



DARWEN AMATEUR SWIMMING CLUB 1882 – 1914 RE-FORMED 1932

Welcome to Darwen Amateur Swimming Club (DASC). We hope that this will be the start of many enjoyable years you spend with the Club. To help you understand the set up a little more we have prepared this welcome pack which we hope you will find useful.

The Club was originally formed in 1882 and continued until 1914 (when presumably it closed at the start of the First World War). It re-formed in the current format in 1932.

The Club operates under the Swim England rules and conditions. Their website contains lots of information and advice including advice on social media.

The Club has two main aims

- To teach members to swim to recognised Swim England standards, encouraging an appreciation of the sport which will last throughout their life.
- To encourage children to fulfil their potential, emphasising sportsmanship and teamwork.

MEMBERSHIP/FINANCES

Members will be allocated to a group according to age and ability. Their groups may change as they progress through the club. Movement between the groups is based on many factors and is at the discretion of coaching staff.

There is an initial registration fee payable upon joining to cover Swim England membership. Membership is renewable annually.

Fees are calculated for the year and take into account the reduced sessions during school holidays and competition season.

Fees are due at the beginning of each month and can be paid by Cash, Cheque or Standing Order. Forms can be obtained from the Treasurer. If fees are unpaid then swimmers are not insured and will be excluded from training and competition. Fees unpaid for 2 months may result in a swimmer losing their place in the club. Any outstanding fees will need to be paid before any membership can be resumed.

One month's written notice is required if you wish to resign. This helps us to allocate places to others on the waiting list and ensures fees do not continue to accrue when a swimmer no longer attends. Anyone leaving the club with fees outstanding will not be able to return at a later date without such fees being paid.

It should be noted that should a member leave owing fees the debt may be reported to Swim England (in accordance with Club Constitution) and could impact on membership of any other club.

PLEASE BE AWARE THAT WE HAVE COSTLY POOL BILLS TO PAY.



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TRAINING

It is very important that swimmers are on the poolside ready to begin their session in good time. They should have goggles (2 pairs recommended) and a drink (water or diluted squash/juice – no fizzy drinks or glass containers)

Please ensure swimmers have £1 or locker token as belongings need to be placed in lockers and not brought poolside.

Latecomers disrupt the session and should report to the staff on poolside. They may be instructed to carry out flexibility exercises to warm up and minimise disruption. **Under no circumstances should they enter the water until told to do so.** Swimmers do not have to attend every session but they are expected to attend regularly and the fees are the same whatever their attendance. The more sessions a swimmer attends, the more likely they are to progress.

Girls should wear swimming caps (many boys also choose to wear caps). A selection of club items can be found on our website. Order forms can be obtained from the website, poolside table or the treasurer's table. E-mails can also be sent to the club address. Goggles can be obtained from the Leisure Centre or any sports retailer.

BEHAVIOUR/DISCIPLINE

We expect certain standards of behaviour from our swimmers at all times, including during away galas and social events. May we take this opportunity to request that any persons accompanying swimmers to sessions, either children or adults, also respect the disciplines of the Club.

Most of our members behave well. However there are a few who feel the rules do not apply to them. The disciplinary procedure has been used in the past, albeit infrequently, and will continue to be applied when necessary. **Our codes of conduct can be found on our website and signing of membership form will be considered as acceptance to abide by these codes.**

The pool staff sometimes have cause for complaint about behaviour of a few swimmers so please make sure your child is not one of them. The pool staff do have the right to intervene in cases of unacceptable or dangerous behavior.

There are occasions when swimmers have to leave the pool early, due to sickness or behaviour problems so please ensure that they are either accompanied or there is an emergency contact number. **There should be an adult in the facility with any child of primary school age.**

We are not a child minding service and children should be under the supervision of a responsible adult.



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COMPETITION

As we are a competitive club, swimmers selected for galas are expected to attend as part of their membership. They are also expected to take part in Age Group competition.

Competitions may be held both home and away. Team selection will be notified by e-mail, website and Facebook and swimmers are asked to indicate their availability prior to the competition. You may know you will be attending but the team manager will not.

Swimmers are expected to wear club costumes/trunks and hats for competition.

THE CLUB

The Club is run by a Committee plus officials, all unpaid volunteers and, as is the case with many organisations, we are often short of helpers. Extra poolside helpers are always welcome and this role involves a vetting procedure, necessary when dealing with children, along with a level of commitment. Alternatively, if you feel you could help in other ways e.g. making drinks for a gala/fund raising/social events or publicity please let us know. If you are interested in joining the committee please approach one of the officials. We need parents to become involved and bring fresh ideas.

We hope this pack has answered most of your questions. If there is anything you are still unsure of please do not hesitate to ask. We would, however, request that you avoid approaching the teaching/coaching staff during sessions. Decisions are made by the committee so any concerns you may have are best addressed in writing for discussion at a committee meeting, you will then be contacted by the committee, in writing, informing you of the outcome or decision.

Please ensure e-mails are checked regularly as they may contain matters of importance, including pool closures.

WE DO NOT ALLOW THE TAKING OF PHOTOGRAPHS OR MAKING OF VIDEOS. THIS IS TO PROTECT ALL CHILDREN IN LINE WITH CHILD PROTECTION POLICIES.

CONTACT

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#aspirebelieveachieve