

Parents information evening summary

Buckley Amateur Swimming Club is a “not for profit” organisation. We strive to keep membership fees to a minimum while ensuring all outgoings are covered.

We are always keen to hear about fundraising opportunities or sponsorship for the club. Currently we have been sponsored by Honey’s Bakery and café in Hope. If you know of any grant opportunities or work for a company who would be interested in sponsorship, please speak to a member of the committee.

Fundraising and grants have helped support the club in the past to fund things such as:

- Coaching qualifications and coach development to support all swimmers.
- Equipment such as fins, lane ropes, Starting blocks, kick boards and pull bouys.
- Coaches and volunteers club t-shirts.
- Medals and trophies for our club championships and a presentation evening venue.

Gala entry process

There are a range of galas on our racing calendar. We encourage all swimmers to get involved in racing and attending galas.

When entering a gala you can choose which events to enter and enter as many or as few as you wish. We would advise you speak with your swimmers coach for advice as to which events to enter if you are unsure.

Level 3 galas are open to all swimmers age 9 and over – these are a good opportunity to race and get times in different events.

Level 2 and level 1 galas will have qualification times that a swimmer must have achieved in a level 3 gala in order to enter each particular event.

When we receive information about a gala we will advertise this through the club WhatsApp group. There will be a meet pack containing information about the gala and the timetable of events.

If you wish to enter your swimmer you need to email buckleygala@outlook.com before the stated deadline and be sure to include swimmers name and which events they would like to enter (stroke and distance).

We then compile the entry for the whole club and send to the event organisers. Once The organisers have confirmed our entries, we will notify you again via the whatsapp group to let you know that the gala fees can be paid into the Buckley swimming club account. The club then makes one payment for all swimmers.

On Gala day

Swimmers are looked after on poolside by the coaches and team managers. The club sits together in our allocated space on the poolside. Team managers will ensure that swimmers go up for their races at the right time. The older swimmers are very good at supporting the

younger swimmers too and will accompany them through the marshalling process to help alleviate and nerves.

Swimmers are allowed to come out of the pool area to see parents/carers in the spectator area as long as they let their coaches know, but parents/carers are not to enter the changing rooms or poolside area during a gala due to safeguarding rules.

Swimmers should ensure that they have the following items with them on poolside:

- Extra towel to dry off between races
- T-shirt and shorts to put on between races
- Food, snacks and drinks – not fizzy drinks please. Food can be eaten poolside or swimmers can come out of the pool area to meet parents for lunch.
- Goggles
- Swim cap (if they wear one).

A lot of galas use an app called MeetMobile where you can view results. Results are also usually displayed on a wall in the spectator area.

Volunteers

Apart from our head coach, George, all the other coaches, committee members, team managers and officials are volunteers.

We are always looking for people to help in volunteer roles at the club.

We are particularly keen to hear from any parents/carers who would be interested the following roles:

- Becoming a swimming official (timekeeper) at galas – this does not require any experience or prior knowledge of swimming. It involves an online training course that can be done in your own time then, once completed, you will shadow other officials at galas until you feel confident to be signed off. The benefits include – free entry to the gala, poolside view of your swimmer racing, makes the day go quicker, less uncomfortable than sitting in a crowded viewing gallery and sometimes you get lunch provided, travel expenses paid, bottle of wine or a box of chocolates!
- Support to update and maintain the website – our website has not been updated for quite some time. If you have any technical knowledge to help us with this it would be much appreciated.
- Join the committee – you do not need to jump straight into a designated committee role, we are keen for parents to get involved with the committee to see what we do and to ensure succession as many of our current committee have older swimmers who will be moving on to college, university or employment before too long.
- Fundraising support – as mentioned above, if you are able to support in fundraising in anyway please let us know.

Swim Kit

We have a fin loan scheme at the club where you can pay a deposit for a set of fins and kit bag. The swimmer keeps the fins until they need a bigger size when they can return them and exchange them for the next size.

When the swimmer decides to leave the club the fins are returned to the club and the deposit returned.

Pull Bouys and Kick boards are kept at the swimming pool and available for all swimmers during training sessions as required.

Clothing

Our swimmers kit is available from our supplier Zapkam. Visit the club shop at www.zapkam.com for more information.

Club swim caps are available to buy at £5 each from George or Nerys (membership secretary).