



We should like to extend a warm welcome to all beginners who joined us in January and to wish them every success in their lessons. The course of lessons is for six months only so you must all work hard if you want to learn to swim. This means not only working hard during the Friday lesson, but at home, practising your strokes. Going to the Pool whenever possible is also helpful to you in getting used to the water. Most of you just want to learn to swim and that is what we hope you will be able to do at the end of your course. Some of you may get on quicker than others and if we think you will make a competitive swimmer, then we shall ask you to stay on for a further six months. Otherwise, your course will end and then we start again with another batch of beginners.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

All regular members are reminded that the 1976 subscriptions should have been paid by the end of January (75 p junior and £1.00 seniors). If you have not paid your subscription and you wish to remain a member of the Club please pay your subscription without fail.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Our Annual General Meeting will be held at the Club Room, Riverside Baths on Tuesday 17th February at 8.00 p.m. and all members should have received notification of this by now, together with a copy of the 1975 Balance Sheet. If you or your parents have any suggestions or queries or any matter to discuss please come along to the A.G.M.

POINTS CUP RACES

We are holding our Points Cup Races early again this year so as to avoid the holiday months. For the benefit of new swimmers, these races are held each month, usually the second Friday in the month, commencing at 8.30 p.m. All swimmers of one length or more are expected to take part as these races are just as important to you as classes. It will show you, your parents and your teachers what progress you are making and will help us to decide who should represent the Club at matches throughout the year. We have two teams, an 'A' and a 'B' team so most of you will get an opportunity to represent the Club at some time. Races are divided into four age groups - Under 12 (that is, you must not be more than 11 years old this year to compete in this group) Under 14 (for the 12 and 13 years old) Under 16 (for the 14 and 15 years old) and over 16. Races will be held as follows :-

13th February	Breaststroke
12th March	Back Crawl
9th April	Front Crawl
21st May	Butterfly

Points are awarded as follows :- 5 points for 1st position in each group (not 1st in each heat) 3 points for 2nd and 2 points for 3rd. Every swimmer who takes part receives 1 point for entering. Cups are awarded for the girl and boy with most points.

PLEASE NOTE that the Match arranged for the 21st February has been cancelled. We have however been invited to a match on the 6th March. Watch the Notice Board for further information.

Our ANNUAL DINNER & DANCE will be held on Saturday 28th February at The Falconwood Community Centre, Welling. We have changed the venue to accommodate more people this year. Tickets are on sale at £2.50 each and we should like all money in by the 13th February so that final numbers may be given to the caterers.

I would like to thank the 'B' team for their terrific effort at Eltham on the 10th January. We had nearly 100% of the original picked team and 8 firsts, with a disputed 9th and it was disappointing that we came 4th. A letter of disapproval has been sent to the organisers with regard to one of the races and the gala in general. The results were :-

1st	Eltham	141	4th	Erith & District	113
2nd	Esstern Otters	135	5th	Downham	73
3rd	Greenwich	125			

I am sure this will not make the 'B' team downhearted and in this series, as in the last, they will rise to the occasion and once again I will have to warn the 'A' team to watch out or the 'B' team will show them how its done.

It is with regret that for personal reasons I shall be leaving the post of Competition Secretary this month but for the time being I shall carry on with the 'B' team. I wish my successor every success and hand over to them the most gamey and spirited swimming teams I have ever known. Thank you competitors for the most enjoyable galas I have known and a special thank you to the team Captains who have worked so hard for the teams of Erith.

D. Fitnum.

On behalf of Peter Frost and myself I wish to thank the team competitors and the swimmers of Erith for helping us to make our work easier. We are both vacating the Captaincy. Peter is now in full time employment and I am studying for my 'A' Levels. May we wish our successors all the best and hope they get the co-operation from the swimmers that we have had. Thank you also to Mr. and Mrs. Firmin and all the officials.

Gillian Fitnum

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Friday 13th February	POINTS CUP - Breaststroke
Tuesday 17th February	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, The Club Room, Riverside Baths 8.00 p.m.
Saturday 28th February	ANNUAL DINNER & DANCE, The Falconwood Community Centre, The Green, Welling, 6.30 for 7.00
Saturday 6th March	'A' Team Inter Club Away Match (Watch the Notice Board for details).
Friday 12th March	POINTS CUP - Back Crawl
Saturday 3rd April	'B' Team Match at Eltham Baths. Hosts Greenwich S.C.
Friday, 9th April	POINTS CUP - Front Crawl
Friday, 30th April	'B' Team Match at Eltham Baths Hosts Eastern Otters.
Friday 14th May	'B' Team Match at Woolwich Baths. Hosts Sevenoaks S.C.
Saturday 15th May	'A' Team Home Match.
Friday 21st May	POINTS CUP - Butterfly