

Firstly, thank you to those who completed the survey and Annual Reregistration, both of these are mandatory prior to anyone getting in the pool.

We will try and capture the questions and concerns raised in the survey below by outlining how at present we know the process will work. The main caveat here is that things will change as time goes by, so please keep an eye for emails, Teamfeed and social media updates. Additionally, things will change fast and we will need quick responses from you.

We now have a date everyone is aiming for, but a lot of work to do first. BSC and the pool providers now have a lot of work to do so please bear with us.

Q1) What are the next steps?

- We have a date by when pools CAN open, this does not mean pools and us will be ready by this date.
- We are beginning to work with our volunteer Covid Leads & Liaisons, our coaches, the Pool Providers and you.
- Once we have all the details and prior to starting, we will be asking you do the following mandatory actions (all of which will require a quick turnaround);
 - i. Complete the Health Survey, which at each session you will be asked if anything has changed.
 - ii. Read and agree to the User Guidance and specific pool processes which will be associated to our Codes of Conduct.
- Create updated Risk Assessments specific to Covid for each pool.
- Engage our volunteer Covid Leads and get them to start looking at the specific tasks, now and ongoing.
- Engage our Covid Liaisons and define processes they need to follow at each training session.
- Review our financial situation and ascertain what flexibility we have for additional training sessions.
- Define and introduce the system so that swimmers/parents can book training sessions.
- Communicate all of this to you.
- Etc.
- Announce start date.

Q2) What sessions will be available?

- At present we do not know, so far, we have made contact with Berkhamsted Leisure Centre (BLC) and are some way down the line, and Tring, but its early days and they are now working out their programs. We have heard nothing from Knox Johnston (KJ) and believe the staff are on furlough until August.
- It is likely that there will be a Monday evening, Saturday afternoon and usual Sunday evening sessions at BLC. We are investigating morning sessions at BLC.
- Tring (TR) we are looking at a Wednesday evening session which may be allocated to our Masters.

Q3) How many sessions a week will be available?

- As you will appreciate, we do not know yet, we are looking at a minimum of 1 session per week per swimmer for an hour.
- If we can get more sessions, we will make them available based on a top down approach relevant to the groups.

Q4) How many swimmers will be at each session?

- At BLC and KJ we are looking at 24 per session within Swim England (SE) and Pool Providers (PP) constraints, TR to be confirmed.

Q5) Will I have to book a session & how?

- Yes, we are looking to keep “groups of swimmers” within a bubble, so once you book a session you must stick to it, no changes.
- Similarly, to the Annual Reregistration, we will use the same system for you to book your slot.
- Those who don’t restart immediately, we will look at how we can get you back in at a time that suits you.
- Swimmers who do not attend on a regular basis may find their slot being allocated to another swimmer.

Q6) Will I be swimming in the same Group as before?

- In most cases yes, but based on the survey, we have two groups currently that have more than 24 swimmers wanting to come back, so based on bookings, Geoff may be looking to move some swimmers to other vacant slots either up or down your usual Groups.

Q7) Will Land Training Continue?

- At present we have had only one parent volunteer, we are also looking at other options, but in the short term we may have to suspend these for a short period.

Q8) How will the process at the pool work?

