

BIRMINGHAM MASTERS

August 2008 Newsletter

Compiled by Andy Wilson

Pool closures

Please remember that there will be no training on Saturday 23 August, Sunday 24 August, and Tuesday 26 August.

The year's big social event

This year 2008 is the tenth anniversary of Birmingham Masters Swimming, and to celebrate this all members are invited to a barbecue at Sue and Bob Cramb's house on Saturday 13 September from 5pm until 10pm.

Members are invited to come along with partners and families. Barbecue items will be provided, but contributions of salads or puddings and a bottle would be appreciated.

Please see the notice on poolside at training sessions.

Treasurer's reflections

Thanks to our new Treasurer Ian Parker for the following piece reminding us of the treasurer's and the committee's responsibility for the good management of the club's finances

For the last eight years, the club's finances have been under the very capable stewardship of Rebecca Smith and, at the AGM in May she took a deserved break and formally handed over the treasurer's role to me. Therefore I thought it would be useful to contribute to the newsletter by giving you some idea of how the club's finances are managed.

As far as the finances are concerned, the club's policy is that our members' fees cover all expenditure, thus avoiding fund-raising events which most of us have neither the time nor the inclination to support. Our philosophy is to try to break even on our core activity of swimming training (essentially covering pool hire and coaching), leaving the annual subscription to cover such things as incidental expenses, relay entries, contribution to social events and the provision of liquidity to cover timing differences between our bank deposits and our bills.

The committee has overall governance of the finances and seeks to strike the right balance between income and expenditure, under the guidance of the treasurer. This dictates where the annual subscriptions, coaching expenditure and training fees are pitched and the committee has done an excellent job in holding these down for a number of years, despite rising costs elsewhere which have, so far, been absorbed.

As well as paying the bills and approving expenditure, the treasurer's role is also to anticipate and plan the finances for the coming year, ensuring we have enough to cover our commitments. To give you some idea of basic costs, an analysis of the three months since the start of the financial year shows an average training week bringing in £252 in fees to cover pool hire of £238 and coaching expenses. As you can see, this means we are currently some £50 light each week on our core activity, which is higher than the last financial year as we appear to be a little down on our income while our pool hire costs are up. Of course, attendance numbers ebb and flow but my

job is to try to project income and expenditure to facilitate the decision-making to keep the club solvent, taking into account existing monies as well as our usual incomings and outgoings.

The treasurer's report is a standing agenda item at each committee meeting; the next one being on 9 September, when, as usual, our financing will be discussed and any appropriate decisions taken.

National Masters Championships

The ASA National Masters and Seniors (19-24) championships will be held at Sheffield on 24-26 October. Entry forms are available from the British Swimming (www.britishswimming.org) website and from the poolside as well. Please try to print your own entry form as the actual full pack is rather on the large side. Details of accommodation were in the last Newsletter – please inform Pauline Cooke of your accommodation and Saturday dining requirements.

I hope that most members will pay at least a visit to Ponds Forge to participate in this event, as it is the focus of all of our training during the year. Keith will as usual be putting together our relays, so please respond positively to requests for information regarding your taking part.

Congratulations

Congratulations and best wishes go to John Allen and Kim Winwood on the birth of their son Oscar Jonah on 19 July. Parents and 7lb 7 oz Oscar all doing well.