birmingham Masters is the Nationals in Sheffield, 27th to 29th October. Qualifying times have been put in place, but, unusually, the organisers are insisting that swimmers have actually achieved those times in a recognised meet within the last two years (i.e. from Sheffield 2015 to date of entry). If you have not competed in a particular stroke/distance during that time, you will simply not be able to enter that event in the Nationals. Therefore you may wish to look closely at the upcoming regional events taking place in September, to get times into the database.

National Short Course Championships (Sheffield) - Friday 27th to Sunday 29th October 2017

Closing date: Noon, Friday 6th October 2017

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

Pauline is again arranging hotel accommodation very close to the pool, and a club meal on the Saturday evening. Further details to follow.

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) or Katie Walker-Stabeler (katiwalkersta@hotmail.co.uk) know, so they can work out the relay teams.

Other Club Targeted Meets:

1st Shropshire County Masters Championship (Wolverhampton) - Sunday 10th September 2017

Closing date: 25th August 2017

Website for entries: <http://www.swimming.org/calendar/all/1st-county-masters-championships-open-meet/>

South Yorkshire (Sheffield) - Sunday 19th November 2017

Closing date: 31st October 2017

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

Other meets of interest:

ASA National Open Water Festival (Rother Valley Country Park, Sheffield) - Sunday 30th July 2017

Fina World Masters Championships (Budapest, Hungary) - Monday 7th to Sunday 20th August 2017

Barnet Cophall Sprint meet (Hendon, London) - Sunday 3rd September 2017

Closing date: 22nd August 2017

Website for entries:

<http://www.swimming.org/calendar/all/barnet-cophall-masters-sprint-meet/>

Leicestershire Championships and Open Meet (Leicester) - Sunday 24th September 2017

Closing date: 7th September 2017

Website for entries: <http://www.leicestershireasa.org/masters>

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

Etwall Eagles Meet (Derby) - Saturday 25th November 2017

Closing date: 31st October 2017

Website for entries:

<http://www.swimming.org/calendar/all/etwall-eagles-master-open-meet-2017/>

Details of meets around the country are available at:

<http://www.swimming.org/calendar/all/?discipline=masters-swimming>

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/.

Xmas do

The new Social Committee of Emma, Sara and Anna have begun organising this year's Christmas do. It's the low-key one this year, so something like a curry, and will take place on Friday 1st December. Please let Emma (emma_weedon@hotmail.com) know if you're likely to come, partners too, so that an estimate of numbers for a provisional booking can be made.

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>

Meet the Members

The Crambs are the embodiment of the community spirit of Masters swimming, and their welcoming, relaxing, cheerful manner brighten up poolside, changing room and committee meetings. Here's the lowdown on this very special couple...

Name: Sue "Granny Hippo" Cramb
Age-group: Category H
Swimming origins: Folkestone SC
Proudest swimming moment: Winning a set of glasses at a South East Kent swimming gala for 55 yards Breaststroke, aged 12. My step-mother is still using them!
Sporting hero: Jo Pavey.
Favourite drink: An Australian Shiraz.
Fun fact: I met Bob in Folkestone swimming pool 50 years ago!
3 words: Procrastinator, party-lover, practical.

Name: Robert "Bob" Cramb
Age-group: Category H
Swimming origins: Bathgate Amateur Swimming Club
Proudest swimming moment: As Captain of Edinburgh University swimming team, collecting the men's team trophy at British Universities in 1975.
Sporting hero: Jackie Stewart.
Favourite drink: New Zealand Sauvignon Blanc.
Fun fact: I flew to the air show at Yeovilton and was told to hurry up and land because the Red Arrows were held up because I was so slow!
3 words: Scottish, serious, practical.