- All sessions will start promptly (we have limited times and it’s not fair on others to delay a session), if you are not poolside by the start time, you will be turned away.
- We ask that swimmers turn up at least 15 mins before the start of each session.
- In most cases the gallery or café will not be open, therefore we recommend that parents do not enter the centre.
- Parents (not assuming one of the roles we require) will not be allowed into the changing rooms or poolside.
- All swimmers are to turn up to the session with their costumes under their clothes.
- Where we run two sessions, one after another, there will be a 15-minute slot to clear the previous swimmers from the pool and surrounding areas.
- Social distancing of 2 metres must be adhered to by swimmers and parents at all times.
- BLC – Entrance Process
 - i. We will have a Covid Liaison (CL) volunteer situated outside reception on the left under the canopy.
 - ii. Swimmers/parents will then queue to the left, socially distancing.
 - iii. Each swimmer must register with the CL, if you are not down for that session, you will be turned away.
 - iv. The swimmer will then go in the main entrance (following the Pool one-way signs on the floor) down to the male changing room and go straight through to poolside.
 - v. You will enter poolside and walk round the pool clockwise to the last available “station”. These “stations” will be designated by either a chair or label and will be spread 2 metres apart. For the duration of the session, this will be the swimmer’s “station”.
 - vi. There they disrobe to their costume and wait there until the coach advises that they get into the pool.
- BLC – Exit
 - i. Once the session has been completed, we strongly recommend that swimmers dry themselves down by their station and put on warm clothes.
 - ii. Everyone will then exit via the female changing room.
 - iii. For those who wish to change, there are a small number of changing cubicles in the female changing room where they can do so. Please be aware, these areas are communal to both genders as well as other swimming users and staff, therefore are more at risk of providing a medium for Covid to spread, hence our recommendation. (see later BLC Cleaning Regime)

- iv. Upon exiting the female changing room, swimmers follow the signs to the fire exit at the rear of the leisure centre car park (adjacent to the pitches), where parents can collect their swimmers.
- A strict one-way system is in place throughout BLC, this must be followed by everyone when in the centre, example, if you are able to use the gallery, you will enter via one door at reception and must exist via the rear gallery door which will take you to a fire exit. To get back to reception or toilets, you must follow the one-way system and, in most case, go outside to get back in. Those who do not follow this one-way system, will not be allowed back into the centre.
 - Everyone Active (EA) are planning the programmes for the respective gym, hall & pool sessions so that entry and exit times between these groups are where possible not at the same time.
 - BLC Cleaning Regime
 - i. EA have invested a lot of money to be able to open the centre and adhere to the constraints, these consist of the following;
 - Sanitiser stations all-round the centre, which must be used, especially entering and exiting the premises.
 - Signage depicting the strict one-way system.
 - Devices to sanitise changing rooms (these will be used two or three times a day to keep the changing rooms as Covid free as possible). These areas will be cleaned via this method at least last thing at night, ready for the morning, and once during the day. The centre is reviewing the need to do these areas twice during the day. We are advised that these devices spray an area and leave a residue on all surfaces that disinfect (you may have seen the being used in a number of countries, inside and out).
 - Additional cleaning staff to regularly clean all areas as well as utilising centre staff to clean as they go.
 - ii. All unnecessary surfaces and equipment will be removed i.e. steps and starting blocks will be removed from the pool.

Q9) How will it work in the pool?

- i. We have catered for 24 swimmers in the pool at any one time, four per lane in a 6-lane pool, spaced out.
- ii. When advised by a coach, the swimmers will go from their “stations” to one of four places in each lane;
 - At the starting block end of the lane.
 - Two thirds of the way down the pool on the left of the lane.
 - Two thirds of the way down the pool on the right of the lane.
 - At the end of the lane.
- iii. Swimmers must then keep these distances when swimming.
- iv. The training sessions will not be about speed, it will be a case of build back their fitness, stamina and very important skill relevant to the stroke, therefore there is no need to catch the person in front of you.
- v. When the coach blows the whistle after a set, swimmers will stand up back in one of the four positions.
- vi. We appreciate that this is going to take some practice by some swimmers and will take a period of time to get this working properly. By introducing this measure, we can safely maximise the number of swimmers.
- vii. We hope to write up the session on one of three whiteboards located at the end of each lane. This will ensure we do not get groups of swimmers and or coaches congregating together.

Q10) How will the Club enforce these constraints?

