

50m Pool for HERTFORDSHIRE

FAQ's

Q. What is Hertfordshire Aquatics?

A. Hertfordshire Aquatics is a charitable company set up by Swim England Hertfordshire to manage this project. Although it has directors and trustees it remains ultimately under the control of the Swim England Hertfordshire Management Board.

Q. Who are the trustees of the charity?

A. The trustees at present are: Bryan Thompson (Harpenden SC), Ian Mackenzie (Hoddesdon SC), Graham Huggett (Bishops Stortford |SC), Simon Lever (Berkhamsted).

Q. Who are the project team for the project?

A. The project team at present are: Bryan Thompson (Harpenden SC), Ian Mackenzie (Hoddesdon SC), Graham Huggett (Bishops Stortford |SC), Simon Lever (Berkhamsted), David Richardson (CoStA), Grant Chivers (Hitchin SC).

Q. What happens to the monies raised if the pool doesn't go ahead?

A. The monies being raised are for feasibility studies and other precursor activities. These need to happen regardless of whether the project goes ahead or not so in all likelihood the money will be spent.

Q. I have skills that could be useful for this project – how do I get involved?

A. Speak to or email one of the Project Team and we will take your details and get in touch..

Q. How will the contributed money be managed?

A. In the first instance the money will be managed by the project team/trustees with overview from the Management Board.

Q. For how long will clubs be expected to make donations?

A. To gain and maintain charitable status we need a minimum annual income of £5000. These payments will need to be made until such time as the facility starts to earn money. It is not envisaged that this will be an open ended income stream.

Q. Who is paying for and developing the pool?

A. We will be seeking external funding for the project. Once the feasibility study is complete and assuming it produces a positive outcome we will be seeking fundraising from specialist low cost borrowing to facilitate the build and fit out. Clubs will NOT be expected to contribute towards the build/fit costs.

Q. When can the location & partner be unveiled?

A. We will reveal the location and partner as soon as we can. We have been advised by a barrister not to reveal details until we have signed contracts. We will reveal the details as soon as we can as that will mean the project is moving forward.

Q. What influence will clubs have on when and how the donated money is spent?

A. Clubs will have no influence on when and how money is spent. The project team/trustees/Management Board have responsibility for spending. If clubs want representation then they need to look to get involved with the Management Board. Updates on the project will also feature in future Club Forums.

Q. What will happen if clubs do not contribute?

A. Without the contributions we will be unable to register as a charity and as such the whole project will cost more.

Q. What is the budget for the build?

A. At present that is an unknown. Depending upon what we look to build we are probably looking at between £8m & £30m. We are keen to include as much as we can so that all disciplines can use the facility however we are aware that this does increase costs. We will have a better idea of costs once we have completed the feasibility study.

Q. If a club does not donate will they be disadvantaged when the facility is built?

A. The facility will be for ALL clubs in the county. It would be almost inevitable that if there were a clash in requesting training time a club that had contributed would be looked on more favourably than one that had not.

Q. How will pool time and access be decided?

A. This is up in the air at present, however current thinking is once we have a daily schedule we will know how many "slots" we have and each club will be allowed to request the slots they would like. Some clubs will potentially have further to travel than others so will have first option on slots. Time will be allocated as fairly as possible.

The actual process is still to be determined, but initial thinking is along these lines:

All clubs will be asked when they would wish to use the pool, with a request that they indicate preferred times within their requests.

Allocation of pool time will be considered for all clubs. The smaller clubs and those being further away are anticipated to request smaller amounts of pool time than the larger clubs and those close to the facility. Preference will be given to these smaller and distant clubs in their requests but they may have to accept that not all of their requests will be granted.

Once all clubs have been allocated a similar amount of time then the requests for more time than the "minimum" will be allocated to the other clubs as fairly as possible. It is anticipated that the larger and more local clubs will then take up any times not already allocated.

On the premise that the pool is a 10 lane pool it is very likely that here will be a number of clubs using the pool at the same time in different lanes. This will give the various clubs a chance to get to know each other better and also for there to be co-operation between coaches and a transfer and exchange of different training ideologies.

Clubs must understand that whilst preference will mostly be given to the smaller and further distant clubs they will not be able to book all of the prime slots at the detriment to other clubs. The pool is for the benefit and use of all clubs in the county.

Many thanks

Bryan

Bryan Thompson – Swim England Hertfordshire 50m Pool Project Manager