

ERITH & DISTRICT SWIMMING CLUB

No.92

February, 1982

BEGINNERS' COURSE

At the end of February and beginning of March you will notice that Mr. Davison, our Head Teacher, will be looking at the beginners swimming. He will be looking to see which children appear to have natural ability to become good Club swimmers in the future. These children will be invited to join the Club at the end of the Course.

It must be pointed out that the child must be able to swim at least one width to be considered, as the class they will be going into will be out of their depth and they therefore would not be able to put their feet on the bottom. Also the children who will be ten and over this year cannot be considered because they would be expected to swim two length races in internal Club competition as soon as they become members and this is beyond beginners' capabilities.

However, if your child is not invited to join, don't be downhearted, if you are still interested in them becoming a Club Member, encourage them to practice well and should you feel an improvement has been made after a while, your child can come along for a test at any time. Children up to the age of 9 must be able to swim one width of breaststroke, backcrawl and frontcrawl and from 9 years upwards, one length of each stroke. We look at speed and style as well as natural ability and have quite a few members who were not invited to join as beginners but have been accepted at a later date through audition.

POINTS CUP SERIES

Races for these cups awarded at our Annual Gala are held every year and we hope to see all swimmers including the seven and eight year olds competing in all strokes.

The Age Groups are - under 10 one length, under 12 one length
under 14 two lengths, Three lengths for all others.

Points are scored as follows:- Five to the fastest boy/girl in each age group
Three to the second
Two to the third
One to all other competitors.

The dates are:-

Breaststroke	-	19th February
Backcrawl	-	12th March
Butterfly	-	23rd April
Frontcrawl	-	14th May

All races start at 8 p.m. so please make sure you attend as the times you achieve will help us in our team selection for forthcoming galas.

SPRINT TROPHY SERIES

The bad weather prior to Christmas depleted those competing in the final frontcrawl races but did not spoil a very exciting and close finish, the eventual winners who received the trophies from the President Mr. D. Firmin on Friday 18th December were, Mark Bragg scoring 33 points and Sally Taylor also on 33 points, with last year's girls winner Denise Eagle tying for second place with Michelle Sartain on 31 points.

KENT CHAMPIONSHIPS

This year six of our Members have competed with the County's top talent and to date both Andrew Callard and Mark Bragg in the 100 metres Backcrawl events have clipped between three and four seconds from their previous recorded 'personal bests'. Michelle Sartain will regrettably miss our home match on the 27th February to compete at West Wickham in the 13 years breaststroke and backcrawl events.

LOST PROPERTY

We have in our possession, some jewellery which has been found in the Changing Rooms. This includes digital watches, a girl's watch, necklaces and rings. If you have lost any of these items, will you please enquire at the table. Somebody must have realised that they have lost such valuable items!

In future Lost Property will only be kept for six months and then be disposed of as the Club thinks fit.

On the subject of losing things - please do not leave ANY money in the Changing Rooms as it appears we have a petty thief who will steal as little as 20p out of pockets. Every effort is being made to catch the culprit but the Club cannot accept responsibility for these losses. We will be only too pleased to look after any money on the table at the door.

P. & A. Bedford

MORNING SWIM SESSIONS HALF TERM HOLIDAY 22nd - 26th FEBRUARY

I shall be running the Morning Swims again during the Half-Term Holiday. Tickets will be available from Mrs. Bedford on Friday evenings.

Please remember that these swims are a hard training session and they are aimed at our stronger swimmers. They are for one hour starting at 9.00 a.m. If you are in doubt of your ability to take part in these training sessions, please check with me before buying your tickets.

D. Sartain

ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to the following beginners:-

1 Width :- Sarah Blackmore Claire Leech
Garry Dennis Joanne Lee
Karen Forster Andrew Stevenson
Andrew French
Angela Francis
Laura Kempster
Benjamin Knowles

1 Length:- Garry Dennis
Mark Mascarenhas
Anna Netherwood

OUTINGS

The Club has arranged another varied selection of Outings for the forthcoming year, visiting many places of interest at reduced rates, and some that are rarely open to the public. Respective dates appear in the forthcoming events column on Page 5, and further details are on show every Club night in the Swimming Pool foyer.

To whet your appetite, this is what Stephen Dersley, aged 10 had to write about the final Outing of 1981.

OUTING TO BOXHILL, SURREY ON WEDNESDAY, 28th OCTOBER

A large crowd gathered at Belvedere Station, 25 children, 3 Mums, Peter, plus 1 dog. We got on the train to Waterloo East. On the train we had a quiz. At Waterloo we changed onto another train and went to Dorking in Surrey.

We started walking straight away. We walked on a few paths and crossed the River Mole after which we crossed a few muddy fields and came to a village. (Brockham). In the village we ate our lunch in a garden behind a pub. We had great fun throwing big apples at each other. We carried on and went up a narrow path by a stream and Alex Hill managed to fall into a ditch of nettles after Peter had just warned everyone of it! We crossed a busy road and went through a farm that smelt strongly of manure.

We then came to a collection of old steam trains, railway tracks and points which we enjoyed playing on. Now we began our ascent of Boxhill. Some people got lost but we found them before coming to a very steep bit and we had to hold onto a rail. When we had got past that we could see a big white house. We crossed the garden (!) and went down the drive to a road. At the top of the hill we saw a café but we didn't stop there.

