

July 2009

Dear Club Member,

We are reaching the time of year for Club memberships to be renewed and for training fees to be reviewed. You will recall that I reported that the club had made a loss in the last financial year and that I predicted a loss for the current year. This has proved to be the case and has arisen for a number of reasons: the closure of Leisure@ for 12 months, the consequent drop in our numbers and the substantial increase in pool hire fees charged by Leisure@. Training fees were last increased in September 2006 since then the cost of hiring the main pool at Leisure@ has increased from £51.72 per hour to £70.86 per hour. We anticipate a further substantial increase in April 2010 and although we have cut back on some pool hire, are implementing changes in our squad structure to maximise pool space and actively promoting the club to try and increase numbers there is no alternative but for us to increase training fees this year. However we are still substantially less expensive than other clubs in the area and the increase in fees will enable us to set a break even budget for the year ending August 2010

Membership

Membership renewal for all swimmers and parents is due on 1st September 2009 and will cover the period to the end of August 2010. As we have done for the last few years you will be issued with an annual membership card which **must be shown at the reception desk in order to gain access to the pool**. This will apply to both swimmers and parents. Failure to produce your membership card could result in refused entry and you may have to pay to enter the pool even if this is for collecting your child/children at the end of the session. Cards will not be issued until membership renewal subscriptions have been paid.

The ASA require that all parents attending a session or entering any pool hired by the Club are members. We therefore ask that you pay your annual membership accordingly. This is required for insurance purposes and is a requirement of the ASA insurance under which the Club operates.

We will again be running a desk at Leisure@ Cheltenham during September on Tuesday and Thursday evenings where you will be able to pay your membership and collect your new card. This will start on Tuesday 8th September from 7 pm to 9 pm and finish on Thursday 1st October. We will also be making the same facility available at Dean Close on the last two Wednesdays in September (23rd and 30th) between 7 pm and 8 pm St Edwards on Sunday 27th and Leisure@ on Sundays (13th and 20th). In addition I am likely to be at the lido on Sunday mornings until summer swimming finishes and also at St Edwards on Mondays. Alternatively you can renew your membership using the membership renewal form enclosed with this letter and forward your cheque to me. We will then issue your membership cards accordingly.

Club members sometimes ask what the membership subscription is for. Most of the money that you pay goes in affiliation fees to the ASA, County and regional associations. We still await confirmation of the fees for the next year but currently for a competitive swimmer the ASA fees are £24.50 and for a parent or official the fees are £...the balance goes towards the costs of administration for the club

The subscriptions due in September will be as follows

▪ Swimmer/competitor	£30
▪ 2 nd and subsequent swimmer/competitor	£25.00
▪ Each parent/official	£12
▪ Vice Presidents	£35

Student – Swimmers (aged under 23) away at university will now have to pay an annual amount of £100, which will include membership subscription (£30) and training fees for the year (£70), to be paid in one lump sum when the membership is renewed. This will allow them to swim as often as they wish when they are back home in Cheltenham during holidays.

Training fees

The increase in fees set out below should give us a break even position, assuming that numbers stay around the same and the increases in pool hire are within expectation. However, in order to maximise pool time and to preserve the competitive edge of the club we will be rearranging our squad structure. Our Chair Julie Hughes will be issuing a newsletter on this and there will be notices on the Board.

Just to remind you, each swimmer/child requires a separate standing order mandate and on each mandate the reference must be the swimmer's Club number and their surname with their first initial. This is essential for administration and checking of payments. Standing order mandates are enclosed pre-populated with your club reference **it is essential that this reference is used** as without it we are unable to identify the payment with you. If you are unsure of your Club number then please ask. (However, you should find it on your Club membership – not ASA – card). Mandate forms will be available on the desk.

Training fees from 1st September 2009 are as follows

• 1 swim per week	£17 per month
• 2 swims per week	£30 per month
• 3 swims per week	£40 per month
• 4+ swims per week	£50 per month

Please make sure you change your standing order using the correct reference in time for the September payment. In order to help with the administration we require all standing orders be paid by the 15th of the month.

If you wish to pay by cheque for training fees then we require you pay for the full 12-month period on 1st September 2009 or alternatively change to a standing order. This

will help to reduce the ever-increasing amount of paperwork and administration being done by our willing volunteers.

Ensuring that you are paying the correct level of training fees for the number of sessions you attend will help in keeping rates at a more affordable level for everyone. Being honest with this is in your best interest. There are still some members who are under-paying training fees by paying at 2005/6 rates or not paying for the correct number of swims. This is unfair to other members and although non-payers are chased for payment it is an unnecessary burden on our already overstretched administration team. We are still in the process of updating our data base so if your details have changed or if you are unsure whether we have your mobile phone number and email address please download a form UPD from the club website and return it with your membership renewal.

Hopefully the above is self-explanatory, but if there is anything that you are unsure of then please do not hesitate to contact me on 01242 680457, or email me at david.berry347@btinternet.com, or alternatively please ask at the desk in September.

Yours sincerely

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