

BIRMINGHAM MASTERS

November 2010 Newsletter

Edited by Bob Cramb (bob.cramb@blueyonder.co.uk)

Where did the time go?

Well suddenly we are in November and although there is that nice warm feeling that "the masters championships have been and gone and it's time to relax"....well unfortunately before Christmas (yes Christmas is just round the corner according to the television) we have a couple of important dates and these are:

- The end of season dinner-dance 27 November (*less than 2 weeks!!*).
- The T-30 scheduled for 5 December and 12 December.

So if you have not contacted Harriet about the dinner please please contact her ASAP. Please look out for the details of the T-30 and enter on the date that suits you best. Training sessions are geared for the T-30 and if you enter the club will pay your entry fee and all that you have to pay is for the swim that night!

Dates to remember

Already emailed about this but another reminder.

Tuesday 16 November - Pool closed for maintenance of the extractor system (2 day job apparently taking in Monday and Tuesday!)

Wednesday 17th November, Parents Meeting

Tuesday 30th November, Parents Meeting

On both of these evenings there is no parking on the main school drive, please park at:

1. sports hall
2. parking bays leading up the Chief Master's drive
3. playing field off Bristol Road (please remember although it may look like the gate is closed, it is not)

ASA Short Course Masters; Sheffield 29 - 31 October reported by Keith Ingram

Birmingham Masters were represented by a big squad of 33 to Sheffield this year and contested 106 individual and 29 relay events. The results this year put the 2009 meet in the shade and were as follows:

Individual results

- 19 gold (10 in 2009)
- 8 silver (4 in 2009)
- 5 bronze (8 in 2009)

Relays results

- 6 gold (1 in 2009)
- 8 silver (2 in 2009)
- 2 bronze (5 in 2009).

The male 4 x 200 metre 280-319 freestyle relay team of Alan Jackson, Arthur Lowe, Mick Marshall and John Tenant stole the show with a new World, European and British record of 11:31:11. The 4x100 metre 280-319 freestyle team of Keith Ingram, Arthur Lowe, Mick Marshall and John Tennant also set records with a European and British record of 5:04:35.

Our star of the meet was Arthur Lowe who won all 6 of his freestyle events breaking the British Record for the 1500 and 800 metre distances. Other Birmingham swimmers with multiple wins were Alison Peakman and Keith Ingram winning 4 events each, Alison winning 3 backstroke events and the 400 IM and Keith in all three breaststroke events and the 200 IM. Next up was Hayley Bettinson winning three 50 metre events in freestyle, butterfly and backstroke.

All of these bald facts above do not do justice to the complete squad. Good entry times were regularly lowered by almost everyone and credit must go to the superb preparation delivered by the coaching team of Andrew and Ed that really paid off in delivering very good results all round. Collectively the performances were responsible for the medals that we achieved with our team entries and the buzz derived from close races produced wonderful individual performances.

This year, the large increase in relay events threatened to be a nightmare but our thanks to all of our swimmers responding promptly to the initial questionnaire that allowed Alison, Pauline and me to have a smooth trouble free selection and running of the teams. A big thank especially to Alison for co-ordinating the younger swimmers and devising the teams early on. Pauline

was ever present on the pool side to chase us all up and ensure that every team entered swam.

We made a successful case for some sponsorship this year and it is pleasing to see that we have delivered a terrific result.

Pool problems and redevelopment at KE

It has been an up and down performance on quality assurance in the pool. We have seen crystal clear water that stripped hair off and murky and a highly chlorinated pool that provokes respiratory problems. John has been in constant contact with the school and there is recognition of these difficulties with 2 weeks of hire credited to our account. We do hope that the school can sort out these problems and there is at least a start with the humidifiers ready for repair!

Committee Posts

Yes this was in the last newsletter but repeated again

The swimming committee needs another member. This is to fill the post of a "Funding awareness officer". This is someone who will look for lines of funding from the club as advertised through sporting organisations or local councils or multinationals. Yes there is funding out there and we need a serious organiser who will look to see if we can subsidise ourselves more. Contact the chairman suecramb@hotmail.com or approach directly!

We would also like to pursue the idea that we look actively for funding. Birmingham sports council paid our mandatory entry fee for Sheffield this year. Is there anyone who would be willing to look for these types of funding opportunity? Clearly the committee would prefer to have a volunteer to seek funding but we may have to push this from the committee if necessary. If you think you are the right person (your job may mean that you access this type of data automatically; do think about it) please contact any of the committee members (our photographs are on the notice board now!) or contact the chairman directly suecramb@hotmail.com .

T-shirts

Our little black number at Sheffield was a real hit and so easy to spot on the pool side. For those desperate to feel part of the crew there are 3 left (only 3) so if you are interested in one you need to get your skates on and let Jim/Pauline know. Cost £7.00; it's a bargain!

More open water swimming: Lorraine Ayres

Firstly your editor with apologies; I forgot to put this in 2 newsletters ago but was gently reminded....!

Lorraine writes: Back in January the thought of swimming a 4.6 mile swim round Brownsea Island sounded a little bit exotic...but where the hell is it? Brownsea Island is off sandbanks by Poole and is owned by the national trust (http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/main/w-vh/w-visits/w-findaplace/w-brownsea_island/).

Well time flies by and before I knew what was happening on 25 July I found myself along with Stuart and some of our friends on the ferry from Sandbanks (laid on especially for swimmers in the event) on a 7.30am crossing over to Brownsea! Unlike my nerves, the sea crossing was calm and after walking through the beautiful courtyard of the castle leased by The John Lewis Partnership we were on a private area of beach used for marshalling the race where we changed and headed into the sea.

Some swimmers chose not to wear wetsuits but as I had already filled in the entry form (back in January) stating that wetsuit swimming was my preference and thank goodness for some foresight.

I am positive that the view around the island is very pretty but in an open sea swim you can imagine that I really did not see much of it! In all honesty I did not see much of anything even having problems spotting the turning buoys etc. but eventually I made it round in 1:44:45. As always it is a great feeling of accomplishment to finish a sea swim but there are times when the tide is unhelpful and I am sure that I spotted a crab overtaking me on the sea bed!!

This was a very good day and all of those that participated had a great time; some lovely soup was served to the competitors and then the sun came out! So the million dollar question is "would do it again?" My answer definitely yes, but

then it is not that far for me to drive but is a tad further from Birmingham though! If this has whetted your appetite visit the RLSS lifeguard site to see the event this year (could not quite spot myself!) and note that 199 took part and the same number finished.

<http://www.rlss-poole.org.uk/brownsea.htm>

The date set for next year is 31 July 2011 and entry forms will be available in February. And for those interested, 2 more open water swimming events to take your fancy (they all make your toes curl when you think of cold water):

<http://www.greatswim.org/Events/British-Gas-Great-East-Swim/Default.aspx>

And the Cold water swimming championships @ Tooting Bec Lido

http://www.slsc.org.uk/index.php?page_id=54

End of season dinner: speak to Harriet ASAP!!

The date of the end of season (Christmas themed) dinner to be held on Saturday 27 November @ Edgbaston Golf Club. Pool side details but women will have their frocks ordered so men get the dinner suits in for the annual dry-clean!

And finally....

Laura does an amazing job with the website and keeps it up-to-date, so please please ensure that you look at it from time-to-time. Even with her efforts we can get locked in with our current views so if you have some suggestions or photographs or something else that would help to make it special (Just look at this Irish Masters site www.nacmasters.com to see what can be done).