Now we began to descent the hill. We came to a big open space on the hill where we had an excellent view. We could see where we had come from. We ate our tea and had great fun rolling down the hill. We carried on further and came to a platform from which we could see for miles. When we reached the bottom we could see a Hamburger and chips place where we spent some money! Peter did not mean to come there but we enjoyed ourselves. We walked on & kept asking about the surprise Peter had promised us. We had to go back a bit and climb some more steep hills. We came to an open space from which Graham Byers slid and nearly ended in the river below. He had a lot of trouble getting up and had bruised his ankle. Alex. Hill also slipped but a tree saved him.

Our surprise should have been some stepping stones, but Peter went wrong again and we saw a bridge first. We used this to cross instead of the stepping stones because Peter said he didn't fancy doing any life-saving that day.

We carried on to Boxhill and Westhumble Station and caught a train home. We arrived back on time (!) exhausted and covered in mud, but having had a marvellous time. Thank you Peter for a great day out.

Stephen Dersley

"HURRY BACK STEPHEN"

"What's going on back at the Swimming Club?.... that was the first question that Stephen Watkins asked me when I visited him recently in St. Thomas's Hospital. Having been through one serious operation, he showed little concern that he had a similar ordeal to go through with his other hip, on top of which he will have to spend a further 6 weeks there under traction. This is typical of his character, especially when one considers that his hospitalisation has come right in the middle of his first year at Secondary School and when his determination had just brought him a team place.

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"HURRY BACK STEPHEN" (Continued)

His sister, Elizabeth, also suffers from the same disability, though fortunately to a lesser extent.

Everyone at the Club sends their best wishes to Stephen for a speedy recovery and hope for him to be back in the swim with us soon!

P.A. Frost

It is hoped the following Outings will take place but dates have not yet been decided.

Easter Holiday - Saturday (exact date to be advised)

Family Ramble, Alton, Hampshire.

Visits to Jane Austen's house/ Mid-Hants Steam Railway.

Summer Holiday - (exact dates to be advised)

1. Another chance to visit the Ford Motor Works, Dagenham.
2. A further visit to laboratories in Guy's Hospital Medical School for interesting scientific insights, then for a cruise on the Grand Union Canal.

Autumn Half-term)

Wednesday 27th October - Family Ramble, Shepherdswell to Sandwich unspoilt countryside, historic buildings.

SEE PAGE 5 FOR 6 MONTHS CALENDAR

CALENDAR FOR NEXT SIX MONTHS (Further events still to be advised)

<u>FEBRUARY</u>	Saturday 13th	Away Match at Margate, commencing 7.00 p.m. Coach leaves Riverside at 5.00 p.m.
	Friday 19th	Points Cup Races - Breaststroke
	Saturday 20th	Tudor Trophy Match at Eltham. (Erith not competing)
	Saturday 20th	Ice Skating Outing to Streatham (Full up)
	Wednesday 24th	Outing to Museum of London Exhibition/Guided tour of R.A.F. Museum. (At the time of writing there are still a few places left - the whole day for just £1.75!)
	Monday 22nd - Friday 26th	Half-term Holiday morning swims from 9 - 10 a.m. (Stronger swimmers only)
<u>MARCH</u>	Monday 1st	Club Annual General Meeting - Riverside Clubroom 8.00 p.m.
	Saturday 6th	Tudor Trophy Match, Eltham commencing 6.00 p.m.
	Friday 12th	Points Cup Races - Backcrawl
<u>APRIL</u>	Saturday 3rd	Away Match at Horley, Surrey - Hosts Redhill/Reigate Coach Leaves Riverside 4.15 p.m.
	Tuesday 13th	Silver & Gold Standards B.S.C.A. - Sprint Swims commencing 9.00 p.m.
	Saturday 17th	Tudor Trophy Match at Eltham, commencing 6.00 p.m.
	Friday 23rd	Points Cup Races - Butterfly
	Saturday 24th	DISCO - Christian Grey Hall, Belvedere.
<u>MAY</u>	Saturday 1st	Tudor Trophy Match at Eltham commencing 6.00 p.m.
	Friday 14th	Points Cup Races - Frontcrawl
	Saturday 15th	Away Match at Crowborough Beacon
	Friday 21st	Spring Fare in Riverside Cafe area. commencing 7.00 p.m.
	Sunday 30th	'Twin' Swim Meet at St. Johns Pool, Tunbridge Wells
<u>JUNE</u>	Wednesday 2nd	Outing to St. Albans, Hertfordshire - 2,000 years of history in 1 day. Roman ruins. Medieval Abbey, Hatfield House.
	Saturday 12th	Late afternoon Open-top double decker Bus Outing to Brighton. Stop for refreshments. Leaves Riverside approx. 4.00 p.m.
	Saturday 19th	Away Match at Streatham.
<u>JULY</u>	Saturday 3rd	Home Match at Riverside commencing 7.00 p.m.
	Sunday 11th	Annual Club Outing to Westbrook (Margate) Coach leaves Riverside approximately 8.45 a.m.