

Important Information Please Read - BSC Back to the Pool - Plans, Updates and Actions

We do hope everyone is safe and sound and looking forward to returning back to the pool.

During this lockdown, we have continued to work on a number of activities in the background. I wanted to update everyone on where we are and some short, medium and long term plans.

Appreciate the following is a long email, but there is a lot to update you with.

Tasks Prior to Restart

1. **Funding/Grants Team** – We urgently need 2 or 3 people to work together to help resurrect the Funding/grant team, please let me know if you can spare some time to do this.
 - o Why do we need this? We believe once we start back and based upon the current numbers still remaining within the club, our expenses will supersede our income and potentially within 6 to 8 months we could be in financial difficulty. Additionally, we are expecting Everyone Active in April to increase pool fees in line with their agreement with the council.
 - o To mitigate this, we will be restarting monthly trials and we will need later in the year, parent help to run a couple of school's galas to talent scout. Increasing membership numbers is a priority if we want to keep fees at a reasonable level.
2. **Covid Lead for Red Squad** – we need someone urgently please from the Red Squad to step forward and help the existing Covid Leads with a couple of hours a week to organise CLO's for the Red Squad, please let me know if you can help.
3. **Volunteers** – as always, we are still short of administrative volunteers who want to take the various roles forward, without people stepping forward we are going to continue struggling in running the club, so please look on our website to find roles you can do, or drop me a line.

Stage 1 of 3rd Lockdown Restart – Back in the Pool from 12th April

4. **Pool providers** – we have started discussions with our providers, we are awaiting them to confirm schedules, but we believe it will be the same as the previous "Covid Schedule".
5. **Back in the pool for under 18's** – our intention is to resurrect the last Covid training schedule and continue with this until potentially 21st June. Swimmer allocation to these "Covid" sessions will also be the same. We are also looking to run the early morning Friday am session, so if anyone wants to attend, please let me know.
6. **Adults (18+) swimmers** – as it stands, we are not officially allowed to have adults swim from this date, however our plan is again to initiate a "private public" swim session where the pool providers are prepared to work with us. Please note, if you were not 18 as of 31st August 20, you are currently classified as being under 18 and therefore can swim with our usual sessions. Once we confirm our plans with the pool providers, we will send out a separate email explaining to the 18's and over how we intend to provide adult swimming from 12th April.
7. **CLOs** – with the assumption that we start back on the 12th April, we need to start allocating CLO's to the sessions. **Without a CLO at every session, we can't run the training session.** The Covid Leads will very shortly start talking to each Squad for volunteer CLO's. Please note, all CLO's need to be Swim England (SE) Category 3 registered, so we must have names by 29th March to give Jo a fighting chance to register you.

8. **Land Training** – Ben has been doing a great job with the Land Training ably assisted by Geoff. Our intention is to continue these but as Ben goes back to work, we are going to have to review how and when we do these.

Engaging Swimmers

9. Upon our return, SE initially outlined that they will not restart Level X until swimmers had some training and conditioning under their belts (Cat 2 registration required to officially register times in Rankings). However, as most clubs only registered swimmers this year initially as Category 1 to keep costs down, SE have now outlined that they are likely to now start Level X from 12th April and run until 23rd July (we anticipate that this may be extended as licensed Open Meets may not occur until later in the year). We await confirmation.
10. The restart provides us an ideal opportunity to do the following;
 - o Instigate small fun competitions during training sessions during this Covid period to reinvigorate swimmers and develop and empower others into competitive swimming.
 - o We will also run Level X races for all members (registering only those who are Cat2 registered) but tie all times into a rolling “Club Night competition” where we will measure improvements over a few weeks and reward swimmers with a small prize for those who have improved the most during these periods. We are also looking to use these times to have competitions between the daily-coloured squad sessions i.e. all coloured squads against their peers.
 - o As lockdown reduces, we may also look to parents to help with these small competitions.

Stage 2 of 3rd Lockdown Restart – 21st June

11. **Back to normality** – on this date we believe currently that we can look to bring the whole club back together and instigate a “normal training schedule”. These schedules will change as we confirm the lanes we get back, vs the members. As we get nearer to this time, we will publish a revised “normal schedule”.
12. **Assessments** – assuming we return to normal on 21st June, we will be looking to try and run an Assessment week prior to the school holidays, ready for the new season.

What does the Future Hold?

As I have outlined previously, any club that stands still, does not survive. To achieve growth and development we need to do all of the following;

13. Competitive & Keep Fit swimming – currently the club caters for both types of swimmers who just want to keep fit as well as those who want to be competitive and allow transition between these two areas. Fundamentally we are a competitive club, but we are discussing possible plans to provide more of a distinct keep fit section/sessions. Once we have discussed this further with Committee and Coaches, we will discuss with members and you will be invited to a virtual meeting for your input and ideas.
14. Collaboration and or merging with other clubs - SE have made it very clear Herts has too many clubs and we are actively looking at where we can move the club forward over the next few years, either with further collaboration and or merging with another club(s).
15. Diversification – Open Water Swimming, Triathlon etc as new club functions
 - o We have tried to get this off the ground, to achieve this, we need people to help set these up and develop them. We need volunteers please to step forward to develop the activity in line

with the direction of the club. If you have an interest in helping to set this up, please let me know.

16. 2024 (in theory) we will have access to a Herts Aquatics 50m pool, this will not have a major impact to us, but will allow our serious competition swimmers to have access to the facilities and exposure to such a pool. I will put up on our News page the information we have so far and the location.
17. New head Coach – we are still actively looking for a new Head Coach. We have had some CV's, but from the limited number who responded, we have not found the right person, yet. Geoff will continue to be the figure head, supported by our coaches.
18. Trainee Coaches & Officials – we are always looking for parents or senior swimmers (16+) for us to subsidise their education as a coach, again please let us know if you are interested. Officials are always need for the club to compete; a few parents have commenced the Timekeeper/J1 course during lockdown. If you are interested please contact Mark at workforce@berkosc.org.uk.

All of the specific details about our return can be found on our website www.berkosc.org.uk select **Information** followed by **Spring Term Back to the Pool** from the top menu. We will update as time goes by and the pool providers confirm our sessions.

Any queries please let me know and please check your Training Schedules carefully on the website.

Steve