

6<sup>th</sup> July 2019

Dear Members,

As you are aware, I took over the role of chairperson a few months ago after serving on the committee for a year. During this time, club restructure and finance have required much thought and discussion by the committee.

Whilst the club has moderate savings, we have been running at a loss for a number of years now. This was done with good intention and to offer cheaper fees to members whilst we were in a sound financial position, however, we can't continue to do this.

Over the last 2 years, we have steadily increased our pool time and the club now has more swimmers than ever competing in galas. In September 2018, Head Coach Becki McGuire committed more hours to the club to facilitate this development and to provide the best environment for your swimmers to reach their potential.

Last year we increased squad fees but this has not been sufficient to cover day to day running costs, and the committee have identified areas in which we can make savings and increase income.

You may have noticed some minor changes to date; the club no longer funds land training as the participants now fund it themselves, overnight trips are funded by the participants who also pay for the accompanying adults and in July, there was a minimum charge to swimmers and spectators at the 50<sup>th</sup> Celebration gala.

I think it is important that all our members understand why we will be making future changes and the committee spend many hours trying to be fair to all.

In September you will see the introduction of an annual gala payment. This is proportionate to the number of galas swimmers are advised to attend and will cover the cost of coaches poolside passes. The number of passes we purchase has substantially increased due to the club attending more galas and the increase in numbers of young swimmers competing (the ratio of coach to swimmer is higher for under 11yrs). Most clubs operate some form of additional gala payment for this purpose.

Also in September, we hope to have secured some extra pool time which will tackle the problem of over crowding in lanes and enhance the quality of sessions for all squads. This extra cost, coupled with the cost of the additional coaching required, has led to an ongoing review of squad fees. It should be stressed that increase in cost is carefully considered, as it was in 2018. It is anticipated that this review will be completed in September and at the beginning of October 2019, there will be a rise in squad fees. We will be exploring funding and sponsorship options as well as fundraising events. Morpeth ASC will continue to be better value for money than other clubs in the area and pool time and squad structure is frequently reviewed to ensure that we provide the best service for all our swimmers.

Lesley Kennedy  
Chair