



★ Swimming ★ Masters ★ Water Polo ★ Synchro ★ Disability ★

To all members of the Birmingham City Council (BCC) Advanced Swimming Coaching Scheme (ASCS), and City of Birmingham Swimming Club (COB SC).

A meeting took place on 24 May 2011 with Steve Hollingworth, Assistant Director-Sport and Events, at the request of the club. Lesley Hill, Regional Director ASA WMR was also present. The purpose was primarily to address with BCC a report from Carl Grosvenor suggesting that pool time funding had been reduced from the start of the current financial year. The opportunity was also taken to discuss progress on 'commissioning' (COB SC to assume responsibility for the ASCS). Following is a brief resume of the resulting agenda, and agreement reached which has since been acknowledged in writing:-

- 1) BCC have confirmed their continuing commitment to the ASCS.
- 2) The strategic objective of BCC to commission a 3rd party to assume responsibility for the ASCS has not changed, however the focus as to who that should be has now moved in favour of Birmingham University. BCC now wish to explore the possibility of the ASCS & University squad merging to form a *Birmingham Elite Squad*. BCC have made an initial overture to the Director of Sport at the University, and received a favourable response. Formal discussions are expected to get under way in the next 2-3 weeks; and your club will have a key involvement in these. BCC have set a target date for 'commissioning'; as the end of the current financial year (31 March 2012).
- 3) The coaching team will continue and will be retained throughout this period; or 'until such time as a new structure is agreed with the University'. Where necessary BCC will extend any fixed term employment contract as appropriate.
- 4) BCC have confirmed that there is to be no reduction (compared to 2010/2011) in pool time hours allocated to ASCS. No future reduction is planned, moreover it is expected that ASCS will have a presence at the new Harborne facility due to open early next year.
- 5) BCC have agreed to continue to provide COB SC with the hire of Stechford pool for our annual 4-day Easter Open Meet, at no charge; and for the 'foreseeable future'

The proposed tie-up with Birmingham University has the potential for considerable benefit to both squads, such as access to additional facilities both existing and proposed; also to professional support services that the club could not provide. It would fit well with work on the wider aquatic strategy for the city, that Lesley Hill is working on with BCC; and on various projects that Carl has been discussing with the University including access to their sports science department. COB SC Management Committee met on 29 May, and agreed to add their support for this new initiative; to that already expressed by ASA WMR and by Carl also.

On 29 May the Management Committee also approved funding support of £5K towards the 2011 Nationals, and £1.2K towards the visit to 2011 Scottish Nationals; following a financially very successful 2011 Open Meet. Running the annual open meet is what the club does best, but its continued viability and therefore its ability to provide significant funding support for the ASCS; is entirely dependent on volunteers. For 2012 we know already of the need for someone, (preferably the parent of a swimmer in the development squad so as to provide continuity over time); to step up to the plate and volunteer to act as Event Promoter. The composition of our Swimming Committee is a key component in the planning and delivery of the annual open meet; and we do desperately need new blood to come forward. Please can I ask you all to give some serious thought to this; as demands for financial support from the club are certain to increase in these budget conscious times?

In conclusion I'm sure we can now look forward to the future with more confidence and less uncertainty than in the recent past. To everybody, good luck in the upcoming Regional & National competitions.

D. F. Corbett

Chairman
03 June 2011