- We appreciate that this is a lot for swimmers and parents to take on board, but all PP's and the Club must look after everyone for everyone's safety, not only club members but centre staff and any other users of the centre. Where the Club has control i.e. registration, in and out of the changing rooms and poolside, a warning system will be introduced.
- If either a coach or CL identifies that a swimmer or parent is not following the process, they will initially get a "verbal warning". If a subsequent situation occurs, then a virtual "yellow card" will be issued. Finally, if a subsequent situation arises a virtual "red card" will be issued and the person concerned will be advised that they will not be able to attend any pool for a designated time (to be defined by the Committee).

Q11) Will we be using centre kit (i.e. kickboards etc)?

- There is obviously a concern over sharing kit, we are awaiting the outcome of the Imperial College London carrying out test on Covid in the pool. The club is currently reviewing the situation in respect to kit, we are looking to define a few pieces that we would recommend swimmers purchase via a new supplier we are working with. This will not be mandatory, but we also do not want to disadvantage any swimmer. We are looking at how we could provide a way for swimmers to pay for this kit over a period of time.

Q12) Why has a minimum of a one-hour session been defined?

- There are a number of steps that have to be achieved to provide a training session. The shorter the training session duration the more times we must go through these processes and the more gaps we need to provide between sessions. This in turn means that we pay more for a session but get less training per session. Careful financial management is critical at present and ensuring we get the maximum out of the monies we spend.

Q13) How will the Club cover the additional costs?

- We appreciate at present we will not be able to provide all the sessions we have done previously and if we purchase additional training sessions, this will be above our usual costs, including coaches cost.
- At present we will not be increasing fees, due to the generosity of our members, we have a small pot of money to survive on, circa £16k, for which we are very appreciative.
- The cost to provide a training sessions costs around £140 per one-hour session (pool & coach).
- In addition, the Club has to purchase a number of pieces of kit for the protection of all those involved in providing these sessions.

Q14) What happens to those who currently pay Baseline fees?

- We appreciate that most people dropped to baseline based upon their financial situation, we are looking to see if we can provide an "operational cost" so that these swimmers whose families are having financial difficulties can return too. Obviously, the more people who take this up, the less funds we will have to keep the club running in the longer term.

Q15) What is the role of the Covid Lead?

- We have had five volunteers step up for this role, they will share these tasks;
 - i. Focal point for any Covid issues from swimmers and parents.
 - ii. Help create and maintain all club Covid processes.
 - iii. Book Covid Liaison(s) for each training session.
 - iv. Track any issues raised during sessions and report back to Head Coach and Committee.
 - v. Track attendance based on registration and provide regular reports to Head Coach and Committee.

Q16) What is the role of the Covid Liaison?

- We have had 73 volunteers for this role, we may need to have two per session, but we will have to see how this goes.
- Their responsibilities will be as follows;
 - i. They will be the focal point during sessions for all processes Covid, as well as supporting the coach.
 - ii. Take the register via OnDeck at the start of each session.
 - iii. Verify health survey with each swimmer.
 - iv. Then on poolside they will ensure everyone (including coaches) follows all our Covid procedures, flagging any issues and taking the necessary actions.
 - v. At the end of the session, they will ensure swimmers leave poolside in an orderly fashion and as per the process.
 - vi. All swimmers, parents and coaches must follow their instructions at all times.

Q17) What have Everyone Active been Doing at BLC?

- During this time, EA have been carrying out a number of building and maintenance actions;
 - i. New poolside floor tiles, they are awaiting the last remaining gully tiles which they are hoping will be installed prior to opening.
 - ii. The area above door height has been sealed and repainted
 - iii. The gallery window frame has been repainted
 - iv. The aircon, inlet, outlets and ducting have been cleaned and all new filters have been installed. The amount of external air introduced into the aircon has been set to maximum, this means that less air is recirculated.
 - v. A large exercise of deep cleaning has and is being carried out prior to reopening.

Q18) When will Knox Johnson be open?

- At present we do not have a firm date, we hear that the centre staff will be off furlough end of July, which means maybe sometime in August or September.

Q19) When will Tring reopen?

- We have started initial conversations with Tring and are awaiting a Zoom call hopefully next week to firm up specifics.