

CAMP HILL EDWARDIANS SWIMMING CLUB - NOTICE TO MEMBERSHIP

6th December 2013

ALTERATION TO CLUB STRUCTURE

Camp Hill Edwardians Swimming Club (CHESC) has for many years had an active and successful Masters Section... this is for those swimmers over the age of 18 years that wish to continue participating in competitive swimming.

The Masters section of the club operates differently to the 'Junior-Senior' (J-S) section as this caters for the more regulated and progressive instructional needs of those under the age of 18 years.

With a resurgent interest in J-S swimming generally and in particular with the recent league promotion attained by our junior swimmers, we feel it is time to run the two sections of the Club separately in order to focus on and respond to their differing requirements effectively.

At an organisational level there will be some change, but only of a beneficial nature in that there will be two separate committees that will work in parallel to see that the differing interests and needs of the two Club sections are best served. This is to ensure that the best opportunities are provided for all our swimmers irrespective of their age or ambitions.

In the near future, it is proposed that the J-S section will compete under the name Camp Hill Swimming Club (CHSC) deliberately ensuring that the connection of the two club sections is clearly maintained. In practical terms and within the swimming world at large, the name "Camp Hill Swimming Club" has been the traditional description of our club for many years and is synonymous with both our Masters and Junior-Senior swimmers, so in this respect there will be no perceived difference at a wider level.

We are currently in communication with the ASA to receive approval for the inception of CHSC and hope that this can become authorised with effect from 1st January 2014. Their initial views have been positive and the Nuneaton Junior League officials happily confirmed their agreement to what they consider to be just a simple name-change which would not affect our recent league promotion... adding that they have always referred to us as "Camp Hill Swimming Club" anyway.

In accordance with our Club Constitution, for a change to the organisational structure of the Club of this kind, including the inception of an additional club name, we are required to hold a Special General Meeting (SGM) of members where approval will be sought through a simple voting process. It is optional, but all paid-up ASA members of CHESC are invited to join the committee at this meeting and you are entitled to vote if you are 16 years of age or over. Please note that parents cannot vote on behalf of their children and can only vote themselves if they are fully paid-up ASA members of CHESC.

Resolution: The resolution will be...

"To create an additional swimming club named Camp Hill Swimming Club (CHSC) and to offer members of Camp Hill Edwardians Swimming Club (CHESC) the opportunity to join Camp Hill Swimming Club".

If you will be attending the SGM, please can you make this known in advance by using the following email address... committee@chesc.org.uk. Please use the Subject title "**SGM Attendance**" on your email and advise the names of the members who will be coming... this is so that correct numbers of people can be accommodated.

I have attached a list of questions and answers that hopefully cover the main questions that might be in people's minds, but please feel free to submit any other queries you may have by email as detailed below. Please do not disturb or delay normal coaching activities on poolside during training sessions in this regard.

Please use the following email address if you have any unanswered questions and use the Subject title "**SGM question**" so we can forward your email to the correct respondent for attention... committee@chesc.org.uk.

In the meantime, it's "business as usual" and I would like to take the opportunity to offer everyone my best wishes for the forthcoming Christmas season and a very happy, healthy and successful 2014.

Mike Le Resche

Chairman (Camp Hill Edwardians Swimming Club)

ALTERATION TO CLUB STRUCTURE - Q&A's...

Q. Who can attend the Special General Meeting?

A. Only fully paid-up ASA members of Camp Hill Edwardians Swimming Club. Children who are members can be heard, but will not be entitled to vote until they have attained the age of 16 years. Parents cannot vote on behalf of their children, but they can attend and vote if they are paid-up ASA members of the club in their own right.

Q. In what ways are the needs of the Masters section different to the J-S section?

A. Masters swimmers need less supervision and prescribed technical instruction and choose to learn at their own pace. They tend to agree amongst themselves which Meets they intend to race at and are not routinely involved in any competitive swimming leagues. Attendance at training is mainly left for them to decide and only limited training sessions are provided for their use each week. Training instruction is of good quality, but less individually focussed and more general interpretation is accepted. They do not have the same need for raising club funds and they provide their own transport. There is less ASA focus on expected development progression and consequently less pressure on club resources and the committee itself. The Masters committee will generally be made up of experienced ex-swimmers who "know the ropes" and who know that in the main, their members will organise themselves... as a consequence there will be less call on their time and less focus on the sometimes fast-moving and new developments that impact upon J-S swimmers.

