

7 May 2009

Dear all,

BECKENHAM OPEN 2009 - FINAL LETTER

The weekend is finally here, and the centre is indeed open! Thank you for bringing your swimmer(s), and for believing with us at Beckenham, that the centre would open in time. We all hope you and your swimmers have not only a good time, but also a very successful one.

Swine Flu

Some schools have been closed as a precautionary measure because of swine flu. I must therefore ask that if any of your swimmers are in such schools, and the meets falls within the school's quarantine period, that you please do not bring them. If you are in that position, please send me proof of the quarantine, and I will gladly refund your fees.

'Part' Programmes

Some of you have already noticed that the swimmer information of our programmes for the meet are on our website (www.BeckenhamSwimmingClub.com) for your advance information. Paper versions will be available to purchase at the meet @ £2.00 for each day.

Crystal Palace

Pool Temperature & Pumps

There were reports of this being too high last weekend, but the centre is working on bringing it down to c. 27.5 degrees C for us. All the pool pumps will be turned off for the racing (but not for the warm-ups).

Blocks

The blocks are novel, and for some, might require adjustment. To forestall any 'moving at the start' DQs, it might be a good idea for the swimmers who start with a track start, and who want to make full use of the blocks, to find out which setting is best for them. Once they know this, they can set the blocks to suit them whilst they are waiting to get on to the blocks. We don't have much time in the meet to allow for this, so I am suggesting the following:

- that the girls familiarise themselves with the blocks during the boys warm-up, and vice-versa. ***Such familiarisation will therefore clearly not involve diving into the water, but will only involve getting into the best start position,***
- that there be a Coach to supervise this, as otherwise, it will take too much time, and stop others from getting familiar, and may even cause damage to the blocks,
- that all 16 blocks be used until the sprinting during the warm-ups, when the sprinting lane blocks will need to be vacated,

Please note that during the sprinting part of the warm-ups, the sprinting lane blocks will be adjusted to the last adjustment (so they can be used as normal blocks) and then no adjustments will be allowed - so that the warm-up time can be used efficiently.

Lastly, on the subject of the blocks, please advise your swimmers not to wipe the blocks with their hands. These blocks will not be slippery at all, and may not therefore need to be wiped. If for psychological reasons, they must be, mopping them with a towel might be best, as the blocks are rather rough, and some swimmers did cut their hands on them last weekend.

Entry Fees

These are £3.00/session (excluding a programme), or £6.00/day (including a programme). Please do not take your wrist bands off, or you will be asked to pay for the session that you are watching. People without Coach passes will not be allowed on the pool concourse.

Car Park Fees

These may be in force @ £5.00/car/day. They were not last weekend.

Catering

The caterers will be in with good options for swimmers. They do a lovely fruit 'cup' for £1.00, as they also do a fresh yoghurt with fruit (in case you wondered, no, Beckenham won't get any commission!).

Coach Passes

Packs will be available for collection on entry via reception. Room G3 will be used. It is advised that all valuables be locked in a 20p non-refundable coin operated locker.

Lockers

It is advised that all valuables be locked in a 20p non-refundable coin operated locker. Please advise your swimmers to bring a coin.

Queries

I must ask your indulgence particularly for Session 1. I have tried my best to accommodate as many swims as possible in order to satisfy most swimmers. The downside of this, is that if the meet is to run to time, there must be no delays.

As such, I will not be in a position to accommodate any requests which should have been dealt with before the meet - e.g. changes that will require a swimmer to be re-entered like where a girl has been entered as a boy, or vice versa; but let's hope there are none of these.

Signing In

Please remind the swimmers to sign in. If they miss the signing deadline, I suspect their chances of swimming will be c. 2%. Please also use the visual aids on the wall where the scoreboard is, to remind your swimmers of when to report to the marshals, so that they don't miss their race(s).

Other Matters

If you have any 9 year olds swimming, please tell them to report to the medals table before they leave – we have miniature 'shields' for them; to mark what we assume will be their first LC meet, and to acknowledge their 'can do' attitude 😊.

Please also let us know of any birthdays over the weekend, and also of any NQTs achieved.

My first and second letters are on our website for your ease of reference.

I look forward to seeing you/your swimmers at the weekend.

Yours faithfully,

Patricia Ogunfeibo
Meet Secretary
Beckenham SC