

# BIRMINGHAM MASTERS

## February 2010 Newsletter

Edited by Bob Cramb

### Sad news to begin the year

As you will be aware from my previous email we have heard of the recent passing of Pauline Brand. Outside swimming Pauline was founder of Solihull's Union Theatre. She set up the drama troupe in 1977 directed many productions and built up a popular ensemble. In addition she with her husband John was involved in the Scout & Guide movement and helped to run the Christ Church youth club. Pauline was in competition as recently as last September in the European Masters championships and her recent illness and untimely death was unexpected to us all.

Pauline's funeral will be on Wednesday 17 February 2pm at Christ Church, Warwick Road in Solihull. The church is opposite to the Beatties department store.

### Competition

A reminder to all that we have up and coming targeted meets. They may seem far away at present but these events creep up on us and catch us out, so to remind all:

Gloucester Masters open Meet; Gloucester 11 April (Closing date 6 March)

<http://asa.sportcentric.net/db/calendar/view.php?id=4032>

Midlands Masters; Leamington Spa 23-25 April (Closing date 26 March)

<http://www.icklepeoplesoftware.co.uk/meets/2010form.pdf>

On these days the pool at KE will not be available for training so please make a note if you are not going to compete you will not be able to swim on **11, and 23-25 April.**

And if you are going to compete at these events, please let Keith know so that relay entries can be made.

## **K-2 Long course meet: John Tennant reports**

During the last weekend in January Keith and I, along with Ellie Walls, representing the Royal Navy, took part in the first UK meet to be held under the new regulations regarding swimwear and we were interested to hear a new announcement not previously heard at swimming competition: 'In heat.....the swimmer in lane.....was disqualified for wearing an ineligible costume'. And on at least three occasions!

On the first day we all managed to medal but Keith and I were particularly disappointed with our times. The outstanding swim came from Ellie in the 200m breaststroke where her long controlled stroke decimated the field in her heat with a time of 3min 28.15secs, 11 seconds faster than Keith. Keith managed to hold some honour by beating her 100m time!

Over 400 competitors, including British, European and World record holders at masters' events failed to produce any records apart from swims by Judy Hattle of Carlisle who had aged up this year until the penultimate event, the 200m backstroke when John Harrison (95 - 99 age group) managed to break his own world record. John has never been a bodysuit wearer. Over a very good meal with excellent wine on the Saturday evening Keith calculated that the lack of bodysuits was costing at least 2 seconds per 100m. We had some consolation in that we recognised that the percentage increase in times in some of the record holders was greater than the percentage increase that we experienced! So mentally fortified we approached day 2 with the view on winning our events rather than worry about the times.

The event was very well organised by Geoff Stokes, with first rate facilities, only missing a swim down pool. It made a first rate replacement for the Rotherham long course meet normally held in Sheffield at this time of year, and is a meet to be recommended for future years. A very good local hotel was offering special deals for swimmers taking part which added to the attraction.

## **And finally Jimmy Spices**

If you have not talked to Harriet about this well publicised event be ready to explain. If you do want to go please let Harriet know by Monday evening (yes I know it's soon!). Address and web site <http://www.jimmispices.co.uk/> and timing check with Harriet NOW! We gather that there is one special non-attendeo that day! More information on this non attendance next month