

## ARNOLD SWIMMING CLUB - NEW FEES FOR 2006 - 2007

Dear parent/guardian

The ASC committee have agreed new membership and training fees for 2006-07. Normally these are voted for at the Annual General Meeting in mid April and come into force from the beginning of the membership year (1<sup>st</sup> June). Whilst the new membership fees will become effective from the 1<sup>st</sup> June as normal, this year the club has decided to bring forward the new training fees to 1<sup>st</sup> March 2006. This is due to:

- For historical reasons the start of the club's financial year (1<sup>st</sup> March) does not coincide with the start of the membership year (1<sup>st</sup> June).
- The result is that during the period March to May the club normally uses its reserves to fulfil its financial commitments
- Even though it looks like the club will close this financial year with a small profit, this has not been sufficient to build a comfortable level of reserves

The introduction of the monthly payments in June 2005 has been a great success in terms of encouraging swimmers to attend more often. We rarely get less than 30 swimmers for each session. However, only 43% of overall members have taken up the monthly payments and only 32% of the 0-8 years age group.

The new fees show a sharper increase for pay-per-session, a smaller increase for monthly payers and for the time being no increase for monthly payers using their bank's standing order facility. STO fees will be reviewed in June and if a good number of members renew early and the monthly payment take-up rate increases the club hopes to leave these funds unchanged.

The new fees have been set to encourage members to move to monthly payments. These provide the club with a more constant and predictable income throughout the year. This helps with the financial planning. Standing order payments avoid the handling of large sums of cash and the problems with change at the reception desk. The monthly scheme is also beneficial to swimmers who regularly attend more than one session a week.

It is worth remembering that the club is a non-for-profit organisation run entirely by volunteers (apart from the head coach). Fee increases are never popular but the club has a responsibility to meet its financial commitments, else there would be no club!

As membership increases, the club wants to provide additional swimming time giving members more flexibility. provide more opportunities for members to swim at galas (league and friendly) and open meeting. All of these increase the clubs costs.

The club tries not to "bother" swimmers, their parents, guardians and relatives with requests for fund raising activities, sponsorships, raffles and so on. This leaves the membership and training fees as the main sources of income.

If you wish to find out more from the committee about the club's administration and objectives please join us at the Annual General Meeting which will be held at Arnold Leisure Centre on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2006 at 7:30pm.

**Dany Cracolici**  
**Treasurer**  
**Arnold Swimming Club**