

Masters swimming events 2016

Below is some information on the competitions that are the most popular with Leander swimmers. The first section provides a list of dates and the second contains a bit of detail on each competition.

There will be email/Facebook posts on most of these events (including all those involving club relay entries) ahead of the event. *Note that, apart from the inter-county events, you need to make your own entry for all individual events, usually at least a few weeks ahead.*

For further details and entry information on these events, as well as a full list of domestic events, see the Masters swimming website calendar page:
<http://www.swimming.org/asa/calendar/filter/masters/page/P0>

Dates

- Sat Jan 9: Shrewsbury open masters
- March 5-6 (Sat/Sun): Swim Wales open masters champs (long course), Swansea
- Sun March 20: CABSC open masters, Hucknall, Notts
- April 1-3 (Fri-Sun): national masters long course champs, Ponds Forge, Sheffield
- May 25-29: European masters championships, London (Stratford Olympic pool)
- Sun June 12: East Midlands inter-county masters challenge gala, Alfreton, Derbyshire (NB: Change of date from previous list)
- Oct 1-2 (Sat/Sun): Midlands masters champs, Leamington Spa
- Oct 28-30 (Fri-Sun): National masters short course champs , Ponds Forge, Sheffield
- Nov (probably; date tbc) National inter-county masters meet
- Nov (probably; date tbc) Etwall Eagles open meet, Derby

Brief information

Calverton and Bingham SC masters' meet – held at Hucknall (25m pool)

This is a local meet first organised by Calverton and Bingham SC. This is a one-day competition (morning/afternoon). This event is suitable for all standards

Etwall Eagles masters' meet – held at Queens Leisure Centre in the centre of Derby (25m pool)

This is another handy local meet which has run for many years now in the third/fourth week of November each year. This is a particularly good one for novices – the organisers encourage entries from first timers and there are 25m races as well as 50s and 100s. We

usually enter a few relay teams in this one. This is also a one-day competition (morning/afternoon).

The following are other convenient competitions that often attract some Leander swimmers. If you would like to go to one of these please email the masters' rep who can mention it in the email bulletins to see if there are others interested in relays, lift shares etc. You could also mention it on our Facebook page.

Short course nationals

This is held every year near the end of October. For many years now it has been held every year at Ponds Forge pool in the centre of Sheffield, which is quite convenient for us.

The competition is held over three days, with the 800 or 1500 freestyle often on Friday morning and then a further two sessions on Friday (afternoon and evening), three on Saturday (morning, afternoon and evening) and two on Sunday. Relays are held at the start and end of each session, starting with the Friday afternoon session.

The programme contains all the standard individual events, plus lots of relays (4 x 50 and 100 for free and medley, plus 4 x 200 free).

This is the biggest masters' event of the year in the UK. In 2014 Leander swimmers entered 35 relays (the highest number of any club) and many individual events, winning numerous medals.

There are no qualifying times.

It is possible to do relays without entering any individual events. Obviously you don't have to go for three days, although some people do – you can go just for a day or even a single session/race.

Long course nationals

This is held every year, usually in late June. The venue changes from year to year. Like the short course competition it is held over three days, and contains all the standard individual events, plus lots of relays again. Again there are no qualifying times, you can

do relays without entering any individual events and you go for as long or short a time as you like.

This is not quite such a big event as the short course event (so a better bet for a national medal if that is what you are after). Given that the location varies and it can be quite a long way away it is hard to predict what sort of team, if any, we will send in future years. However, it is likely that at least a few people will go most years.

The regional championships ("the Midlands")

There is a midland regional championship each year. In theory this is designed as the official championships for both East and West Midlands swimming regions combined, but anyone from anywhere can enter and win medals in it so it is really no different from any other open masters' meet.

The competition is held over three days, with the 400m freestyle event on Friday evening and further sessions on Saturday (morning and afternoon) and Sunday (morning and afternoon).

The programme contains all the standard individual events, except for 800 and 1500 free, and also has a full complement of 4 x 50m relays (men's, women's and mixed). In 2012 we had lots of swimmers at this event, including many relays teams, and won quite a lot of medals in both individuals and relays.

Leander club championships

The Leander club championships are held over four Friday and Saturday evenings in November (with three or four events each evening) in Nottingham pools. A handful of masters swimmers enter each year. You will receive an email when the dates are set and then when entries open. There is a flat fee to enter (£5, which covers as many races as you want to enter).

Inter-county competitions

There are two competitions each year in which the Nottinghamshire county masters' team swims against other county teams.

Participation is by invitation: the Notts team manager selects a team from amongst those volunteering based on who has the best times. However, we need a large number of swimmers and often can use most of those volunteering who are of a reasonable competitive standard – so when the call comes out to put yourself forward don't be shy and think you are not good enough, but please volunteer!

An email will come round a few weeks or even months before the event asking anyone interested to put their name and times forward to the Notts team manager.

The two competitions are:

□ The national inter-county championships. All English counties are invited to take part in this and usually about 30 do so. Each county team competes in a "local" pool against other local counties, usually sometime in November. We compete in the "Midlands" heat which includes both East and West Midland counties (usually six or seven in addition to Notts). There are individual events in age groups 18+,

25+, 35+, 45+, 55+ and 65+ (a bit different from the usual age groups) and lots of relays events. After all the regional heats have been completed the times of the swimmers from each of the counties for each event are then put together to give overall results for the country for each event, with first place receiving 30 points (if there are 30 counties), second place 29 etc. The points for all the events are then added together to give the overall results for each county team.

□ The East Midlands Challenge. This is a competition just for the East Midlands counties which rotates around the participating counties. It is usually held in Spring each year. The individual age groups are different from the national event – 18+, 30+, 40+, 50+ and 60+ - with different relay age groups also. There are a few unusual relay events too, such as mixed 6 x 25 fly and mixed 6 x 25 breast.

World championships and European championships

From 2015 World Masters Championships will be held in every “odd” year and European Masters Championships in every “even” year.

THE EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS IN 2016 WILL BE HELD AT THE OLYMPIC POOL IN LONDON, MAY 25-29.

There are qualifying times for these events for the individual events (though not the relays) but – as the competition literature itself states – they are “modest”, especially for the over 40s. ***Note that to be able to enter London 2016 you may need to have some recent times for the events you want to do recorded in the ASA databases of swimming times, but we are still waiting for clarification on the exact rules on qualifying times.***