

Welcome to the 2009 spring edition of the club newsletter.

This edition concentrates solely on the proposed closure of the training pool by the Borough Council and also has information about the Summer Champs...

I hope by now that you are all aware that the Borough Council have decided to close the training pool at the end of May. The effect on the club being we will now only have the use of the leisure pool, which we will have to share with the general public and various other activities.

This is not an ideal situation and we have been in discussions with the pool and council to get the best possible use of pool time available to us.

This also means that we have had to rework the Squads and training times. The Sunday lessons are mainly not effected there being only a slight change.

For more detailed information please read inside.

Thank you

Peter Hockerston

Club Chairman

As you will be aware from information in the local press the Council are making severe cuts to the facilities at the Geoff Moulder Leisure Complex. As a Club we have had several meetings with Councillors and the Pool Management to try and get the best deal for the club. I have tried to summarise the position below so that you are all aware of the facts of what has happened over the past few months and what the changes will mean to the club.

### **Background information**

Boston Borough Council is very short of money with very little reserves to fall back on. The Pool Complex is, we are advised, costing around £800,000 a year. The Council have decided that this cost must be reduced by 2 measures - firstly by closing one of the pools and secondly by making the complex more efficient.

- The original plan by the Council – (by Council I mean the ruling party of the Boston Borough Council, the Boston Bypass Independents, who have used their majority to get all the following passed) was to close the Leisure Pool from 1/4/09 and use the Training Pool until such time as the Leisure Pool was refurbished. However there was no planned start date for the work- the closure was purely down to cost saving. When the refurbishment was completed the Training Pool would be demolished and the land used as additional car parking.
- The Leisure Pool refurbishment would include the following –
  - removal of the flume, putting in a lower false ceiling,
  - building a small pool where the existing Flume Splash pool and baby pool are with a 2m moveable floor (the maximum size this could be we believe is around 15m by 5m),
  - making the ladies changing room into a changing village and the men's into 2 separate changing rooms.

However, following a consultation with the pool staff it was suggested that:-

- both pools remained open until 1/6/09 – to give the pool 2 months to cover already planned events – (the swimathon is the only event I am aware of) and to enable an amended programme to be agreed with the Schools, ourselves and other users.
- The Training Pool would be closed and all users would use the Leisure Pool.
- As and when the refurbishment started all users would move back and share the Training Pool, which could be as early as October 2009.
- When the refurbishment was nearly completed both pools would need to be shut for the final works and the demolition of the Training Pool
- This is what was agreed by the Council at its Budget setting meeting on March 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Therefore with effect from 1/6/09 the Training Pool will be closed and all users will have to share the Leisure Pool.**

## **Squads, Training times and costs**

Following a number of meetings with the Council and Pool Management we have now agreed the times that we will be able to use the Pool from 1/6/09 and as you might expect there is a large reduction in the time available. We will have the full use of the pool every morning in the week but in the evening we will be mainly limited to having 2 and 3 lanes and only having the whole pool after 9.00pm. At the weekend we have lost our day time Sunday sessions and instead have the whole pool from 4.00pm – 8.30pm, and on a Saturday we will have the whole pool from 7.00am to 8.00am and then 2 lanes for one hour 8.00am – 9.00am.

As our amount of Pool time has reduced quite significantly we have had to have a long look at the training squads and the pool space available – as you cannot easily move 5 lanes into 2 or 3. We have therefore agreed to amend our squad structure slightly so that all squads are of a similar size and we hopefully will not have to have swimmers having to pre-book all the sessions they will go to.

- We are lowering the minimum age on Seniors to 13.
- Introducing a new squad called Development which will fit in between Future and Performance.
- This will mean that the County Squad will be disbanded.
- Information regarding who will be in which squad will be communicated to all members by Mid May.
- The New Training Schedule is at the back of this newsletter.

Obviously the next important aspect of the changes is **what will it cost** us, the club, and you, the swimmers?

At present we pay the pool in the region of £30,000 per year for our usual pool hire. This cost was negotiated around 5 years ago when we agreed a fixed quarterly charge. This amount has increased each year by between 3 & 5% to take inflation into account. Another part of our agreement was that we received discount on our pool hire of 46.5% a figure that we have received for a good number of years (the £30k we pay is with the 46.5% discount already deducted).

