



Patrons: Sharron Davies MBE, Stephanie Millward MBE



Team Bath AS Constitution Changes - FAQs

Why is a change of status needed?

The program has been on the verge on bankruptcy twice in the last decade. The current business model which runs the Club can't work without additional funding (external) or alternative income streams (internal) or a combination of both. We are currently around £40,000 per annum short of self-sufficiency, clearly we cannot continue like this.

How does the new model solve the financial shortfall?

By attracting more swimmers at the entry end we can increase revenue for the Club and address enough of the shortfall to enable us to continue.

With this model we will complete the missing element of the pyramid that would enable children to have the potential to learn to swim and possibly swim for Great Britain within the same pathway and under the same roof.

Is the whole Team Bath AS Committee and the Head Coach behind these changes?

Yes. We unanimously agree that this is the way to go.

Does this plan dissolve the current Network club structure?

No. We have been in consultation with all the Network clubs throughout this process and they have a questionnaire 'working together' which is gaining views on how the new association/partnership will work moving forward. We will continue to add value to the clubs in our Network, and we are still supporting them by running courses and providing support from our Head Coach as requested.

Going forward, there will be individual Memorandum of Understandings with each Network club that will be tailored to every club's individual needs. This has already been agreed

between us and the Clubs at previous Network meetings.

Where would the new swimmers come from?

We want to work with the university (400 learn to swim) and the local schools to maximise the potential in Bath. We will continue to offer the same performance pathway as we do currently for the Network clubs we are in partnership with.

It is vitally important that there is a performance pathway for all the talented swimmers to move across to within our area. The reason we are making these changes is so we can continue to provide this.

Have you sought outside help with formulating this plan?

We have consulted extensively with Swim England, South West Region and Somerset County who are all fully supportive of our plans. Emily Taylor, Swim England South West's Club Development Officer has assisted us greatly with emanating this proven successful business & performance model that is used by other clubs around the UK. The following extract from her earlier correspondence to all our Network clubs illustrates her support ...

'It is important to Swim England that there is a performance Youth and Age programme based at the University of Bath to ensure that Swim England members in the surrounding area have access to a pathway into performance swimming.

Looking at the (TBAS) club finances and understanding the pressure of relying on income generation from open meets, it is clear that to ensure the sustainability of a performance programme there needs to be an underpinning club structure. I am therefore working with the committee to look at introducing an entry level squad (stages 7 – 10 of learn to swim). Over the coming years I will continue to support them to grow this programme to take these swimmers through a pathway, building membership year on year. The end result should be Team Bath AS becoming a self-sustaining club that can finance the performance squads.

As with other performance programmes, a network will still exist and swimmers from the surrounding areas will still have the opportunity to access a performance environment. Examples of such established networks are Plymouth, Eastern Devon, Gloucester City and City of Bristol.'

What are the plans for the Arena League and Somerset Counties?

The management committee voted to join the Arena League on 27 February 2017 and this

had been reiterated at the latest committee meeting. So we will be making an application to join the Arena League whatever the outcome of the SGM vote.

Swimmers already on the program will be given the choice of who they swim for at these events.

The Team Bath AS Head Coach will have the ultimate say on training and competition as agreed by the Network clubs at the last Network meeting. This is in the interests of the performance swimmer.

Will swimmers be required to leave their home Network clubs?

Where we have partnerships in place, swimmers will be encouraged to keep their home club ties. Swimmers can be members of Team Bath AS and their home club, as they are now. Swimmers may be members of as many clubs as they like under the ASA rules.

What will happen at the SGM on the 19th February?

The SGM is being called to enable our Team Bath AS members to vote on whether they would like us to implement this proposed status changes to help increase the sustainability of the Club going forward.

Who can vote at the SGM?

Every member of Team Bath AS has a vote.

Member swimmers who are eligible to vote (aged 16/over) may do so and should arrange with Chris to be excused during training on Monday 19th to do so, if they wish.

I am not a member of Team Bath AS, can I vote?

You can only vote if you are the parent of a Team Bath AS swimmer(s) under 16 (one vote per family).

Do I have to attend the SGM to vote?

Yes. Proxy votes are not allowed.