



December 2011 Newsletter

1) Annual General Meeting

We held our AGM at the Lonsdale Club on the 8th November 2011. It was a poorly attended meeting despite being extensively advertised with only a few new faces and the usual volunteers attending. We are a club with over 450 swimmers and approximately 750 members, to have 30 people attending an AGM most of whom give up their time as coaches, teachers, poolside helpers or committee members is not very good. The committee for this year was selected and can be seen on the website. We do however still have two positions vacant, a) media and b) fund raiser. We have made great strides with local media outlets including the Lancashire Evening Post and we are looking for somebody to take on the role from Myles Kitcher who has done a brilliant job over the past couple of years. Myles will be happy to assist anybody interested in taking on this role. It is not arduous. We also require somebody who is willing to take on the role of fundraiser. As a large club we need to make the most of every opportunity to obtain income from sources other than fees for example sponsorship and grants. We also urgently require a female welfare officer. If anybody is interested in helping your club in either of the two areas above please contact me on pete@masonhouse.co.uk.

2) Fees

Over the past 3 years the cost of pool hire to the club has increased by £25,000. This has been caused in the main by a large increase in the amount of pool time acquired by the club and also an increase in the hourly cost of hiring the pool. Whilst the additional pool time is a must for a club like ours it obviously brings with it the need to increase our income. Our fees have not kept pace with the increase and over the past 2 years we have been relying on both reserves and grants to cover the cost. During the 2010/2011 financial year the club ran at a loss of £9,000 and we are now in a position where we have used our savings and grants are few and far between. In order to cover our costs the committee have decided on the following increases in fees for 2012 taking effect from the beginning of February 2012:-

- 1) Teaching: from £16 per month to £18
- 2) Pre MDS: from £16 per month to £20
- 3) MDS: from £22 per month to £26
- 4) Sprint Squad: from £28 per month to £30
- 5) A Squad: from £35 per month to £42 (this includes land training costs)
- 6) B Squad: from £31 per month to £35
- 7) C Squad: from £26 per month to £28
- 8) Performance Squad: from £80 per month to £84
- 9) Water Polo Junior: from £15 per month to £17
- 10) Water Polo Senior: from £20 per month to £22 per month

As in previous years, a family with three children swimming within the squads and learn to swim will pay 50% of the lowest fee for the third child. Children who are paying squad fees and also participating in Water Polo will pay 50% of the Water Polo fee. NB: Any additional pool time obtained will have to be covered by an increase in fees for whichever squad it affects.

In setting the increases outlined above, the committee have researched local and national clubs' pricing, reviewed our outgoings for 2012, worked hard with the council to set our pool hire fees and looked at numerous funding streams. Despite the increases, which have been kept to a minimum and will be used to cover pool hire, coaching and training costs, we are one of the cheapest clubs in the area and nationally. The coaching, teaching and assistance our swimmers receive is far higher than at other clubs and I believe is great value for money.

The above cost increase has not been affected by our merger with Gallica. The £25,000 increase in pool hire costs and £9,000 operating loss was arrived at prior to our merger.

3) Membership Fees

Membership fees for 2012/13 will remain the same. Each member must pay the ASA, Regional and area membership fees. The fees are set by the three committees and we have to pay them. In addition we as a club have to pay membership fees to register the club. The individual membership fee within PSC cover the club fees and the coaches/teachers fees as they are volunteers and give up their time free to teach your children. The fees for 2012 are shown below:-

Category 1: £24 - In the main covers swimmers in Teaching

Category 2: £34 - Squad swimmers and water polo players

Category 3: £17 - Non swimmers

4) Club Championships

The Club Championships were on the 25th and 27th November at West View. Participation of swimmers was up on 2010, which was great to see and we were visited on the Sunday by the Mayor of Preston Councillor Roberta Cartwright, who left us with a very high opinion of the club and all we do for our swimmers. She was very impressed with the level of swimming and the commitment of our volunteers. I too was amazed at the quality of our swimmers - a total of 42 new club records were set over the two days which is a phenomenal result and is further evidence that our teachers and coaches are providing first class tuition to our swimmers.

We also tried our new timing system for the first time with great results. I would like to thank all the volunteers for making this a very well run event.

5) Presentation Evening

The Presentation Evening has been booked at the University of Central Lancashire Foster Building for Saturday the 18th February 2012 – with a prompt start of 7 pm. Tickets will be priced at £5 per Adult, £3 per child or a family ticket of 2 adults and 3 or over children (all their own) will be £18

6) Preston Swimming Club Level 3 Gala

PSC has for some time been contemplating holding our own Level 3 Gala. Now as a result of superb work by Karen Kinder, PSC will be holding its inaugural Level 3 Swimming Gala at Darwen Baths in June 2012. This is a great achievement especially so in the year of the Preston Guild, European Capital of Sport and the Olympics, well done Karen!

7) Success

As I write this newsletter we await to see if we have been successful in reaching the Arena National Swimming Finals. On Sunday 11th December - we were narrowly second (4 points) to the City of Liverpool in the Regional Final. We beat far bigger clubs for example City of Salford and Stockport and now wait to see if our points tally is sufficient to get us into the final. This has been a very successful year to date with the club winning several high profile events and individual swimmers achieving National and International recognition.

8) Hub Club

PSC has been awarded the prestigious accolade of a HUB Club. This means that children with disabilities will attend a PSC swimming session led by Julie Jackson and be graded into their disability swimming category. They will then be signposted to a suitable swimming club for lessons or coaching. Julie has been responsible for obtaining this accolade for PSC so my thanks go to her, well done.

9) Sponsorship

Forbes Solicitors have once again agreed to sponsor the club for 2012/13. They provide several different legal services details of which can be obtained via our website. In addition they will reduce the cost to members of PSC. Can you ensure when using their services that you tell them you are a member of PSC. Ambulant Physiotherapy Ltd offer 10% discount to all PSC members too.

Thank you all for your continued support.

Peter Mason
Chairman