

ONB Executive Meeting 6th July 2021

Thank you, Madam Chair

You have all seen the statement supporting the Application so I will briefly run through some salient facts...

According to Swim England membership data , as at 25th June 2021 Oxfordshire & North Buckinghamshire Counties Association (ONB) has lost 17.2% (2179 – 1808 (371)) of its Category 2 members between February 1st 2020 and June 25th 2021. The average for the SER is approximately 21%.

According to Swim England data City of Oxford SC has lost 43.5% (294-166 (128)) in that same period. As a comparison City of Milton Keynes has lost 12.5% (208-182) and Maxwell has added 20% (125-150), albeit from a low base at that point in time.

I understand that 30 out of 32 of the City of Oxford's Nationally Qualified swimmers have left the Club.

Therefore, is there a gap to be filled for performance swimming in the Oxford area?

The main question though is can Oxford sustain a 2nd Club?

Aylesbury with a population of 89000 has 2 competitive Clubs, Maxwell & Aylesbury & District, with a combined Cat 2 membership of 294.

Oxford with a population of 175000 plus 33000 students has 1 competitive Club with a Cat 2 membership of 166.

City of Oxford has primary access for training purposes to 8 lane The Leys, 6 lane Oxford High School, 6 lane Ferry Sports Centre, and probably Barton Sports Centre if they needed it.

HPSS will have access to 5 lane Headington School , the partner in this project , and will share with , whilst required , Oxford & Witney Artistic (4.5 hrs) , Didcot Barramundi (4 hrs) and Thame (2 hrs), the Clubs that used the pool pre March 2020. I have communicated with Mandy Fuller, Nick Baum & Ian Blyth regarding their pool time. This addresses an anomaly in the Application and has been communicated to the SER.

Pre March 2020, City of Oxford also utilised the pool on Saturday morning for a Swim School. With their much lower membership (-43.5% since March 2020) some may consider that City of Oxford have sufficient alternative pool time resources elsewhere in the City that can easily cover their new reduced requirements.

So please support this affiliation so that we can start to redress the effect of the pandemic and other more local issues and start to increase participation in the sport once again in the Oxford area and consequently ONB.

P.Shaw
6th July 2021