Following the agreement of our hours we received another piece of bad news – the new cost would be in the region of £39000 per year for the new shared times in the leisure pool- so not only are we having our training time reduced by around a third but our fees are being increased by 25%! Another urgent meeting was held with Councillor Dungworth (portfolio holder for Sport) and the Complex manager and they confirmed the charges were correct and were not going to be changed; our long standing discount has gone at a stroke. We even advised the Council that such an increase would mean we may have to fold the club as the new pool charges would mean a big increase in our fees, which in view of the reduced training time would be unacceptable to our members. They were unmoved by this stance. The original charges they quoted will stand. However it has been agreed that until the end of our financial year (August 31<sup>st</sup>) our quarterly pool bill will remain the same as we have been paying this year with a 3% increase for inflation (the Council financial year

starts on 1<sup>st</sup> April and fees usually increase then). We have also had a look at our pool usage on the revised times throughout the year to obtain a more accurate charge as we do not use the pool the same every week due to Bank Holidays etc but it is still in excess of £35000. Unfortunately this will mean that we will have no option but to increase squad fees from September 2009, and the present fees will have to remain the same for the rest of this financial year.

Whilst we appreciate that this is not what you want to hear we have no choice as the Council are unable/unwilling to reduce their fees.

### **What happens next?**

The Training Pool will close on June 1<sup>st</sup>, we must try and do all we can to ensure it is kept open after the Leisure Pool has been refurbished and not demolished by

- talking to the Council and using the media and
- possibly a petition,
- there are other organisations who also use the Training Pool and we shall try to all work with them to achieve this.

We will be having some meetings within the club to go over any questions you may have, expand on the above information and to discuss any ideas you may have to try and keep the Training Pool. The dates for the meetings will be posted on the notice board and on the web site as soon as they are arranged but we can confirm they will be in May.

We also appreciate that you may feel that as a Committee we have not kept you informed as to what has been going on.-however we decided that we would only advise you of the facts once we had agreed the training times and the fees so that you had the full picture.

### **Summer Champs**

One immediate effect this will have on the Club is that we will no longer be able to have the whole pool on a Sunday for our Summer Club Championships, these will now be held on Saturday July 4<sup>th</sup> and Sunday July 5<sup>th</sup> in the Leisure Pool with a 4.30pm warm up – all squad training and lessons will be cancelled on July 5<sup>th</sup>.

### **Sunday lessons**

As far as the Sunday Lessons are concerned the only change for them will be with the times, **the main Leisure Pool Lessons will now be held at 4.00pm and 4.30pm – all groups will move BACK 30 minutes, the lessons in the Baby Pool (which we presently use from 3.30pm-5.30pm) will now be from 4.00pm – 6.00pm so all groups will move FORWARD 30 minutes.**

If this causes any problems then please speak to the teachers as they may be able to move your lesson time.

## Training Times with effect from 1/6/09

Day	Start	End	Squad	Lanes
Monday	5.45	7.15	Perf/Seniors/Develop	7
	16.30	17.30	Future	2
	17.30	19.00	Performance	3
	19.00	20.00	Seniors	3
	21.00	22.00	Master	7
Tuesday	5.15	7.15	Backstoke morning	7
	16.30	17.30	Development	2
	17.30	19.00	Performance	3
	19.00	20.00	Seniors	3
	20.10	20.55	Weights	
Wednesday	21.00	22.00	Masters	7
	5.45	7.15	Perf/Seniors/Develop	7
	16.30	17.30	Juniors	2
	17.30	18.30	Future	3
	18.30	20.00	Seniors	3
Thursday	5.15	7.15	Fly/Breast Morning	7
	16.30	17.30	Development	2
	17.30	19.00	Performance	3
	19.00	20.00	Seniors	3
	20.10	20.55	Weights	
Friday	21.00	22.00	Masters	7
	5.45	7.15	Perf/Seniors/Develop	7
	17.00	18.00	Per/Senior/Dev/Future	7
Saturday	18.15	19.15	Gym	
	7.00	8.00	Future/Development	7
Sunday	8.00	9.00	Juniors	2
	16.00	17.00	Lessons	7
	17.05	17.55	Silver/Juniors/Perf	7
	17.55	19.00	Future/Develop/Perf	7
	19.00	20.00	Seniors/Masters	7
	20.00	20.30	Adult Lessons	7