

Date : 6th August 2018

RE: Ken Nesworthy

Dear All,

Sadly I have to formally announce that Ken Nesworthy will be ending his role as Head Coach of Gateshead & Whickham ASC. Ken has decided that the time is right for him to stand down from his role and take life easier from now on. Ken's last day as Head Coach will be 11th August 2018.

Ken will remain associated with us in an advisory and mentoring capacity, but will no longer have any day-to-day coach / swimmer responsibility.

On behalf of the club, I would like to thank Ken for his time as Head Coach. His positive and professional approach to swimming and to his interaction with the club has been outstanding and he's been instrumental in formulating some of the structural changes that have put the club in a great position for the future.

I'm sure we'll all miss Ken's coaching and I'm sure that Ken will attempt to have a word with everyone he can.

Ken has been working with us to plan the future of coaching at the club since he made his decision to step down. We will publish full details of the new programme. However, I am now able to share some of the highlights:

1. From 12th August to 1st September

We will continue with our summer programme. All coaches are in place to handle the programme during this period.

2. From Monday 3rd September onwards

Performance

The 'Performance Youth / Senior' and 'Performance Age Group' squads will merge into the 'Performance' squad and be led by Paul Armstrong.

In order to manage the range of skills and fitness in this squad, we will be putting a two-tier structure in place and will be appointing a L2 coach to help coach the group.

Potential

The 'Potential Youth / Senior' and 'Potential Age Group' squads will merge into the 'Potential' squad. The new 'Potential Squad' will be led by Sue Thorpe and will be supported by Tom Maddison.

Competitive Development

Joan Edwards will continue to lead this squad.

Our future plans involve adding another Competitive Development Squad to be fed from a number of Academy squads.

Timetable

We have had to make changes to training times and venues in order to accommodate the merging of the squads. Please refer to the new timetable for details which we will publish in the coming week.

There will be no immediate changes to number of pool hours for each squad and consequently no changes to squad fees.

Academy, Learners and Masters

There are no proposed changes to these squads. However, we do plan to introduce additional academies once we are certain that we have the infrastructure in place to support them.

Squad Movement

There will be flexibility within the proposed new structure to allow easy movements of swimmers when the time is right for them to move.

As most of you are probably aware, Ken also fulfilled a number of non-coaching tasks at the club. It was in his nature to 'get on with things'. Hopefully we will plug the Ken gap quickly and have people to carry out the Ken tasks. I can't guarantee that we won't unearth things that we haven't or Ken hasn't thought of!! So bear with us in the coming weeks as we settle down into 'life without Ken'.

However, life and the club move on and we should positively embrace this opportunity for change .. even though we'll miss Ken's daily input a little :o)

At some point we will say an official thank you to Ken. We'll keep you informed.



MARTIN CONNELLY
CHAIRMAN, GATESHEAD & WHICKHAM ASC