

Hello everyone

As promised we are pleased to provide you with a short update regards a phased return to club swimming

- **KSC PHASED RETURN TO THE POOL** - From 27th July we will begin a phased return to club swimming. Initially we will have a few sessions with just a pilot group of older swimmers and we will work with this initial group to fine-tune the theoretical paper based plan we have written and begin to deliver it in reality. Our longer term aim is to bring all swimmers back to the club in a controlled manner over the course of the coming weeks and months and in line with guidance provided by Swim England, Public Health England and the Government.
- **ALLOCATED SWIMMING SESSIONS** - We have reviewed each of our swimmers individually and we can confirm most of our swimmers will be offered an allocated 1 hour swimming session each week during August. During September we will continue to embed these weekly sessions into practise whilst looking at what changes we might be able to offer to enable more flexibility for club swimming in the longer term.
- **SWIMMING GROUPS** – Safety is our first priority and we have allocated each swimmer to a swimming group. In total we have 8 swimming groups plus a group of swimmers who swim in our disability inclusive session. Each swimming group will consist of circa 25 swimmers. We have attempted to group swimmers together based on ability, the lane, session and day of the week they used to swim in and in family groups where practical. Our youngest swimmers and some of our disability group may well be the last to return to the pool unfortunately.
- **THINGS WILL BE DIFFERENT** - As we return to the Leisure Centre and club swimming you can expect things to be very different. The opening times of the leisure centre have been changed and this directly impacts some club sessions, a one way system has been put in place, showers and spectating areas will remain closed, social distancing will need to be observed and we are limited to the number of swimmers we can have in the pool during our sessions. Swimmers will need to be dropped off in the leisure centre car park and KSC staff will check each swimmer in and out of the building. We may be able to offer some reasonable adjustment to our younger swimmers who are 8 or under. All of the changes will of course be reviewed on a weekly basis and updated over time as we get used to living alongside the COVID-19 virus.
- **WHAT COMES NEXT** - We will contact all members by the end of July to let everyone know the details of their allocated swimming session. We appreciate the allocated slots may not suit everyone but we ask for you to be as flexible as possible, at least in the short term as we work hard to bring back as many swimmers as possible. If you have a holiday planned or cannot swim on a regular basis on the day and sessions allocated to you please let us know by email and we will attempt to manage a waiting/swap list of names and preferences. We apologise in advance if this is a bit hit and miss in the early days.
- **MANDATORY DOCUMENTATION** - All swimmers (or their parents/carers if under 16) will be expected to have read the latest version of our risk assessment before returning to the pool and in advance of their first session back to us, will be asked to disclose details of any medical conditions they may be affected by or any medication they are taking. A COVID-19 Health declaration will also need to be signed by all swimmers just before they return to the pool. Lower level details regarding these topics will be provided when you receive your individual return to swimming emails which will be sent by 31st July at the latest.
- **COMPETITION SWIMMING** – All competitions KSC participate in are cancelled for the remainder of 2020 and Swim England have recommended no race training takes place initially once we return to the pools. Therefore we want to let you know ALL training sessions with the club will be technique based and will focus on building up fitness and style

in the weeks ahead. We will continue to stay apprised of the latest updates from Swim England and will adapt training sessions as and when we are advised we can do so. You should also note our club champs planned for October are also cancelled this year.

- **SWIMMING KIT** – All returning swimmers will need to have their own float, goggles and drinks bottle at the very least as no equipment can be shared. Please ensure all kits are clearly labelled with the swimmers name. All squad swimmers will also need their own pull buoy and fins. The club hold some stock of new drinks bottles, goggles, floats, pull buoys and flippers. If you would like to buy equipment you can let us know by sending an email to kimberleyswimmingclub@gmail.com
- **NOVICE GALA REFUNDS** - We have a record of who paid in advance for the Novice Gala which was of course cancelled. When your swimmer returns to the club we will refund your entry fees.
- **MEMBERSHIP FEES** - In the workbook sent around last week you may have spotted that Swim England have already confirmed they will not be considering any reduction or refunds in relation to the 2020 membership fees we have paid on your behalf and whilst we appreciate their position KSC see things a little differently. Our committee recognise that many of our members parents/carers may have been furloughed and household income may have gone down during the past few months and we want to help limit the impact this may have when returning to swimming. The committee have unanimously agreed to compensate swimmers with 5 free swimming sessions each. We have more than 230 KSC swimming members and this will save each swimmer £16.00 each (5 x £3.20). Whilst this isn't a huge gesture, it does represent a significant amount of money in terms of revenue the club won't generate and we hope it goes some way towards ensuring swimmers can get back into the water as we all get back on our feet. There will be no set period by when the 5 free sessions must be taken since we have a phased approach to returning to the pool and we want to ensure all swimmers receive the same equitable recompense for time spent away from the club. (This offer has no cash value and there will be no cash alternatives offered – sorry) We will set up a method of recording who and how many swims have been taken but the free swims will be available for all no matter when they return to the pool.

Hope to see you all soon

Stay safe.....

Jean and all the staff