

## Summary

- A free swim hat for every swimmer + hot heat prizes, thank you [Smashlings](#)
- Swimmer arrival from 11.55, doors open 12:00, warm up from 12:30 (latest)
- Gala is now SIGN OUT - not in; send withdrawals asap (by email in advance, on the day to the results team poolside prior to the warm up)
- Bring £1 for a locker - no bags poolside
- Spectating is £7/session, £10/day - bring a card AND cash
- Photography is only allowed from the spectator balcony

Dear swimmers,

Here's some important instructions regarding the [Smashlings](#) TSC Winter County Qualifier Open Meet which you should read before attending this weekend.

Please note that a variety of merchandise has been provided for purchase by [Smashlings](#), including co-branded TSC hoodies, TSC beanie hats, peaked hats and more.

In addition, a [Smashlings](#) branded swim hat is being given for free to every swimmer as a thank you for attending our event.

Finally, we hope to run a lot of hot heats (whoever wins that race wins a spot prize). Again, these prizes have been provided by [Smashlings](#) and [AP Race Clinics](#).

Hot heat prizes will include:

4 x £50 AP Race Clinic vouchers  
4 sets of 4 x Olympian autographs  
8 x baseball caps  
7 x swim caps  
2 x drinks bottles  
30 x Gang Beasts Plush soft toys

Please check out the [Smashlings](#) website and try the game to find out more about the brand before the gala!

## **Where are they?**

[Excel Leisure Centre, Elmbrige.](#)

Parking is free; while there are a lot of spaces, it can spill onto the access road. Please park considerately and obey all parking restrictions.

There is a cafe at the venue.

## **Withdrawals**

**The gala is now a SIGN OUT event - all withdrawals must be registered prior to warm up commencing.**

**Please email up until Friday 21:00, otherwise let the results team know on arrival.**

## **Swimmer arrival**

Swimmers should arrive from 11:55 each day and **wait for instructions** from the volunteers running the event.

Entry is scheduled from 12:00, with warm up starting at 12:30 latest.

Please do not get in the way of pool staff or customers as the venue is still operating to the public during our sessions.

Changing facilities will be available but we have around 250 swimmers per session, so it will be very busy. We do not have exclusive use of the changing rooms, so please respect others using them. **Swimmers are advised to arrive changed ready for the warm up.**

**SWIMMERS MUST NOT CAPTURE IMAGES (INCLUDING VIDEO) POOLSIDE OR IN THE CHANGING ROOMS.**

**ALL PARENTS WHO AREN'T VOLUNTEERING ARE STRICTLY FORBIDDEN FROM ANY CHANGING AREAS OR POOLSIDE.**

Anyone not abiding by these rules will be excluded from the competition.

## **Swimmer preparations**

A timetable and results for the entire event are available through the **Meet Mobile app only. This will be updated shortly before the gala.**

**Bags must be left in the changing rooms - please bring a £1 coin for a locker.** Poolside is very cramped at Elmbridge.

While we will have marshals at the event, please **make sure your children know what events they are doing, the order of events and the heat numbers** they are in so that they can present themselves for races at the right times.

It is **the swimmer's responsibility to report to the marshals and be ready to race** in good time, and the marshals won't have time to answer repeated questions regarding when individuals's events are coming up.

If your swimmer has only competed in TSC run events previously this is a **VERY** important difference - in an Open meet, it is down to the swimmers, coaches and team managers to get the swimmers to the marshals. **The marshals are NOT required to find them!**

They should bring water and suitable snacks, but note all rubbish must be cleared up and popcorn and rice cakes are forbidden.

Medals will be awarded as per the entry pack and available for collection from a table poolside once all races have been run and certified on the day.

Thanks to our sponsor [Smashlings](#) we will have TWO sets of medals - one for the overall gala results (with swimmers who are faster than the quickest entry allowance excluded), and one for TSC swimmers only, as part of our Club Championships.

A warm down/up pool will be available following the formal warm-up being completed and the gala beginning.

### **Spectators**

Spectators with pre-paid entry tickets will enter via the main entrance and foyer, and have their name on the door.

**No physical tickets will be issued in advance** (please note that if your purchase is marked as pending online you have successfully purchased a ticket - it is just a glitch in the system)

Please wait outside the venue until you are called to come in, which will be after the swimmers are settled.

If you **don't yet have tickets they will be available on the door on a first come, first served** basis. There is good capacity at the pool, so please be patient.

**Please bring a card and cash to make payment. While we will prefer to operate by card, we're informed that phone/internet reception can be very patchy, so please bring the right money as back up.**

**Entry is £7/session, or £10 for a full day for all ages (under 5s free).**

We expect doors to open around 12:00.

### **Programmes**

There will be no printed programmes, but we will circulate the information to clubs in advance for coaches to prepare. A full list will also be placed on our website.

## **Volunteers**

Finally, we are very fortunate to have around 60 volunteers working to run the event each day.

While the majority are from TSC, a large proportion are from other clubs. Please take time to thank them, and consider if you can help in future.

## **Photography**

Photography and videography is allowed at the event from the balcony. However, this is subject to change; please respect any requests.

No photos or videos are allowed poolside.

Thank you,

Jim