Q. How will having a separate Committee for the J-S section provide benefits?

A. This new committee will largely be made up of people currently involved in J-S swimming, possibly with their own children participating. From inception, it will be led by long-serving club members/coaching staff with considerable experience of competitive swimming and an excellent understanding of current ASA requirements. The committee will be more in tune with the swimmers and the needs of the different age groups. They will be highly motivated due to this connection and more imaginative. They will be more understanding and tolerant of the needs of the younger swimmers and very aware of the responsibilities that exist when caring for the needs of young people. They will have the enthusiasm associated within taking on new responsibilities in the current era. They will embrace change and understand new developments within the swimming arena as they impact upon young people at the current time... current technical developments, social media, regulations, team management, leagues, competition organisation, child welfare etc. They will actively help with raising funds for the clubs future needs and this resource will now be entirely for the use of the J-S section where expenditure is most needed. In essence, the resources and focus of the new active J-S committee will be entirely focussed on the J-S section and not diluted with responsibilities that cross over to the Masters section where the needs are different and where they can usually look after themselves.

Q. Why is a new name needed for the J-S section of the club?

A. It will provide clarity within the club organisation, allow modernisation and enable the establishment of a new committee without losing the old qualities and heritage of the club. Camp Hill has a long history going back well over 50 years and includes several Olympic and International swimmers under the guidance of the club's founder and principal Gerry Thain, who sadly died earlier this year. Several of the senior members of the club and some of the existing committee participated in the development of this heritage and they are still around to provide a source of experience and reference for the young club swimmers we have today.

We would like to retain the club's history as well as the services of the existing committee as far as this is possible, but also we wish to provide the opportunity for a new freshly-invigorated committee to embrace the future needs of the club and receive the rightful credit for their efforts, without this being overshadowed by successes of the past. In order to achieve these worthwhile goals and to have an additional committee we would need to have a new club name for ASA affiliation purposes.

Q. Will I be forced to cancel my current CHESC club membership and join the new club?

A. No. You will not be forced to switch. We are not allowed to force anyone to switch clubs, but clearly it is in the interests of all swimmers under the age of 18 years of age to take full advantage of the facilities and resources that will be provided by the new club. CHSC will be delivering a training regime that will be more focussed and in tune with the needs of people in this age range.

Q. Will I have to complete a new membership application to join the new club (CHSC)?

A. Yes. New membership forms would be required. The process would however be assisted as much as possible by our current club secretary.

Q. Will this change to Club structure involve increased membership or training costs?

A. No. This organisational change is unrelated to any costs or overhead issues as no additional costs would be incurred administratively due to the change. The re-structuring is purely for the purpose of seeing that our committees are in tune with their own audiences and focus entirely on the differing needs of their club memberships. Balancing club funding with overheads is a separate issue that is monitored closely and the membership are advised separately when changes to fees are necessary.

Q. Will I have to purchase new swimming kit if I join CHSC?

A. No, not at the present time. At some point over the forthcoming months we may address the issue of swimming kit, but at present we feel the alteration to the name is so insignificant that we don't perceive a good reason for incurring additional costs, nor can we see any reason why we can't continue to compete exactly as we are. The very small name-change (dropping "Edwardians") would make little or no difference to how we are perceived in the wider swimming world, so we intend to continue competing exactly as before.

NB. Parents will not be pressurised to buy new kit as a consequence of this change and any future changes to kit would be allowed to take place when old kit has worn out, or justifies replacement for other reasons.

Q. Will our name change on the website?

A. No, not at the present time. At some point over the forthcoming months we will however be looking at improving our communication via the website and at that point we may introduce some subtle changes to the presentation of CHSC to the larger audience.

Q. Will our Logo change?

A. No, not at the present time. At some point over the forthcoming months we will probably look at this and if there is sufficient merit in a change we will look at effective ways of introducing this to the membership. If a change occurs we would look at this along the same lines as introducing new swimming kit, so it coincides with natural replacement times.

Q. As a current Parent, Coach, Official or Committee Member, which Club would I be a member of?

A. If helping in ANY capacity you would need to be a registered member of the club you are assisting. If you are working with either club, it would be an ASA requirement to be a member of that club in order to carry out your responsibilities.

Q. Can I join either Club whatever my age?

A. Yes. You can join either club or both clubs. In reality, you would be advised to make an informed choice based upon your objectives and the different services the two clubs provide, but there will be no barriers to membership of either club on the basis of age or for any other reason.